



The death of the sculptor Venancio Blanco

It is very likely that the name of this artist will mean very little to most people. Nonetheless, there would be very few Disalced Carmelites who have not seen (at least in photographs) one of the sculptures dedicated to St. Teresa of Jesus by Venancio Blanco. Born in Salamanca in 1923, a great part of his work was dedicated to the Saint, 'whom he admired, sketched, sculpted and to whom he spoke, as he himself acknowledged'. On 21st, December, he gave, in a public ceremony, his last Teresian work to the Museum of the Disalced Carmelites nuns in Alba de Tormes: a sculpture of St. Teresa of Jesus entitled Time to set off. Fr. Miguel Márquez, Fr. Provincial for the Iberian Province of the Disalced Carmelites, together with the nuns

of the community of Disalced nuns, was present.

Blanco also conversed with Teresa 'in his drawings. The exhibition: Breakfasting with sketches which the Church of Santiago in Alba de Tormes hosted in March, 2017, brought together a collection of forty paper napkins with drawings by the artist from Salamanca, among which, those connected with St. Teresa and St. John of the Cross stood out. These drawings were the fruit of the artist's dialogue with Teresa of Jesus, a demonstration of the fusion of literature and art in drawings which come from the heart and from dreams'. Venancio Blanco died in Madrid on 22nd February. May he rest in peace.

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Fr. Saverio at the Teresianum community's Feast day

While Fr. Antoine-Marie Zacharie Igirukwayo was Superior of the Teresianum, the Teresianum community decided a few years ago to celebrate its feast day on 12th March, anniversary of the canonisation of St. Teresa

of Jesus. This year, 396th anniversary of this prestigious date, the community met in the chapel for the celebration of Holy Mass, presided by Fr. Saverio Cannistrà. In his homily, the Father General recalled, in the light of the readings of the day, St. Teresa

of Jesus' passion for life and pointed out how Lent is a time to recall how God always wants to bring us to Life and shows us through the rich signs which are manifested in our lives. We are able to recognise them in the measure when we live out an authentic conversion based on faith, the source of the fullness of life and not a life based on our puny human schemes.

'God offers us a plan for our lives, a plan which is creating new heavens and a new earth, perhaps a new Carmel, a new Teresianum, new communities. May we have the capacity to be aware of it and walk in that direction...' Fr. Saverio finished by

Ordinations to the diaconate

On Saturday, 10th March, the community of the International School Saint John of the Cross, part of the Teresianum in Rome, celebrated with great joy, the ordination to the diaconate of four of its members: Fr. Arockiaraja Visanthi (Prov. Tamil Nadu, India); Fr. José Andrianmamonjisoa (Comm. Madagascar); Fr. Ranjit Xess (Prov. South Kerala, India); and Fr. Wilibrodus Roja (Comm. Indonesia). The ordination took place in the neighbouring Basilica of St. Pancrazio and was presided by our brother, Mons. Zdenko Ivan Krizic OCD, Bishop of the Diocese of Gospic-Senj, in Croacia, who, among

saying that God discomferts us, but he also empowers us to open ourselves up to change.

His whole homily is available in Italian by following our social networks profile on Twitter and Facebook using the following link:

<https://www.pscp.tv/w/1kvJpWlke-ooGE>

The celebration ended with a fraternal dinner, which was attended by the Fr. General, as well as Fr. Vicar, Agustí Borrell and some the members of the Definitory, as well as Carmelite Discalced friars from the diverse communities in Rome who were also at the Eucharist,

other services to the Order, held the office of Vicar General and later, Rector of the permanent community of the Teresianum, before being named Bishop by Pope Francis. The ceremony was followed by a fraternal dinner, prepared by members of the International College, which included different dishes made according to the traditions of the country of origin of our brother deacons. Let us pray for them and entreat the Lord that his example will be an invitation to others to follow in his footsteps, surrendering themselves wholeheartedly to the following of Christ in the family of Carmel and in the service of the Church.

Fr. Silverio of St. Teresa

On 8th March, it was 140 years since the birth in Escóbados de Arriba (Burgos, Spain) of Fr. Silverio of St. Teresa, known in the world as Julián Gómez Fernández.

Fr. Silverio of St. Teresa received the habit of Carmel in Larrea in 1895, after having studied philosophy in the Seminary of San Jerónimo in Burgos. A year later, he made his simple vows and his solemn vows in 1899. He was ordained priest in 1902 and was sent to Rome, where he continued to study for the next two years.

Between 1905 and 1937 he went through a period of intensely rewarding and intellectual activity in Burgos, the fruit of which was the 'Biblioteca Mística Carmelitana' (Carmelite Mystical Collection) and the 'Silverian Archive', in which a good number of copies of documents of enormous importance have been kept for the Order. The 'Biblioteca', for its part was the first attempt to examine the Teresian and Sanjuanist texts, as well as publishing the processes of beatification and canonization of St. Teresa and St. John of the Cross, with the appli-

cation of serious, historiographical criteria.

It is impossible to give a list here either of his publications or of the documents saved by Fr. Silverio, which otherwise would have been lost.

From 1937 onwards, he served as General Definitor, taking on the government of the Order in the capacity of Vicar General, brought about by the death of Fr. Pedro Tomás de la Virgen del Carmen in an unfortunate motorbike accident, on 28th August 1946, who had been the Superior General. In April, 1947, he was elected Superior General in the Chapter which he himself summoned and would govern the Order carrying out some important initiatives, including the building of the new International College and present seat of the Teresianum on land bequeathed by the Pamphilj family, neighbours of the Parish of St. Pancrazio, inaugurated after his death. With the help of his Definitors, one of whom was Blessed Fr. Marie-Eugene of the Child Jesus, his attentiveness to the Discalced Carmelite nuns should also be highlighted.

