

Teresianum: 67th Spirituality Week

The 67th Spirituality Week, held from 1 to 5 March at the Teresianum, was an intense period of reflection and “theology for all.” This year’s theme, ‘Seeing the Invisible: Pathways towards a Spirituality of the Image’, invited participants to look beyond what the eyes perceive and open themselves to a deeper understanding of the mystery of faith.

There was certainly no shortage of academic, theological and philosophical reflection throughout the week, but more pastoral contributions were also offered, bringing theological thought into dialogue with the practical life of the Church. Considerable attention was given to art, too – through reflections on the role of images and icons in the Christian tradition and a theatrical performance. Art is a space of genuine

mystagogy. One day was dedicated to the Carmelite dimension, allowing for a deeper appreciation of the richness of our spiritual tradition.

The week was therefore a powerful occasion on which theology, art and spiritual life converged, in keeping with the “sapiential theology” championed by Popes Francis and Leo XIV. We came to understand that the great miracle lies not only in ‘seeing the invisible’, but also in learning to truly see what is visible – with the eyes of Christ.

As usual, the proceedings of the 67th Spirituality Week will be published in the *Fiamma Viva* collection from Edizioni OCD in autumn, but they can be viewed in advance at:

https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PL-SAYQ55Ja8k1A9O87pjaFIB3ujem-ToH_&si=KoZPqVE1q1NL6V5s

Rome: Meeting of the Commission on the *Ratio Formationis*

The Commission responsible for revising the *Ratio Formationis* met at the Generalate from 14 to 20 March 2026. This meeting marks the final stage of work that began in March 2022.

In the preceding months, the members of the Commission worked in language groups to incorporate observations and suggestions submitted by the circumscriptions of the Order throughout the process: the English-speaking group (Fr Daniel Chowning, Washington; Fr Thaddeus Chike Dim, Nigeria; Fr Grzegorz Tyma, Kraków; Fr Haluendo Amit, Philippines), the Spanish-speaking group (Fr Martín Martínez, General Definitory; Fr Pascual Gil, Iberian Province), the Italian-speaking group

(Fr Pawel Porwit, International College; Br Claudio Grana, Genoa), and the French-speaking group (Fr Jean-Baptiste Pagabelegem, General Definitory; Fr Anthony-Joseph Pinelli, Paris).

During this final week, the friars succeeded in producing a complete text, which will be presented to the General Definitory in June 2026. Following this, the new *Ratio Formationis* will be presented to the Order as a whole.

At the working session on Tuesday afternoon, 17 March, the Commission was joined by the Father General, who was thus able to express his support and interest in the work once again. This work represents one of the priorities of the current sexennium.

Spain: Formation Seminar on St John of the Cross

From 9 to 14 March, the city of Segovia hosted a seminar organised by the Discalced Carmelite Nuns of Spain. The seminar was devoted to a deeper study of the life and work of St John of the Cross, to mark the centenary of his proclamation as a Doctor of the Church.

The sessions were led by Fr Salvador Ros OCD, who guided the participants through the life, thought, and spiritual richness of this great mystic of Carmel.

During the sessions, the fundamental aspects of his doctrine, spiritual experience and poetic work were explored in depth.

These days offered an opportunity to rediscover the abiding relevance of St John of the Cross's message in a year of particular significance for the Carmelite family, providing a time of study, prayer, and encounter with the spiritual tradition of Carmel.

Portugal: Jubilee Concert in Honour of St John of the Cross

On the afternoon of Saturday 7 March, the Carmelite church in Viana do Castelo was filled to capacity for a Jubilee Concert celebrating the anniversaries of the canonisation and Doctorate of St John of the Cross. The event began at 5 p.m. and featured the *Vozes Brancas* choir, which is associated with the Carmelite community. The occasion was marked by music, poetry and prayer. The diverse congregation, drawn from all ages, backgrounds and

sensibilities, added to the atmosphere of genuine communion and festive joy. Moving between choral harmonies, poetic texts and moments of spiritual reflection, the concert was an encounter with faith, culture and beauty that was experienced with great intensity by all in attendance. The Discalced Carmelite community of Viana do Castelo expressed its gratitude to all who participated in and helped to make this celebration unforgettable.

Peru: Annual OCDS Retreat

‘*My only occupation now is loving. A spiritual itinerary according to St John of the Cross***’** was the title of the annual OCDS retreat held in Peru from 6 to 8 March 2026 at the Spiritual Centre of the Daughters of Charity in Lima. The retreat brought together 75 brothers and sisters from the communities of Abancay, Arequipa, Cusco, Ica, Lima and Trujillo. Led by Br Jairo Gómez Díaz, OCD, from the Province of Colombia, the retreat offered participants a spiritual journey in the footsteps of St John of the Cross. Br Jairo began by immersing participants in the places associated with St John, before

offering an overview of his major works: the *Spiritual Canticle*, the *Ascent*, the *Dark Night*, and the *Living Flame*. He then provided an overview of St John’s anthropology. Br Jairo emphasised that our life of prayer must ‘occupy our intellect with the person of Christ’ – by meditating day and night on the Word of the Lord, as our Rule enjoins, and by receiving Holy Communion frequently. The retreat encouraged us to allow ourselves to be loved by God, to focus on Jesus and to let the Holy Spirit ignite the flame of his love in our hearts, thereby transforming us and enabling us to love others as he loves us.

India: Diploma Day at Carmelite Convent

On March 1, participants of the Bible Course on the Parables of Jesus were awarded diplomas and formally commissioned as Biblical Animators during a solemn Eucharistic celebration at the Carmelite Monastery, Margao. The Eucharist was presided over by Fr. Silvestre D'Souza, Provincial Superior of the Karnataka-Goa Province, with concelebrants including Fr. Mariano D'Costa, Director of the Diocesan Centre for Biblical Apostolate, and Fr. Marlon Rodrigues, Superior of the Carmelite Convent.

Following the Mass, the Rite of Commissioning formally entrusted the newly trained animators with the mission of carrying the Word of God into families and parish communities. The Diploma Day, organisers noted, signified not only academic completion but a pastoral mandate to witness to Scripture in daily life. The celebration in Margao stood as a renewed call to discipleship—sending forth lay faithful formed in Scripture to proclaim the transforming power of God's Word in Church and society.