

## Postulation General

**D**uring the first half of 2026, the Carmelite family welcomed four new Venerables and three new Martyrs: let us give thanks together to the Lord for all the wonders He continues to accomplish!

On 22 January, Maria Immacolata of the Most Holy Trinity (Maria Gisella Villella), a professed OCD nun, was declared Venerable; likewise, on 27 April, Maria Eletta of Jesus (Caterina Tramazzoli), a professed OCD nun, and Maria Teresa of the Most Holy Trinity (Teresa Ysseldijk), a professed CDCJ nun; finally, on 22 May, it was Jean-Thierry of the Infant

Jesus and of the Passion (Jean-Thierry Ebogo), a professed OCD religious.

On that same 22 May, the Holy Father approved the decree on the martyrdom of a large group from Santander, including three Discalced Carmelites: Athanasius of the Sacred Heart (Gregorio Aguinagalde Aguirreche), a priest; Rupert of the Cross (Ruperto Andueza Larraya), a religious; and Maximin of Our Lady of Mount Carmel (Maximino Sáez Martínez), a novice. They will be proclaimed blessed in the coming months, thus joining the ranks of the more than fifty Spanish martyrs of our family.

## Belgium: 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the death of Blessed Anne of St. Bartholomew

**S**unday 7 June, we commemorated the foundress of the Carmel of the Rosier monastery in Antwerp. We did so during a beautiful and profound Eucharistic celebration in Antwerp Cathedral, presided over by Bishop Johan Bonny. In addition to

Father General Miguel Márquez Calle, OCD, we were pleased to welcome Father Christophe-Marie Baudouin, OCD, Father Dick, and many Carmelites from abroad. Numerous Carmelite nuns from Belgium and the Netherlands were also present, as well as sis-

ters from, among others, the Philippines and the United States.

We would like to express our heartfelt thanks to everyone who joined us in commemorating Blessed Anne of St. Bartholomew for their fellowship and

prayers. A special word of thanks also goes to our sisters of the Rosier and to the Filipino community, who, following the commemorative celebration, provided a warm welcome and a delicious meal at the Rosier.

## Italy: A new OCDS group

**O**n 30 May 2026, at the parish of Santa Maria a Ripa d'Arno in Empoli (Florence), the Province of Central Italy celebrated the start of the formation programme for a local group of people. It completed the 'First Introduction' course under the guidance of the OCDS Provincial Council and the provincial religious superiors, thanks to the commitment of the formators Cecilia Manuelli, Graziella Bacci and Maria Lupi. The Eucharistic celebration, presided over by the Provincial Delegate of the OCDS, Father Basilio Visca, marked the start of a formation programme leading to the future establishment of a new OCDS com-

munity in Empoli, which will be dedicated to St John of the Cross.

The presence of the Provincial President of the OCDS, Laura Isotton, accompanied by a delegation from the OCDS Provincial Council, secular members from various nearby communities and numerous Carmelites, highlighted the communion within the Order and the beauty of a shared commitment.

On the eve of the feast of the Most Holy Trinity, this event was seen as a powerful and tangible sign of the work of the Holy Spirit, who continues to give life to the Secular Carmelite Order.

## CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC: 6<sup>th</sup> NATIONAL CONGRESS OF THE OCDS

**T**he sixth national congress of the OCDS was held in Bozoum from 22 to 25 May 2026, during the Jubilee Year of St John of the Cross. Eighty members from the country's four OCDS communities (Bozoum, Baoro, Bouar, Bangui) were present, accompanied by their respective assistant priests and the

OCDS Delegate for the Central African Republic, Fr Dieudonné Yahaka.

In an atmosphere of great fraternity, the participants attended various talks: 'St John of the Cross and Creation', 'St Teresa of Ávila and Prayer', 'The Practical Life of the OCDS', 'Documents on the OCDS'. Before the final session, the

participants gathered in small groups to discuss certain issues relating to the life of the OCDS and to propose solutions for its development and, above all, for its autonomy. A number of key needs were highlighted, such as the ability to study the writings of our saints, the need to encourage younger people to join the Secular Order, the formation of form-

ators, financial self-sufficiency, and a more visible Carmelite witness within the Church and civil society... Finally, it was proposed to organise a pilgrimage to the tomb of the Venerable Brother Jean-Thierry EBOGO in Yaoundé. During the congress, the first National Council was also elected.

## Ivory Coast: Double Silver Jubilee

**O**n 21 June 2026, the parish community of Saint Louis de Gonzague in Gonzagueville celebrated a historic event: a double Silver Jubilee, marking 25 years since the erection of the parish of Saint Louis de Gonzague and 25 years of the Discalced Carmelites' presence in the Ivory Coast.

Since its establishment in the Ivory Coast, the Order of Discalced Carmelites has been working tirelessly to spread the Gospel, provide spiritual guidance to the faithful and promote a life of prayer

in accordance with the charism of Saint Teresa of Jesus, Saint John of the Cross and Saint Thérèse of the Child Jesus. The parish of Saint Louis de Gonzague was established twenty-five years ago in the Diocese of Grand-Bassam. Today, it remains a vibrant centre of faith, fraternity and Christian witness.

May this jubilee be for all a source of spiritual renewal and a call to continue building a community that is ever more united, fervent and missionary.

## India: Blessing and Inauguration of *Lumen Carmeli*

**O**n 13 June 2026, the Discalced Carmelites of the Malabar Province inaugurated *Lumen Carmeli*, a Carmelite Heritage Museum at Carmel Hill Monastery, Trivandrum, Kerala. Blessed and inaugurated by the Most Rev. Dr. Christudas R., Auxiliary Bishop of the Latin Archdiocese of Trivandrum,

the museum seeks to preserve and communicate the rich spiritual heritage of Carmel through history, art, and prayer. The inauguration celebrations included a conference on Carmelite spirituality by Fr. Peter Chakiath OCD, Provincial Superior of the Malabar Province. Hundreds of faithful, religious and well-wish-

ers participated in the event. The museum features an outdoor prayer garden based on St. Teresa's symbolism of the four ways of prayer, an immersive presentation of the *Interior Castle*, galleries on Carmelite saints and spirituality, exhibits on the growth of Carmel and the Carmelite mission in India, and memorial spaces dedicated to pioneer-

ing missionaries, including the Servants of God Aloysius Maria Benziger and Fr. Adeodatus. It also houses a collection of sacred objects from the history of Carmel Hill Monastery and a Chapel of Relics containing relics of more than forty-five saints. The museum invites pilgrims to discover the Carmelite path of prayer, contemplation, and holiness.

## MEXICO: OCD PLENARY ASSEMBLY

**T**he Discalced Carmelite friars of the Province of Mexico gathered on 2 and 3 June in the provincial meeting room at the convent of San Joaquín, in Mexico City, to take part in their 2026 Plenary Assembly.

In an atmosphere of fraternity and communion, the friars prepared to experience this time of grace, during which, in addition to their fraternal gathering, they were able to reflect on the *Chapter Reso-*

*lutions* that will guide the coming triennium, which began last January.

As well as reviewing the *Resolutions*, the brothers took time to reflect on the importance of fraternal life and the fraternal bonds conferred upon them by their consecration; on the importance of care and love for their brothers; and on the importance of accompanying and supporting one another through all the highs and lows of daily life.