



OCCD

COMMUNICATIONES





Burkina Faso : Gift of provisions to the internally displaced persons of Pabré

At the start of this New Year and in the wake of Christmas, the Community of Discalced Carmelites of Ouagadougou in Burkina Faso gave joy to the internally displaced persons of Pabré by sharing some provisions. This gift of provisions took place at St. Joseph Parish of Pabré, in collaboration with the priest and the laypersons responsible for pastoral care of the internally displaced.

This symbolic gift of over two tons of rice and one hundred and fifty litres of oil marks the beginning of initiatives to assist those brothers and sisters of Pabré that have been internally displaced, where the Brothers are planning to construct their novitiate.

As at Dedougou, the Brothers are planning to begin gardening with some of the displaced persons, not only to give them an occupation, but also to introduce them to new methods planned for the agro-pastoral offensive desired by the President of the country.

This benevolent action was made possible by the appeal launched by Father General Miguel Marquez and the whole General House, so as to come to the help of the victims of terrorism in Burkina Faso.

Sumatra: Birth of OCDS in the Land of the Martyrs Blessed Dionysius and Redemptus

As we awaited the birth of our Savior, a significant event unfolded in the land of Aceh, North Sumatra, on December 22, 2024. Fourteen men and women committed themselves to begin the OCDS initiation period. This marked the beginning of OCDS history in the land of the martyrs Blessed Dionysius and Redemptus. On the Feast of Epiphany, twenty-one individuals who had completed the initiation period in Binjai (Medan, North Sumatra) advanced to the formation phase as OCDS Aspirants. The OCDS vocation is flourishing in North Sumatra, a testament to God's grace in this region. May this new community continue to grow in faith and become witnesses to God's friendship among the people of the Archdiocese of Medan. Let us keep these new members in our prayers as they embark on this sacred journey.



South Korea: canonical approval of Uijeongbu Carmelite Monastery

On November 1, 2024, Uijeongbu Carmelite Monastery, located in Dongducheon, Gyeonggi-do, received canonical approval on July 3 of the same year, and celebrated its establishment with the Bishop of Uijeongbu and with 300 people include 30 priests, 80 religious. Sisters from 10 communities of Carmelite Monastery in Korea gathered together to celebrate.

The Uijeongbu Carmel was founded by Carmel of Seoul, had a groundbreaking ceremony in 2006, but it was suspended due to various difficulties, but the monastery was completed in 2020 and now has eight perpetual professed sisters living together.



SENEGAL: 20 YEARS OF PRESENCE IN KEUR MARIAMA



With their celebration of St. John of the Cross, the Discalced Carmelites of Senegal gave thanks with their close friends for the 20 years since the creation of the site of Keur Mariama near Kaolack. The brothers arrived in Senegal in 2002, but it was 2004 when the Bishop of Kaolack took the initiative of creating this Catholic centre of 30 hectares, with a diocesan Marian sanctuary run by the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart; a propedeutic for the 7 dioceses of Senegal where the Carmelite brothers teach; a health centre; a centre for women's development run by the Theresian Carmelite Missionaries; and a spiritual centre of the Discalced Carmelites, which is used also for pre-postulate activities. After the Mass of thanksgiving and a shared meal, a video was shown that promoted appreciation of God's work, which has made possible the achievement of so much on this site in such a short time. May God be blessed, as well as all those who have contributed to the radiance of this site at the very heart of Senegal !



Wallis and Futuna: Foundation of the OCDS



A group of people who gathers at the Carmelite Nuns Monastery of St. Therese in Wallis and Futuna, after a period of prayer, study and discernment, began formally their formation to become OCDS. The ceremony of admission took place last December 14, 2024, feast of St. John of the Cross. In the name of Father General, Miguel Márquez Calle, OCD, His Excellency Msgr. Susitino SIONEPOE, Bishop of the diocese of Wallis and Futuna, admitted into the

OCDS, seventeen persons. It was a very beautiful and touching ceremony in which the candidates expressed: *“Trusting in the mercy of God and in the fraternal help of all of you, we ask to be admitted to the period of formation in the community of the Secular Order of the Discalced Carmelites.”* During this period of formation leading to the first promise in the OCDS, this new community in formation, will deepen their knowledge of the Carmelite Order and Spirituality and live a more committed life of prayer and fraternity.





Philippine: Seminar- Workshop for Prioresses

The Philippine Federation of Discalced Carmelite Nuns organized a seminar-workshop for Prioresses from November 21 – 30, 2024 at the Carmelite Missionaries' Center of Spirituality, Tagaytay city. The seminar-workshop aimed at empowering the Prioresses with some basic skills on how to respond to the realities of the member-communities. Sr. Elsie Yberas, CM, gave the conferences on steward leadership and spiritual direction.

A break of one day gave the participants the chance to join the celebration of Manila Carmel's 98th foundation anniversary last November 24, 2024. With the guidance of Sr. Emy Bacani, CM, the participants were helped to improve their communication and facilitation skills. Her workshop on Ethics of Social Media gave the group the opportunity to discuss the Federal Guidelines on the Use of Social Media and Electronic Communications.

Mother May Catherine, having visited most of the member-communities gave a concise and complete overview of our realities and guide posts on how to respond to the challenges.

It was a breakthrough for the prioresses and especially for those who were first termers. There were suggestions to have this seminar once every triennium.





Germany : Closure of the Jubilee Year

On Saturday 14th December 2024, we closed out our double centenary of the convent and church of Sainte-Thérèse of Munich, with a solemn pontifical Mass presided over by our dear brother, Cardinal Anders Arborelius OCD, Bishop of Stockholm. The liturgy was solemnly celebrated by 10 co-celebrants and 37 altar servers, including some elders. With regard to music, the Mass was accompanied by a choir and orchestra, which played Mozart's Coronation Mass.





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

www.discalcedcarmelite.com