



OCCD

COMMUNICATIONES



Korea: 50th Anniversary of the arrival of Carmelites



On Saturday, 5 October 2024, a special Mass was celebrated in commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the arrival of Friars of the Discalced Carmelite Order in Korea.

Under the slogan "A Mysterious Journey, 50 years of blessings, still being renewed", the Korean Province expressed its gratitude to all those who, either materially or with their prayers, had helped the progress and development of the Korean Carmelite Order of Friars during the last 50 years. And every one of those Friars strove to walk in the spirit of the Teresian-Carmelite Order charism, responding to God's call with a new heart.

Fr. Miguel, the Superior General, and Fr. Christianus, Definitor, were present for the closure of the Pastoral Visitation and for this commemoration Mass. Between Friars, Nuns and members of the Secular Order, around 1,600 Korean Carmelites also attended this Mass.

Fr. Miguel expressed his gratitude to all those who had worked so diligently in helping the Order to establish itself in Korea during the past 50 years. He added: "The Carmelite Order has spread and developed in many cultures throughout the world, but it is indeed surprising that 7 monasteries of Friars and 3,500 Secular Order members practise Carmelite spirituality in Korea, which has a different culture and is so geographically distanced".



Austria: Jubilee celebration in Linz



On Sunday 15 September, we had a joyful celebration of a Pontifical Mass with Mons. Manfred Scheuer in the Carmelite Church of Linz, as a conclusion of the Jubilee years of Teresian Carmel's presence in Austria. Numerous Brethren from Austria and elsewhere, priest friends, a huge number of Carmelite Nuns coming from all parts of Austria, members of OCDS and many others of the faithful, assisted at the solemn function. Fr. Provincial referred to the many graces associated with Carmel as a whole, but especially here in this Monastery at Linz; the multiple daily celebrations of the Eucharist, the countless administration of the different Sacraments and perhaps espe-

cially, the occasions of consolation, guidance and relief offered in the Confessional, or elsewhere, to souls seeking direction and spiritual advice at crucial moments in their lives. During this function for the anniversary, Mons. Manfred Scheuer expressed his personal gratitude and joy for the Carmelite Monastery and Church here in the heart of Linz, and he concluded the Solemn Mass with the words: "You are a blessing". With the concluding presentation of a commemorative publication, in which the author, Fr. Paul Saji, traced an outline of the events of the jubilee years, he re-affirmed the identity and mission of the Carmelites: to live friendship with God in everything.





Meeting of the Discalced Carmelite Major Superiors of the East Asia Oceania (EAO)

The meeting of the Major Superiors of the EAO region took place at the Mount Carmel Retreat Centre, Varroville, Australia, from the 27th to the 29th of August 2024. This meeting gathered the Major Superiors and Councilors of Australia, the Philippines, Korea, Indonesia, Taiwan-Singapore and Japan. Fr Christianus Surinono, Definitor General, was also present. Following on from the Extraordinary Definitory that was held in Lisieux in August 2023, one of the areas discussed was of the reorganization of the circumscriptions in the EAO region. Seeing the fruits of the initiatives in the area of formation, the EAO Conference has decided to look further into potential areas of collaboration, especially the possibility of a common second novitiate. For this purpose, a commission has been established to draw out its program, content, venue and time frame. It will also draw up a list of formators from the various EAO circumscription, as well as the potential cost of running the program. During the meeting, the Major Superiors also gave certain suggestion on how to improve communications between them and the Definitory in Rome. Fr Christianus in turn informed the Superiors of the updated *Ratio Institutionis*. The Definitory is requesting each circumscription to give its feedback on the reading/study of this document.





Viet Nam: 25th Anniversary of the Federation of the Discalced Carmelite Nuns

On September 21, 2024, at the Carmelite Monastery in Saigon, the Federation “Our Lady of Mount Carmel” offered a thanksgiving Mass for the 25th anniversary of the Federation’s establishment and expressed gratitude to the benefactors of the 11 monasteries across Vietnam. This was also the most meaningful time for the sisters to meet with one another, as well as for the three branches of the Order to gather for the first time, strengthening the bonds of fraternity. The Mass was celebrated by Archbishop Joseph Nguyễn Năng, President of the Vietnam Bishops’ Conference along

with several bishops and approximately 50 priests. Representatives of the Friars, the Nuns and Seculars of the Discalced Carmelite Order, as well as of other congregations, benefactors, and family members of the nuns participated in the Eucharist. After the Mass, everyone participated in sharing an agape meal filled with family joy. The Federation was established in 1999, with 4 initial monasteries: Carmel Saigon (1862), Carmel Nha Trang (1961), Carmel Huế (1909), and Carmel Bình Triệu (1998). After 25 years, the Federation now has 11 member monasteries.



Second Noviciate of the French-speaking African Conference

From 2 July until 28 September 2024, the second Noviciate of the French-speaking Conference took place in the Commissariat of Madagascar. Friars coming from Nigeria, Madagascar, the Congo and Central African Republic were in attendance.

They took part in intense formation courses in Carmelite spirituality, developing their charismatic and doctrinal studies of our Holy Parents, as they prepare for their Solemn Profession in the Order. For the entire 12 weeks' duration, they shared in a succession of formation sessions, with other special times for sharing experiences, educational tours and fraternal outings.



MEXICO: Meeting of OCD Religious in Formation

From the 13 to 16 September 2024, our CESP Centre of Spirituality in Guadalajara hosted the first of the two annual meetings of our OCD Religious in initial formation.

The Discalced Carmelite Aspirants, Postulants, Philosophers and Theologians together with their Formators, attended this meeting with the objective of providing an opportunity for study and reflection (on this occasion of the draft of the updated *Ratio Institutionis OCD*), as well as strengthening our fraternal bonding.



Each day commenced with a period of personal prayer, celebration of the Holy Eucharist and recital of Morning Prayer. In the afternoon we had Vespers, personal prayer and Night Prayer. As well as the obvious schedules for lectures, we had time for recreation, games, walks in the historic centre of Guadalajara city and some films. We also shared an enjoyable Mexican evening during which we had a video call with our Mexican brother Novice who is at the inter-provincial Noviciate at Lepaterique in Honduras. We thank God and the Blessed Virgin Mary for the life and vocation of our Discalced Carmelite brothers.



Karnataka-Goa Province: Carmel Fest 2024

From October 3rd to 6th, Carmel Fest 2024, a triennial event, brought together Carmelite students for four days of spiritual, athletic, and communal activities at Carmel Home and Mount Carmel School, Belur. The theme,

“Walking in Love,” honoured the 150th Birth Anniversary and Centenary of the Canonisation of St. Thérèse of Lisieux.

The Grand Opening saw the hoisting of the Carmel Fest flag and a reflection on Carmelite spirituality. Parti-



pants were divided into teams named after St. Thérèse. The second day blended spiritual reflection and athletic contests, fostering both physical engagement and camaraderie. A Mega Quiz tested participants’ knowledge on various topics. On the third day, the focus shifted to the Social Apostolate. The final day began with a Eucharist in Kannada, followed by a cricket match.

The closing ceremony, a vibrant cultural event, took place in the evening. Each group presented a performance based on the theme “Walking in Love.” The celebration culminated in the announcement of the competition winners and the awarding of prizes. The event left participants deeply enriched by the Carmelite spirit.





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**General House, Discalced Carmelites,
Corso D'Italia 38, 00198 Rome,
Italy**

www.discalcedcarmelite.com