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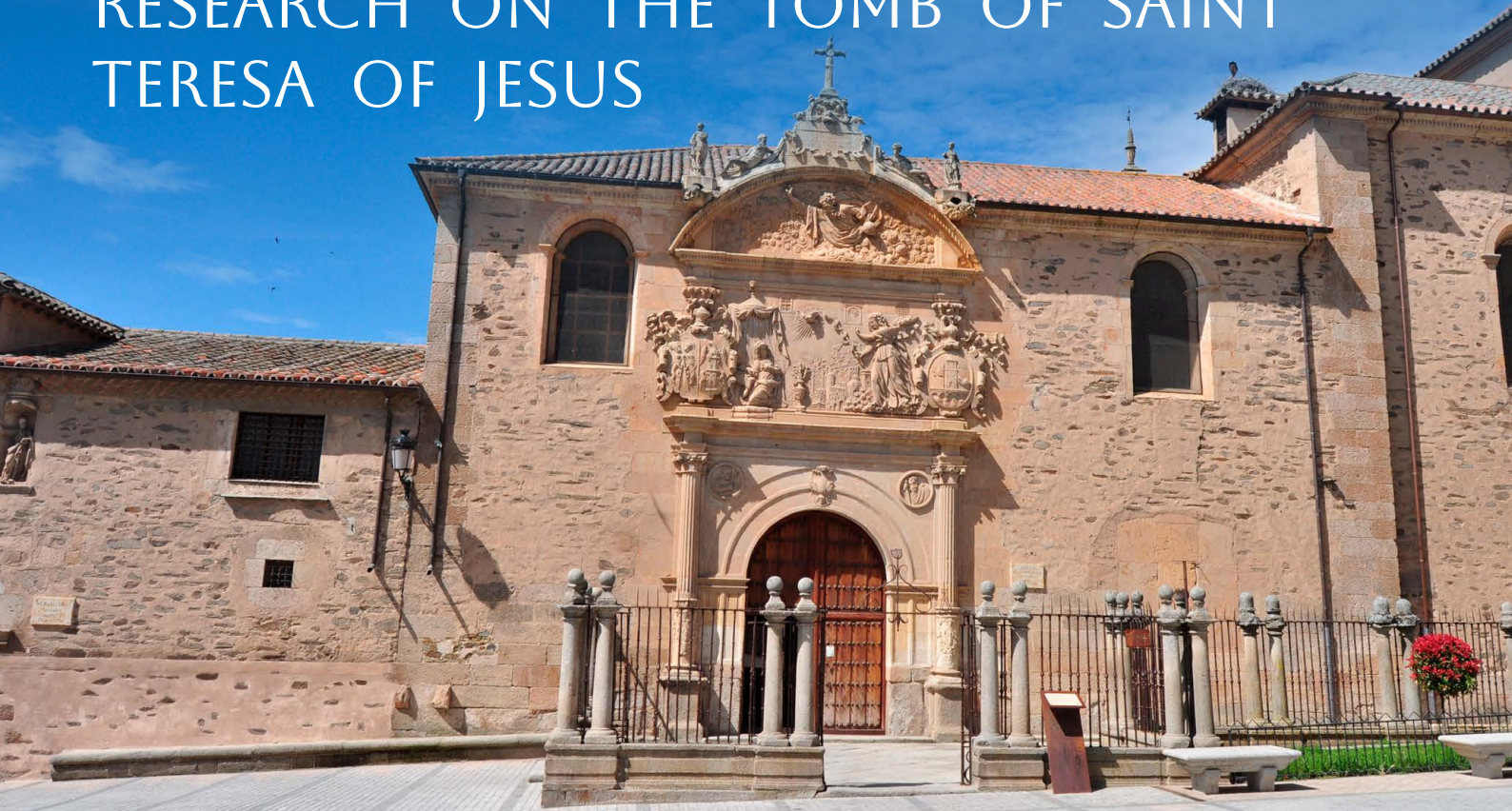
05 · 2024

OCD

COMMUNICATIONES



SPAIN: COMMENCEMENT OF RESEARCH ON THE TOMB OF SAINT TERESA OF JESUS



Since August 2022, the Disalced Carmelite Order has been studying and preparing projects regarding the re-opening of St. Teresa's tomb in Alba de Tormes. Her tomb has not been opened since 1914 and it is now hoped to undertake serious research on the body of the Saint and on some principal relics.

The General Curia of the Order has approved the proposed plan, appreciating the importance and necessity of undertaking the project. Those responsible for it are a team of doctors and scientists who will work in collaboration with the Vatican

Dicastery for the Causes of Saints. For its part, the Order is studying all the existing documentation in our archives that has any reference to the tomb or relics of our Holy Mother, particularly in the Disalced Carmelite monastery of our Nuns in Alba de Tormes.

A possible time frame will be established after summer 2024, depending on the availability of the scientific team and other personnel involved. The project of expected identification foresees various canonical stages and will allow for the veneration of the tomb of St. Teresa during 2025.





