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Obituary

A Carmelite drowns after saving the life of a child

India, July 31, 2015 (Communicationes).- Nikhil George, a young Discalced Carmelite from the Manjummel province, drowned after diving into a pool of water to save the life of a 12-year-old boy when he saw that the child was in trouble. Nikhil George was 23 years old.

“This is a great loss for the Order. We lost an angelic brother. Brother Nikhil George was known for his innocence and dedication to the life of prayer and community,” said Father Prasad Theruvathu, provincial of Manjummel.

Father Prasad noted that the Province is grieved but at the same time very proud of the courage and love the young Carmelite displayed.

Interview

Interview with Father George Tambala, OCD Definitor General for Africa

July 31, 2015 (Communicationes).-

What is the current state of the African Carmel?

In Africa, we have a lot of hope. We are living through a period of growth for the Order. There are many vocations, new people are present, and we foresee a very promising future. The family of the Secular Discalced Carmel is growing and that is significant and heartening.

What are the main challenges?

The main problems are social and political in nature. We – our communities – live immersed in society; therefore, we are affected by the political and social instability of each of the countries in which we are present. As regards the Order, the greatest challenge is formation. There are many young people who hear the call, and we must be prepared to accompany them in the process of formation.

Is it time for Africa to walk on its own?

Little by little, the presence of European missionaries is lessening in the African continent. On one hand, this is the fruit of the vocational crisis Europe is undergoing. I clearly see that the future is in our hands, collaborating with the Church in Europe, but we must go about making our own way. We must look to the future with hope. The future is in the hands of God, but in Africa we are seeing many hopeful signs. Africa is at the service of the entire Order.

How do you envision Carmel in Africa?

It is difficult to know what will happen. In many places we are taking three steps forward; then something happens and we have to reassess reality once again. But I think that with this strong growth in vocations, Africa will be a source of missionaries. This has already begun, and it will surely increase. The youth are clear about this. We have received much from the old continent and are prepared to help, to collaborate. This is already occurring in other congregations.

Congress

International Congress of the Teresian Family of Enrique de Ossó

Ávila-Spain, July 31, 2015 (Communicationes).- Approximately 2,000 pilgrims from five continents participated in the International Congress of the Teresian Family of Enrique de Ossó. Three municipalities were featured: Tortosa, Alba de Tormes, and Ávila.

All the pilgrims took part in a broad array of activities complete with workshops, Masses, festivities, cultural activities, concerts, visits to Teresian sites, a musical, etc.

In the various workshops, pilgrims grew in knowledge of Saint Teresa through Enrique de Ossó.