

The OCDS of Italy participated in the Jubilee of Marian Spirituality

For the OCDS of Italy, it was an exciting and unforgettable experience to participate in the Jubilee of Marian Spirituality, which took place in Rome on 11 and 12 October.

Our Jubilee began on Saturday morning at the Church of St Teresa on Corso Italia, where Father Marco Chiesa, OCD Postulator General, gave a talk on the theme 'With Mary from Golgotha to Cana'. Enriched by the Word of God, as admirably analysed by Father Marco, we had the grace to participate in Holy Mass, which was presided over by our Father General, Father Miguel, and concelebrated by the Delegate General,

Father Ramiro; the National Assistant, Father Aldo; and some Fathers who accompanied the Jubilee participants.

Thanks to Fr Angelo Campana, we were able to visit the Church of St Mary of Victory, where we particularly enjoyed the artistic and spiritual beauty of the Transfiguration of St Teresa.

The Saturday evening vigil in St Peter's Square, presided over by the Holy Father, and Sunday Mass brought our Jubilee to a glorious conclusion. We are grateful to the Lord and to Our Lady of Fatima, who gave us unexpected and much-appreciated surprises, such as the Pope's greeting at the Angelus.

Jubilee Song: One Voice, One Community

The *Seminarium Missionum*, the OCD specialisation community in Rome, has been designated by the General Definitory for the ongoing formation of Carmelite religious from all over the world, at licentiate and doctorate level.

As part of the *Teresianum*, it encourages a balanced Carmelite lifestyle centred on shared spiritual practices, intercultural dialogue, and advanced academic studies. The community is dedicated to St Thérèse of Lisieux. To celebrate the cen-

tenary of her canonisation and the 2025 ecclesial jubilee, the *Seminarium Missionum* presented the Church with an international jubilee song.

Inspired by the writings of St Thérèse of Lisieux and St John of the Cross, the song was written by Don Giorgio Piero Cabras, composed by Fr Jeannot-Gregory Souama OCD, and performed by the community's 31 priests, who hail from 24 countries and 20 Carmelite provinces.

Filmed entirely at the *Teresianum*, the video was edited by Fr Michel (George-Marie) Rivière OCD. The superior, Fr Ignatius Kunnumpurathu Paul OCD, and the bursar, Fr Joemon Olattupurath OCD, were responsible for the animation and artistic direction, highlighting the many dimensions of community life in Carmel. The video is available on YouTube:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fLD72f_wDA&list=RD_fLD72f_wDA

India: Centenary Celebration of St. Thérèse of the Child Jesus at Sacred Heart Monastery

The Cloistered Carmel Sisters of Sacred Heart Monastery, Kankanady, joyfully celebrated the Centenary of St. Thérèse of the Child Jesus from September 28 to October 1, 2025. The celebration featured a special exhibition on the life of St. Thérèse of Lisieux, which drew many faithful to reflect on her simple yet profound spirituality.

The festive Mass was presided over by Fr. Pius James D'Souza OCD, Definitor General, who, in his homily, highlighted the inspiring life and virtues of St. Thérèse, encouraging the faithful to embrace her "Little Way" of love and sacrifice in daily

life. The Eucharistic celebration was celebrated by Fr. Philbert Namphande, Definitor General, and many Carmelites priests whose presence added to the solemnity of the occasion. The participation of the faithful, united in prayer and thanksgiving, made the feast a true renewal of faith.

With deep gratitude, the Cloistered Carmel Sisters acknowledged all who joined them in prayer and devotion, making the Centenary of the Sainthood of St. Thérèse of the Child Jesus a memorable and grace-filled celebration.

The Philippines: Fraternal Visit and 9th OCDS National Congress

The OCDS in the Philippines has 44 communities divided in five regions: Visayas, Mindanao, North Luzon, South Luzon A and South Luzon B. Previous to the 9th OCDS National Congress that took place in Tagaytay from the 4th to the 7th of September, 2025, Fr. Ramiro Casale, OCD, general delegate for the OCDS and Mrs. Meg Ramos, OCDS, National President visited the five regions. All meetings had moments of prayer, dialogue, reflection and recreation.

At the OCDS National Congress, which title was, *Renewed Spiritual and Apostolic*

Dynamism with Creative Fidelity, the Provincial of the Philippines, Fr. Rey Sotelo, OCD, and his delegate for the OCDS, Fr. Mariano Agruda III, OCD, were also present. The OCDS representatives of each region gave a report on their activities, initiatives and situation. An important part of the congress was the election of the new OCDS National Council for the term 2025-2028. The event had the participation of 180 OCDS coming from all over the Philippines who were witnesses to the great communion and collaboration that exists among all OCDS in the country.

Togo: Establishment of an OCD community in Lomé

After spending two years living in a rented house close to the St Teresa of Avila parish in the Kog-nito district, we recently relocated to the small convent that was constructed on three hectares of land owned by the Order in the Apepsito district, which is also close to the aforementioned parish.

A year ago, this seemed like a dream, but thanks to the generosity of many Spanish benefactors, including lay Christians from the *Sagrada Familia and Carmen di Castellón de la Plana*, as well as others who

climb the Carmelite Desert mountain in *Las Palmas (Benicàssim)*, this has become a reality. Thanks to these contributions, we were able to finance almost half of the work, with the rest being completed by our Iberian Province.

We ask for your prayers so that, through our daily dedication, we may lay the foundations of this new Discalced Carmelite community and promote the growth of the charism of Teresa of Jesus and John of the Cross in these African lands.

Thailand: 25th anniversary of the Monastery of Nakhon Sawan

On September 27, 2025, the Carmelite Nuns celebrated the 25th anniversary of its founding, with a cardinal, bishops, priests, religious and large number of faithful.

A brief history of the monastery: in 1999, Most Rev. Louis Chamnien, Bishop of Nakhon Sawan, sent a letter inviting the congregation to live in Nakhon Sawan and brought Mother Angela, the superior of the Carmelite in Bangkok, to look at the land for the construction of a new monastery. On December 2000,

the Carmelite Nuns moved into the new monastery and on June 2001, the monastery was officially consecrated.

All the sisters have lived according to the Carmelite spirituality, living in the hermitage and praying for the world, especially for the Diocese of Nakhon Sawan. Currently, there are 12 members. Every day, we see and experience God's love, who is always by our side, protecting and caring for us so that we lack nothing.

2nd *Carmelitarum Choral Festival* 2025 “In the Heart of the Church, I Shall Be Love”

The 2nd *Carmelitarum Choral Festival* 2025 was held from October 3 to 5, 2025, at the Discalced Carmelite Monastery of Saint Mary of Bethlehem, Lembang – West Java, Indonesia, in celebration of the 100th anniversary of the canonization of St. Thérèse of Lisieux. The festival brought together 36 choirs from three categories: Children's Choir, Mixed Youth Choir, and Mixed Adult Choir. Participants came from the Dioceses of Bandung, Bogor, and Jakarta, as well as from several Catholic schools in West Java and Jakarta. The event gathered around 1,000 people, including participants, choir officials,

parents, and committee members, creating a warm and intimate atmosphere of faith, fellowship, and song.

The competitions for the Children's and Mixed Youth Choirs were held on October 3, followed by the Mixed Adult Choir competition on October 4. The final day featured “Meet the Jury” sessions, workshops on conducting and vocal technique, and concluded with an award and closing ceremony.

In its simplicity, joy, and togetherness, the 2nd *Carmelitarum Choral Festival* became a moment of grace — an offering of song, faith, and love flowing from the heart of the Church.