

Communicaciones N. 281

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V Centenary

#FelicidadesTeresa, selfies para el V Centenario

Avila-Spain, February 27, 2015 (Communicaciones).- Taking advantage of the growing interest in photography and its use in the social networks, the Avila Diocesan Commission for the 5th centenary started the **#FelicidadesTeresa** campaign to go until the 27th March.

The objective is to get people throughout the whole world to greet Saint Teresa for her 500th “birthday” in the land which gave her birth. For March 28, it is hoped there will be hundreds of pilgrims in Avila, but there will also be many others who cannot get to our city on this day. For this reason, with this campaign it is hoped that all those devoted to Saint Teresa can be present in Avila in some manner to show their affection for the Saint on this important date.

The procedure is very simple: send a photo or a “selfie” taken with an image of Saint Teresa to Twitter. Remember to quote the diocesan account for the V Centenary ([@TeresaAvila2015](https://twitter.com/TeresaAvila2015)) and the Hashtag **#FelicidadesTeresa**. Those who do not have a Twitter account can put their photos on Facebook (www.facebook.com/TeresaAvila2015), with the same Hashtag **#FelicidadesTeresa**.

The campaign ends on March 27 in the evening when, in the Avila Centre, with the help of the Centenary volunteers, a collage will be prepared of these photos to spell out the words **HAPPY BIRTHDAY TERESA**. In this way, through these photos, Teresa of Jesus will receive greetings from everyone.

The first to send his photo with Saint Teresa was the Bishop of Avila, Mons. Jesús García Burillo, who wanted in this way to be part of the **#FelicidadesTeresa** campaign.

Publishing news

“Life, Virtues and Miracles of Saint Teresa of Jesus” by Tomás de Jesús

Madrid, February 27, 2015 (Communications).- A critical edition of this old life of Saint Teresa, the second after Ribera's (1590), has now been prepared by Manuel Diego Sánchez, OCD, and published by Editorial de Espiritualidad, complete with abundant historical notes and identification of sources, together with corresponding indices (biblical, Teresian, analytical....).

This life played an important role in spreading knowledge of Teresa throughout Europe (being translated into French and Italian in the 17th century), as well as contributing helpful assistance to bringing the final phase of her process of beatification to a happy conclusion.

Among the second generation of Discalced Carmelites, Tomás de Jesús was the best theologian and systematic interpreter of Teresian doctrine.

This second biography at the time of Saint Teresa (Zaragoza 1606), used a publishing custom at the time of hiding the true author's name: the Discalced Carmelite friar Tomás de Jesús, who prepared and published the book. His identity is revealed in this new edition of the old text, which is so important for historical and spiritual knowledge of this woman.

Tomás de Jesús, being Procurator for St Teresa's beatification Cause, decided to write her life, taking into account the very many declarations from witnesses alive at her time. The biography was published under the name of the Bishop, Diego de Yepes. The Teresian Carmel let this biography of Teresa come out under his name, given the prestige and authority enjoyed by this Bishop of Tarazona, who before had belonged to the Jerónimos Friars and had been one of St Teresa's confessors.

India

Teresian seminar in the Manjummel Province

India, February 27, 2015 (Communications).- The Carmelite Family in India (TPI) organized a three day seminar on Saint Teresa of Jesus in relation to her 5th centenary of birth. The seminar was held at Atmadarshan, Aluva, a spiritual centre belonging to the Manjummel Province.

The topic of the seminar was “Walking with Saint Teresa” and taking part were 270 Carmelites from various congregations belonging to the Carmelite family in India.

Special attention was given to studying the minor works of St Teresa.

Other topics helping the participants to renew their Carmelite spirit were: The Word of God and Saint Teresa, Teresian Communities and Teresian Spirituality in the context of India.

With this seminar, the Carmelite family in India began their celebration of the V Centenary of the Birth of Saint Teresa of Avila.

Chronicles from the General Archives

The Carmelites in Louisiana

United States, February 27, 2015 (Communicationes).- Fr Óscar I. Aparicio, OCD General Archivist. After the brief missionary experience of the Discalced Carmelites in California, the Carmelites turned to the present territory of the United States. They went to a colony which had first of all been Spanish but, at the time our Carmelites went, it had become French.

Our Discalced Carmelite friars arrived in Louisiana in 1720. They had been invited by the management of the East India company. Ecclesiastically, Louisiana belonged to the Quebec diocese. Its Bishop, John Baptist of the Cross, divided the great territory into three missionary districts. Capuchins, Discalced Carmelites and Jesuits were put in charge of taking pastoral care of these districts. The clauses of the agreement between the Carmelites and the president, Roger, are to be found in the OCD General Archives, Section A, cabinet 270, 1. In them the Company promised to pay 300 Francs to each missionary before setting out for America. Afterwards they would pay 400 Francs each year and they made a commitment to providing a church and residence for the religious.

On February 12, 1720, the General Definitory accepted the clauses of the East India Company. The Mission was given to the care of the Most Holy Trinity province of Normandy. The missionaries were Fr Santiago of St Martin, Superior of the Mission and Frs Charles of St Alexis and William of St Mary Magdalen, plus a brother whose name is not preserved. On 3rd June, Fr Santiago was appointed Prefect Apostolic. The seat of the Apostolic Prefecture was in Mobile city, which was the Capital of Louisiana. The territory of the Prefecture extended from the eastern banks of the Mississippi to the gulf of Mexico, reaching to the English territories.

In the OCD archives is kept a letter written by John Matthew of Saint Anna to the Father General, explaining the leaving of the Carmelite friars from Louisiana. The reason was that the civil powers did not want the Discalced Carmelite friars to depend ecclesiastically on the Congregation of Propaganda Fide in Rome, instead of the French Church (Gallicanism). The Discalced Carmelites did not give way and so had to leave Louisiana.

The documents kept in the General Archives serve to help us know this brief history of the Discalced friars in the present State of Louisiana.