THE PHILIPPINES: 75th ANNIVERSARY OF FOUNDATION OF CARMELITE NUNS MONASTERY IN CEBU

Last year, the Discalced Carmelites celebrated 100 years of presence in the Philippine Islands, with the arrival of French Carmelite Nuns in Jaro, Iloilo, on 9 November 1923. Now this year, the Archbishop has declared a “Special year of Grace” for the Monastery of Cebu, beginning on 13 May. The presence of the Nuns in his Archdiocese has made a notable contribution to sustaining the Catholic faith during these past 75 years. From 10 to 13 May a triduum of prayer was held near the Monastery of Cebu, in reflection and gratitude for the founding Sisters who had arrived on 13 May 1949, as well as for all those who had followed in their footsteps.





COLOMBIA: 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF CANONICAL ESTABLISHMENT OF THE PROVINCE

60 years ago, 25 April 1964, the presence of the Discalced Carmelites in Colombia was established as a Province. This new Province was born under the patronage of St. Therese of the Child Jesus and was composed of 6 Monasteries, with 45 Solemnly Professed Friars and 20 Students. These sixty years of history invite us to thank the Lord for our particular part in that history. On 26 April, this year, as part of the 60th anniversary celebrations, the Chapel of the Child Jesus was solemnly blessed by Monsignor Ismael Rueda Sierra, the

Metropolitan Archbishop of Bucaramanga. Discalced Carmelites of our various communities, the clergy of the Archdiocese of Bucaramanga, Carmelite Nuns from the Monastery of Floridablanca, the Secular Carmelites of Santander and the members of our Spirituality Centre, all participated in this celebration.

We give thanks to the Lord for this time of grace and for the blessing that it represents for us, as a Province, to have a living presence dedicated to Carmelite Spirituality and to Pastoral Ministry in the service of the Church.





Italy: RETREAT FOR DISCALCED CARMELITES

From 8 to 13 April, some 50 OCD Religious from the Provinces of Venice, Liguria and Central Italy and the Commissariats of Lombardy and Sicily, spent a week on Retreat at the “Santa Croce” Monastery of Bocca di Magra.

The theme chosen for the Retreat was “The Dark Night”. Fr. Giuseppe Pozzobon, the Venetian Provincial, gave two introductory meditations. From the second day on, Fr. Gabriel Morra from the Central Italy Province was the official Retreat Master, giving all the lectures.

OCD theology students from the Northern Italy and Central Italy Circum-scriptions were also in attendance. To facilitate them, a special concluding period of sharing and reflection on what they had heard and what the week’s experience had meant for them, was included in the Retreat programme.

There was unanimous agreement among the participants, that, despite our differences and varied distances of location, we shared a remarkable and spontaneous fraternity. One of the first things a Discalced Carmelite asks for at his profession of vows is the society of the brethren. We are all companions in our journey!



GERMANY: CARMELITE FAMILY ANNUAL GATHERING

The Friars of the German Province met from 15 to 19 April 2024 at the Carmelite Spirituality Centre of Birkenwerder (near Berlin) for their annual Provincial 'Week'. For some years now, our Carmelite Nuns, members of the OCDS and Friars of other Provinces (Kerala) who reside in Germany, have also been invited to attend. 24 persons were at this year's meeting but the Carmelite Nuns were unable to attend.



We concentrated on St. John of the Cross and were helped by the new German translation of the writings of the Saint by Fr. Ulrich Dobhan OCD and Sister Elisabeth Peeters OCD. Although these writings are often distorted and erroneously translated, it was possible for us now to appreciate the treasures of the symbolic language of our Holy Father. Apart from the formation aspect of our meeting, we were able to enjoy an excursion to the Zeiss Planetarium in Berlin, followed by lunch in its adjoining restaurant. Being taught and praying together while meeting each other personally, notably enriches our Carmelite heritage and charism.

HUNGARY: OCDS NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

The Carmelite Secular Order is present in 16 Hungarian cities. Two OCDS Communities from Rumania have also been united with these 16 Hungarian ones. In May this year, the OCDS National Council with representatives of the various OCDS Communities, met in Budapest to discuss important matters regarding their vocation and to spend time together so as to get to know each other better. Their programme included prayer, conferences, shared discussion and time for recreation. OCDS here is expanding rapidly, as more and more people from differing backgrounds are becoming attracted to Carmelite spirituality and the common life. OCDS here promotes close relationships with the Carmelite Friars and Nuns and devotes great care to our integral formation, paying particular attention to the Carmelite Rule, the OCDS Constitutions and the Declaration on our Charism.





IVORY COAST: FORMATION IN FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

Fr. Jerome Paluku OCD, Secretary General for Missionary Cooperation, ran a Formation Programme in Financial Management and Project Organization for the Provincial Delegation of West Africa. The training sessions were held at Abidjan in the Ivory Coast from 21 to 27 April 2024. Numerous members of all branches of the extended Carmelite family were able to avail of this very helpful initiative – OCD Nuns, Carmelite Missionaries, the Teresian Sisters as well as the OCD Friars from the various communities of our Provincial Delegation. Some twenty Friars and Sisters of the Carmelite family were trained in involvement in financial sustainability and management of the various projects in their respective communities.





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