Beatification of “Chiquitunga”

On the 6th of March 2018, the Holy Father, Pope Francis, received in audience His Eminence, the Most Reverend Cardinal Angelo Amato, S.D.B., Prefect of the Congregation for the Causes of the Saints. During the audience, the Pontiff authorized the Congregation to promulgate the decree relating to the miracle attributed to the intercession of the Venerable Servant of God, María Felicia de Jesús Sacramento.

Later on, Mons. Valenzuela, Bishop of Asunción, Paraguay, made official the date of the Beatification: the 23rd of June this year, in the “Nueva Olla” stadium of the Cerro Porteño football club. The site was selected so that a greater number of the public could attend.

In order to take part in the preparations for the beatification, Fr Romano Gambalunga, the Postulator General, went to Paraguay where, in Mburuvicha Róga, among other things, he was able to meet again

with the President of the Republic, Mr Horacio Cartes. Afterwards, in the press conference, our Postulator stated that he had been able to present to the President all the work that he had been doing with Brother Restituto Palmero, ocd, in the context of this Cause.

In regard to the beatification, he assured that it “is a motive for joy and hope for all the people of Paraguay” and he pointed out the devotion existing among the Catholics of Paraguay for this holy nun who will be the first person to be beatified in that nation. “In the two weeks that I have been in Paraguay, I have come to experience that she is a person much loved by the faithful”, stated Fr Romano, who then added that President Cartes had stated to him his availability and willingness to do all he could to make the beatification of María Felicia de Jesús Sacramento, Chiquitunga, “a celebration for all the people”. The 23rd of June will be a day of national interest.

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New Documents, News and other information

The Venice Province visits the Croatian Province

Recently, between the 3rd and the 6th of April, 34 friars from the Venice Province, priests and students, paid a visit to the friars of the Croatian Province. The visit arose from the desire to rediscover the existing ties between the two Provinces. From the 1950s to the end of the 1960s, some Croatian students and theologians carried out their studies for the licentiate and the first years of theological training in the Venice Province. Relations between the two were widened when Croatia declared itself independent in 1991. From Verona and Trieste, much aid was sent to the Croatian monasteries for the thousands of displaced people who sought assistance from our friars. During the same period, various of our Croatian priests, who had to finish their theological studies in Rome, lived in the Santa Teresa monastery.

The first day of sharing together took place in the Spirituality House of the Sisters of St Vincent de Paul of Lužnica, some 20 km from Zagreb. Fathers Rodolfo Girardello (Venice),

Jakov Mamić and Srećko Rimac (the second and the present Provincials of Croatia), gave firsthand witness to the historical ties between both Provinces. There was also time to exchange formative experiences (Fr Petar from Graz, and Fr Gianni from Trent), as well as discussing the Carmelite charism and the urgency of transmitting it to the laity (Fr Antonio Sicari).

On the second day, the friars transferred to Zagreb, where they were able to venerate the relics of blessed Alojzije Stepinac in the cathedral, as well as visiting the old city. In the afternoon, after eating at Remete, the Venetian and Croatian friars went to the national sanctuary of Marija Bistrica, [Our lady of Bistrica - the Black Madonna], to celebrate Mass at which presided our Brother Monsignor Zdenko Križić, ocd, with whom we also had the opportunity of greeting our disalced Carmelite nuns. It was a rich experience of getting to know one another, in the opinion of all those taking part.

The Discalced Carmelite Nuns of Panama will prepare hosts for the World Youth Day

On the 25th of January 2017, with six foundresses coming from Ecuador, life began in the Teresian Carmelite nuns' monastery of St Joseph and Saint Elizabeth of the Trinity, in the Panamanian diocese of Colón-Kuna Yala.

As the main work to sustain themselves, the sisters complement the production of bread with wafers for the celebration of Mass. So, the next World Youth Day, to be celebrated in Panama, offers an optimal occasion for the sale of hosts, which would help the sisters face the expenses of daily life, as well as the debts con-

tracted through the work carried out in the monastery, as well as the buying of industrial machines for the production of hosts, etc. For the community, also, it would be a beautiful way of taking part in such an important event.

We can help the sisters financially through this cheque account: Banco General de Panamá, Diócesis de Colón-Kuna Yala (Carmelitas Descalzas), account number: 03-27-01-115350-3. For additional information, write to: carmelitas.panama@gmail.com.

Holy Week in Jequitinhonha Valley

As for many years, during Holy week, a group of Brazilian Secular Discalced Carmelites offered their services to the poor and needy communities of Vila São João, Dutra, Várzea da Páscoa and Ribeirão. All of these belong to the Francisco Badaró parish of Our Lady of the Conception, in the diocese of Araçuaí-MG. These communities are taken care of by Discalced Carmelite missionaries, such as Br. Márcio.

During these days, our brothers and sisters visited the sick, had meet-

ings with various Christian groups, helped in the schools and, as well, animated the liturgical celebrations and took part with the communities in paraliturgical celebrations such as the Way of the Cross, meditated rosary, Benediction, and moments of prayer, etc.

In prayer, in the celebrations, in service to those most poor, as well as in music, our brothers and sisters had personal experience of the motto of St Therese of the Child Jesus: "Everything is a grace".