

# **CommunicationesN. 280**

**20/02/2015**

## **CONTENTS:**

- Announcement for the canonization of Blessed Mary of Jesus Crucified
- Saint Teresa's works on the Internet
- Spotlight on Saint Teresa and Saint John of the Cross in India
- Carmelites in Albania

## **Beatificación**

### **Announcement for the canonization of Blessed Mary of Jesus Crucified**

**Belén, 20 de febrero 2015 (Communicationes).- The Carmelite Sisters of the Holy Land.**- Our sister, Blessed Mary of Jesus Crucified, Mariam Baouardy (1846-1878), will be canonized on May 17, 2015 in Rome.

Born in Galilee, Mariam lived in Egypt, Lebanon, France, India and completed her short life in Bethlehem. She is a bridge between the Christians of the East and of the West, and she invites us to live more intensely the Communion of Saints in the breath of the Holy Spirit.

"*In her, everything speaks to us of Jesus*" said Saint John Paul II. We are pleased that this flower of the Holy Land is given as an example to the Universal Church and particularly to the Middle East. It is a great joy, a sign of hope and support for Eastern Christians!

This canonization will take place in this year of the Consecrated Life and the fifth centenary of the birth of St. Teresa of Avila, the Carmelite reformer. Mariam, worthy daughter of the Madre Teresa, became the first Carmelite saint of the Middle East.

We share our joy with the whole Carmelite Family, friends of Carmel, the Churches of the Middle East and all those who feel touched by the witness and the message of Mariam.

## **5th Centenary**

### **Saint Teresa's works on the Internet**

**Burgos-Spain, February 20, 2015 (Communicationes).**- The most recent of all websites dedicated to Saint Teresa is [www.teresavila.com](http://www.teresavila.com). It is a Web project carried out by Monte Carmelo publishers and helps visitors get to know, bit by bit, many aspects of the life, message, and world of Saint Teresa of Jesus.

Some sections of the site are still under construction, but with the content already available, it promises to be an extraordinary resource for scholars of the Saint from Ávila.

It starts out by focusing on her body of work. For all Teresian writings, visitors are able to search text; view manuscripts and see where they are located; view facsimiles, versions, etc. From each page one can link to the corresponding manuscript (if extant) and zoom in on words to see them up close.

There is also an interesting section titled, “Santa Teresa de la ‘A’ a la ‘Z’” [“Saint Teresa from ‘A’ to ‘Z’”] which provides a very complete Teresian dictionary.

## India

### Spotlight on Saint Teresa and Saint John of the Cross in India

**India, February 20, 2015 (Communicationes).**-A delegation of Spanish poets traveled to Calcutta, India, to pay tribute to Saint Teresa and Saint John of the Cross within the larger context of a visit which will include, among other things, the translation of an anthology of Spanish poetry into the Bengali, Hindi, and Kannada languages.

Specifically, the singer-songwriter Amancio Prada will accompany Jesús Aguado, José María Muñoz Quirós, Fermín Herrero, and Carlos Aganzo –the author of the hymn of the 5th Centenary—in their tribute to the two Spanish mystics.

In addition to this singular experience, the poetic expedition from Spain will offer recitals in the Sahitya Akademi and the Cervantes Institute in New Delhi, and then continue to Calcutta where they will participate in the Calcutta Book Fair, the most important in Asia with two million visitors.

In this book fair, Indian readership will meet Saint John of the Cross and Saint Teresa of Jesus, protagonists of the 5<sup>th</sup> Centenary of the Birth of Saint Teresa.

## Annals of the General Archives

### Carmelites in Albania

**Albania, February 20, 2015 (Communicationes).**- **Father Óscar I. Aparicio, OCD General Archivist.** The Carmelite friars arrived in Albania toward the end of October 2013. We are in the Diocese of Sapë, of which Luciano Avgustini is bishop. The Carmelite Nuns preceded us by some years, as usually happens; they have been in Albania since September 29, 2003. This is our most recent event in the history of the Discalced Carmel in Albania. In the OCD GA, we have a two-page document in Section A, shelf 270/k, which speaks briefly of the Church of Albania at the beginning of the 17<sup>th</sup> century. It is an unsigned, undated narrative. We only know that it is addressed to the Superior General of the Discalced Carmelites. It describes

Albania in that time period, when it was a kingdom of Macedonia. There were 200,000 Catholic souls and more or less the same number of Orthodox. They were subject to the Ottoman Turks. It narrates how many Catholics died without having received the sacraments due to the scarcity of priests, and how many “became Turks out of ignorance.”

It describes how Catholics lived in the most mountainous region of the country, to the north. The 30 or 40 priests hardly understood what they read. The hierarchy included four bishops and one archbishop. Two of those, the archbishop and the bishop of Alessio, were in Rome and unable to return since they had been banished by the Turks. The bishop of Sefa was blind “in both eyes” and the Spalensian bishop was old “and not kind even to himself.” There was only one bishop who was in the hands of the Turks and he could not carry out his ministry. In light of this situation, the writer of this memorial asked for help in faith formation and administration of the sacraments. He found help in these five men: Peter Budí, a 50-year-old priest; Alexander Casista, 25 years old; George de Lupis, 25 years old; Simon Greci, also 25 and a Greek. After being formed in Rome, they went to live in Saint Euphemia of Kallmet. The writer asked the friars for sacred vestments, vessels for consecration, money, and books for the mission. He also asked Father Simon of the Conversion of Saint Paul to travel to evangelize with the aforementioned priests, since he believed the need in Albania was greater than that in Persia....

The memorial cites Father Peter Budi as one of the priests of the Albanian nation. He was in Rome from 1616 until 1618 and returned to the Eternal City in the fall of 1619. On July 20, 1621, he was appointed bishop of Sapa and Sarda and returned to his country once again, where he died by drowning in the Drin river in December 1622.

We know, therefore, that this document was written around 1620, at a time in which the presence of the Discalced Carmelite friars was spreading to the east. It will not be until the 21<sup>st</sup> century that the Discalced Carmelite Nuns and Friars will reach what is now the country of Albania.