

CICLA South Meeting

From 30 June to 3 July 2025, our Santa Teresa Retreat Centre in La Plata (Argentina) hosted a meeting of the Major Superiors and their Councils from the Circumscriptions of the CICLA South (Province of Brazil South, General Delegation of Argentina, Commissariat of Chile and Vicariate of Uruguay-Paraguay), with the participation of Fr. Martín Martínez (Definitor General).

Our Father General Miguel Márquez enlightened us via Zoom on the profound meaning of the restructuring: it is about giving quality to our lifestyle

and to our multicultural charismatic witness in the service of the People of God, and it cannot be reduced to a simple closure of presences.

Our commitment to this path does not stem from idealism or naivety, but from the truth that we have been able to grasp. This has led us to want to move forward in this process, counting on the positive elements already gathered and without ignoring the disadvantages that will arise. We entrust this journey to the protection of the Virgin Mary, Mother and Beauty of Carmel.

El Salvador: International Symposium *'Trust Leads to Love'*

From 18 to 22 August 2025, the *Nuestra Señora del Carmen Retreat Centre* in Vía del Mar, El Salvador, hosted the International Symposium *'Trust Leads to Love'*.

Over 100 people from Panama, Costa Rica, Honduras, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Venezuela, Peru and the Caribbean took part, along with another 100 people who

attended virtually from different parts of the world.

The symposium, organized by the Discalced Carmelites of Central America, aimed to explore the spiritual message of Saint Thérèse of the Child Jesus. For five days, religious men and women and lay people participated in conferences, workshops, liturgical celebrations, mo-

ments of community prayer and cultural activities, in an atmosphere of fraternity and ecclesial communion.

The presentations addressed themes such as radical trust in God's mercy, evangelical simplicity as a path to holiness, and the relevance of Thérèse of Lisieux's spirituality in the face of the pastoral challenges of the contemporary Church.

In addition, group discussions provided an opportunity to share experiences of faith and to discern together new ways of living and transmitting the Gospel.

The Symposium ended with a deep sense of gratitude and hope. Participants expressed their desire to bring the spirit of trust and self-love characteristic of Little Thérèse to their communities.

Peru: Meeting of the OCDS communities

From 1 to 3 August 2025, a new edition of the *Meeting of the OCDS communities* was held in the Trujillo region, with the theme '*Let us walk together, Lord*'. More than 60 members of the Commissariat's communities took part.

The aim of the meeting was to consolidate the formation and fraternity among OCDS members. Participants reflected and shared on the founding virtues of the prayer experience in the Discalced Carmelite Order: mutual love, detachment and humility, as well as on the Beatitudes as a programme of life for the faithful Christian and the

Secular Carmelite. The presence of our Commissioner, Brother Grover Caceres Rivera, the National Delegate for the OCDS, Brother Fernando Chavez, and the spiritual assistants of the communities was an opportunity to strengthen the formation and fraternity among the members of the Commissariat.

At the end of this meeting, the OCDS President of the Commissariat, Mr Hipólito Rodriguez, urged the participants to remain firm when facing difficulties, with a constant attitude of dedication: a 'yes' not only in words, but with their whole lives.

USA: Carmelite Young Adult Day 2025

On Saturday, August 9, 2025, the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Little Flower and the Discalced Carmelite family in San Antonio, Texas (USA) welcomed young adults from around Texas to *Carmelite Young Adult Day*. This annual event invites young

adults to experience the family (friars, nuns, and OCDS), the spirituality, and the saints of Carmel.

The theme for this year's event was *St. Teresa Benedicta of the Cross: Seeker of Truth, Witness of the Cross*. The day included two conferences, Mass, adora-

tion with confessions, lunch, a Carmelite goodies giveaway, a tour of the Basilica, enrollment in the Brown Scapular, and the opportunity to venerate first and second-class relics of various Carmelite saints. Our speakers were Br. Joseph Teresa of the Eucharist, OCD (a student

friar) and Abbey Murphy (a PhD student at Boston College who studies the philosophy of St. Edith Stein). Young women also had the opportunity to attend Mass with and meet our cloistered nuns in San Antonio, hearing their vocations stories and asking questions.

Czech Republic: completion of work on the Discalced Carmelite monastery

The Carmelite monastery of St Joseph, founded in Prague in 1600, has changed location several times, mainly due to the hostile political situation in our country. The previous monastery was located in the centre of the capital, but because of excessive noise and the small size of the garden, we decided in 2018 to move to a quieter location with more land on the outskirts of the town of Drasty. Thanks to God's Providence and the help of many benefactors, we managed to

complete the construction of the monastery and church in the spring of 2024. Although the complex is not yet completely finished, our community moved into the new monastery in May and our church dedicated to Saint Teresa of Avila was consecrated on 8 June. It was a beautiful celebration attended by many priests, brothers, neighbours and friends. In the autumn of the same year, we were able to open the guesthouse.

India: Bible Symposium in Goa

The Karnataka-Goa Province, in collaboration with the Diocesan Centre for Biblical Apostolate of the Archdiocese of Goa and Daman, organised a Bible Symposium at the Divine Springs Retreat Centre, Xellim-Loliem, from August 27 to 29.

The symposium on the theme 'Biblical Text in its Context in the Digital and AI Age' was organized to mark the Jubilee

Year 2025 as well as the Centenary of the Canonisation of St Thérèse of the Child Jesus. Auxiliary-Bishop Simião Fernandes, who is Chairman of the Western Region CCBI Bible Commission, inaugurated the symposium. The symposium concluded with a Eucharistic celebration presided over by Fr. Silvestre D'Souza OCD, Provincial of the Karnataka-Goa Province.

Speakers included Carmelite scholars from India and Rome, diocesan leaders from Goa and Mangalore, and biblical experts from Bengaluru, Jerusalem, and

Trivandrum. Workshops included training on online resources, AI tools for Bible study, Bible software and essential biblical tools.

Collegio internazionale San Giovanni della Croce

The historic and holy convent of Eremo di MonteVirginio, built in 1668, has been blessed to house our seven friars from five nationalities - Sri Lanka, Tanzania, Indonesia, Nigeria, and Madagascar - from the OCD International College at Teresianum. As they reflect on their voca-

tional journey in preparation for their solemn profession, they have felt God's presence in shared wisdom, shared silence, shared prayer, and shared friendship in this holy place. Their "yes" has also been strengthened and made clearer by grace, humility, and faithfulness.