

Rome: Fr Emilio José Martínez González OCD Appointed President of the Teresianum

Fr Emilio José Martínez OCD has been appointed President of the *Teresianum* in Rome by a Vatican decree signed on 21st April 2026.

A member of the Iberian Province, Fr Emilio was born in Madrid on 19th December 1964. After beginning studies in chemistry at the *Universidad Complutense* of Madrid, he undertook his theological formation at the Pontifical University of Salamanca, before obtaining a doctorate on St John of the Cross at the *Instituto Superior de Ciencias Morales*.

He is currently a professor at the *Teresianum* in Rome, where he teaches spiritual theology and St Teresa of Jesus. He has also contributed to numerous international courses and congresses related to Carmelite, Teresian and Sanjuanist spirituality. At the *Teresianum*, he has held various institution-

al roles, including chairing the Faculty Quality Commission from 2017 to 2020. His publications include works such as *Gandhi: Experiencia de Dios y exigencia ética* (1999) and *Tras las huellas de Juan de la Cruz: Nueva biografía* (2006), together with numerous articles and specialist studies on St Teresa of Ávila and St John of the Cross published in international academic journals such as *Revista de Espiritualidad* (of which he is currently Editor), *Teresianum*, *Rivista di Vita Spirituale*, and *Mysterion*.

Beyond his academic work, Fr Emilio José Martínez has held positions of governance: in the former Province of Castile, he served as Master of Students, Provincial Councillor, and Provincial Superior; subsequently, between 2009 and 2015, he served as Vicar General of the Order.

Liturgy of Carmel

Following several unsuccessful attempts to create a liturgical application for our Order, the General Definitory recently decided to base a new application on an existing one that is widely used throughout the world and offers the possibility of incorporating ‘Religious Propers’. The *iBreviary* application best meets these requirements on a global scale, although unfortunately it is unable to support all languages. Ideally, an application would offer the basic liturgical books (Liturgy of the Hours, Missal and Lectionary) in all the

countries where we are present, alongside our own Proper Liturgy. However, this would be particularly complex and laborious. Nevertheless, it is possible for you to undertake this work yourselves using national applications that allow for it, provided you first obtain authorisation from the General House.

Below you will find the link to the *iBreviary* website and instructions for use: <https://www.ibreviary.org/it/> (site available in Italian and English). The application is available to download from the *Play Store* or *App Store*.

Argentina: National OCDS Gathering

The National OCDS Gathering took place from 27 to 29 March 2026 in the city of Alta Gracia, Argentina. Our General Delegate for the OCDS, Fr Ramiro Casale, was present. The theme was “The Virgin Mary and St John of the Cross, masters of the spiritual life”.

On Friday 27 March at 5pm, the President of the National Council, Alejandra Rocha, formally opened event. The first conference, presented by Silvia Areco (OCDS) of Bella Vista, offered a synthetic overview of the whole of his writings and its main objective. On Saturday, Ali-

cia Mallol (OCDS) of Mendoza led a time of prayer centred on the Word of God and the poetry of St John of the Cross.

After lunch, participants enjoyed a guided tour of Alta Gracia, followed by visits to the Carmelite Sisters and the Grotto of Lourdes, which is managed by the Carmelite friars of Argentina. After dinner, participants took part in the traditional social evening. On Sunday, Fr Ramiro Casale OCD gave a conference on the Marian experience of St John of the Cross, followed by a discussion of topics specific to the Secular Carmel.

Vietnam: blessing of a new Convent

On April 21, 2026, Fr. Reynaldo V. Sotelo Jr., OCD, Provincial Superior of the Philippine Province, presided over the rite of blessing of the Convent of St. Thérèse of the Child Jesus and the Holy Face in the Diocese of Xuân Lộc, making it the second monastery of Discalced Carmelite friars in Vietnam.

As the formal liturgy concluded, Rev. Fr. Joseph Duong Duc Nghia, OCD, the local superior, speaking on behalf

of the community, expressed a heartfelt welcome to all who had journeyed with them through the months of dust and construction. The celebratory banquet that followed was more than a meal; it was an extension of the Eucharist – a moment of fraternal joy and shared history. We remain eternally grateful to everyone who helped lay the stones of this new home, ensuring that for generations to come, the Lord indeed has a dwelling among His people.

Germany: 2026 Provincial Week at Birkenwerder

From 20 to 24 April 2026, 14 friars from five priories and nine OCDS members gathered at the Spiritual Centre of Birkenwerder for the annual Provincial Week. The days were filled with liturgical celebrations, moments of silence, spiritual sharing, formation sessions and shared leisure time, all within the Centre's characteristically welcoming atmosphere.

Mrs Annette Jantzen was invited to lead the theological reflections. Her presenta-

tions drew on her book *The Word of God, in the Feminine. How to Speak to God Today? Prayers, Psalms and Songs*. With great scholarship and a lively manner, she addressed exegetical questions that opened up new perspectives for many participants and gave rise to stimulating exchanges.

A guided tour of Oranienburg Castle was a cultural highlight of the week. The Provincial Week concluded in a spirit of good fellowship with a shared dinner.

Peru: Inauguration of a New School Building

EL CARMELO School in Molinopata, Abancay, belongs to the Order of Discalced Carmelites of Peru. The OCDS of Abancay manages it, with the support of administrative staff and teachers who have been selected to provide a high-quality, comprehensive education based on the values of the Carmelite-Teresian charism. The school serves approximately 600 pupils.

On 22 April 2026, after 20 years of operation, the IEI El Carmelo entered a new phase with the inauguration of a modern educational complex comprising inter-

active classrooms, a room dedicated to pedagogical innovation, an auditorium, a prayer space and sports grounds. Those present at the official ceremony included the President of the Apurímac Region, the Bishop of the Diocese of Abancay, the Director of the UGEL of Abancay, the OCDS Delegate for Peru, the OCDS President for Peru, heads of various IEI El Carmelo teaching departments, teachers, pupils and their families.

Everyone was overjoyed, as from May the pupils will benefit from education in these new facilities.