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Annals of the General Archives

The shield of the Discalced Carmel

Rome-Italy, November 5, 2014 (Communicationes).- **P. Óscar I. Aparicio.** Every religious order has its shield. Logically, ours can be found in our books, official documents, on altars, and on the façades of our churches....

Our shield has as many variations as we have years of existence. Its first representation appears in 1499 in a book on the life of Saint Albert. It has two principal motifs: the mountain and three stars, one inside the mountain and the other two outside. The mountain is Mount Carmel, cradle of our Order, and the star in the mountain refers to the Virgin Mary of Mount Carmel, Star of the Sea. The two stars above are the prophets Elijah and Elisha.

Placed atop the shield are a ducal crown with twelve stars and an arm wielding a fiery sword, representing the prophet Elijah. The Latin legend on the shield refers to the Prophet Elijah's phrase: "*Zelo zelatus sum pro Domino Deo exercitum,*" which translated means: "with zeal have I been zealous for the Lord God of hosts."

The colors are the brown of the mountain and the white of the skies, as are also the habit and the mantle of the friars and nuns. Brown is the color of earth, and on occasion brown together with yellow symbolize humility. White is the reflection of light. It is the color associated with the tunic of Christ at the resurrection, the transfiguration.... White and brown are the colors of our shield, heaven and earth united in a symphony of love.

Toward the end of the 16th century a cross is shown on the summit of the mountain, especially in the Carmelite province of Castile. It is that cross which we Discalced have adopted to differentiate us from the Order of Carmelites. Some interpret it as the Cross at the end of the Ascent of Mount Carmel.... The O.Carm. province of Sicily placed the cross of the Holy Land on the summit of the mountain.

The shield is currently the same for the O.Carm. and the O.C.D. except for the cross on the mountain which appears on the shield of the Teresian Carmelites.

Colombia

Inauguration of the Carmelite Spirituality Institute of Colombia

Bogotá-Colombia, November 5, 2014 (Communicationes).- On Wednesday, October 22, at a formal sitting in Bogotá with numerous guests in attendance, the Carmelite Spirituality Institute of Colombia was officially inaugurated. This was the principal commemorative event of the 5th Centenary of the Birth of Saint Teresa.

Mr. Belisario Betancur Cuartas, formerly President of Colombia from 1982 to 1986, attorney, author, and distinguished personage of Latin American culture, gave an interesting talk titled, "I hope in such a sublime life," in which he touched upon and discussed several interesting topics about the life, doctrine, and teachings of la Santa with loftiness and depth, with notes and anecdotes about his admiration for and devotion to Teresa of Jesus.

Bishop Luis Augusto Castro Quiroga, Consolata Missionary, Archbishop of Tunja and President of the Colombian Episcopal Conference, followed with the theme, "Spirituality and Postconflict," in which he explained how spirituality is the heart of peace and the way to overcome the armed conflicts our country has lived and suffered through. He emphasized that only known and experienced spirituality can be the means of forgiveness, reconciliation, and progress and prosperity for the Colombian people.

Next, our provincial magisterially presented "The message Saint Teresa in her 5th Centenary brings us today." With texts taken from her major works—The Book of Her Life, Way of Perfection, and Interior Castle—he presented in a timely manner her mystical teachings which are incarnated spirituality that responded to the historical challenges of her times and invite us to a committed spirituality that responds to the pressing problems of today's society and of the Church.

Father Jorge Antonio Zurek Lequerica, director of the Carmelite Institute of Spirituality, talked about the new institute, its setup, structure, and objectives for the promotion of research into and practice of spirituality at the service of the Church and the Order in Colombia and Latin America.

Upon its opening in February 2015 and with the support of the Mystical University "CITeS" in Ávila and the collaboration of the Pontifical Xaverian University in Bogotá, the Institute will

offer a certificate on “the praying person in the city” and a course on “spirituality in times of crisis.”

V Centenary

Teresa of Jesus: 500 years—The Discalced Carmel in photographs

Burgos-Spain, November 5, 2014 (Communicationes).- With the book, “Teresa de Jesús 500 Años: El Carmelo Descalzo foto a foto” (Teresa of Jesus: 500 years—The Discalced Carmel in photographs), you can walk step by step with Teresa of Jesus along her life journey. Using photography, professional artistry, and supplementary text, Rita Barrios will guide you through the long journey from the house where Teresa of Ávila was born to Alba de Tormes, where la Santa took her last breath.

The author has traveled throughout Spain and Europe to reach the places where Teresa’s first “vineyards” were planted with the goal of creating a record and preserving both the history and current reality of the Teresian spirit, which is beautifully integrated in this visual narration of the life of the Mother. The lens of her camera has reached the interior of the cloisters of each of the monasteries founded by Teresa which have never before been visited by the outside world.

This book presents the sons and daughters of Teresa that embrace her simple lifestyle today, giving us a window into their daily life: work, sacred spaces, liturgy, and fraternal life.

What radiates from these pages is the clear evidence that the Teresian spirit is very much alive, not only within the walls of Ávila and Spain, but in all the continents and in all the world.

The 5th Centenary marks a new chapter in Teresian history. This book is a wonderful gift to the entire Family of Carmel, so indebted to the “determined determination” and the great love of its Mother Foundress, and it thanks the author who has presented her to us of the 21st century through the pages of this book.

<http://www.montecarmelo.com/teresa-jesus-500-anos-carmelo-descalzo-foto-foto-p-1082.html?osCsid=egatorfrss4527inmbdnc5kq97>

Romania

Opening of the Teresian Jubilee year (1515-2015) in Stânceni

Romania- November 5, 2014 (Communicationes).- The opening of the Teresian jubilee year was celebrated with Teresa’s ecumenical charism. Members of the Saint-Élie fraternity and Catholic and Orthodox friends met on the evening of Sunday, October 19, 2014. After listening to *Nada te turbe* sung by a Carmelite virtual choir (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ycy0a5eHgVs&list=PL-hgfaGxL415Hp-E7jFlraEvt-RaOtO9p>), Sister Éliane mentioned some Orthodox spiritual authors of the 19th and 20th centuries that speak of Saint Teresa of Ávila, thereby demonstrating a true ecumenism of the saints, evident in the Drăgănescu Church painted by Father Marco Rupnik in the same manner in which Catholic and Orthodox saints appear together in the heavenly Jerusalem in the chapel of the young community of Stânceni.

Father Marius Ciprian Dinu, Orthodox priest of Bucharest, then enthusiastically presented his doctoral thesis in theology on the mysticism of Saint Teresa of Ávila, which he defended in 2012. He concluded by saying that Saint Teresa very closely approximates Orthodox tradition on the dogmatic and practical planes of prayer.

The *Salve Regina* interpreted by the aforementioned virtual choir of Carmelites (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FxElBk8FZQc&index=2&list=PL-hgfaGxL415Hp-E7jFlraEvt-RaOtO9p>) preceded the shared intermission-coffee break.

The chanting of the Byzantine vespers of Saint Teresa called all those present into common praise of our God, admirable in Saint Teresa! After the final blessing, Father Cornel, chaplain of this young community, temporarily closed the contributions of the evening in hopeful expectation of sharing all that is to come.

In the joy of the Teresian year!