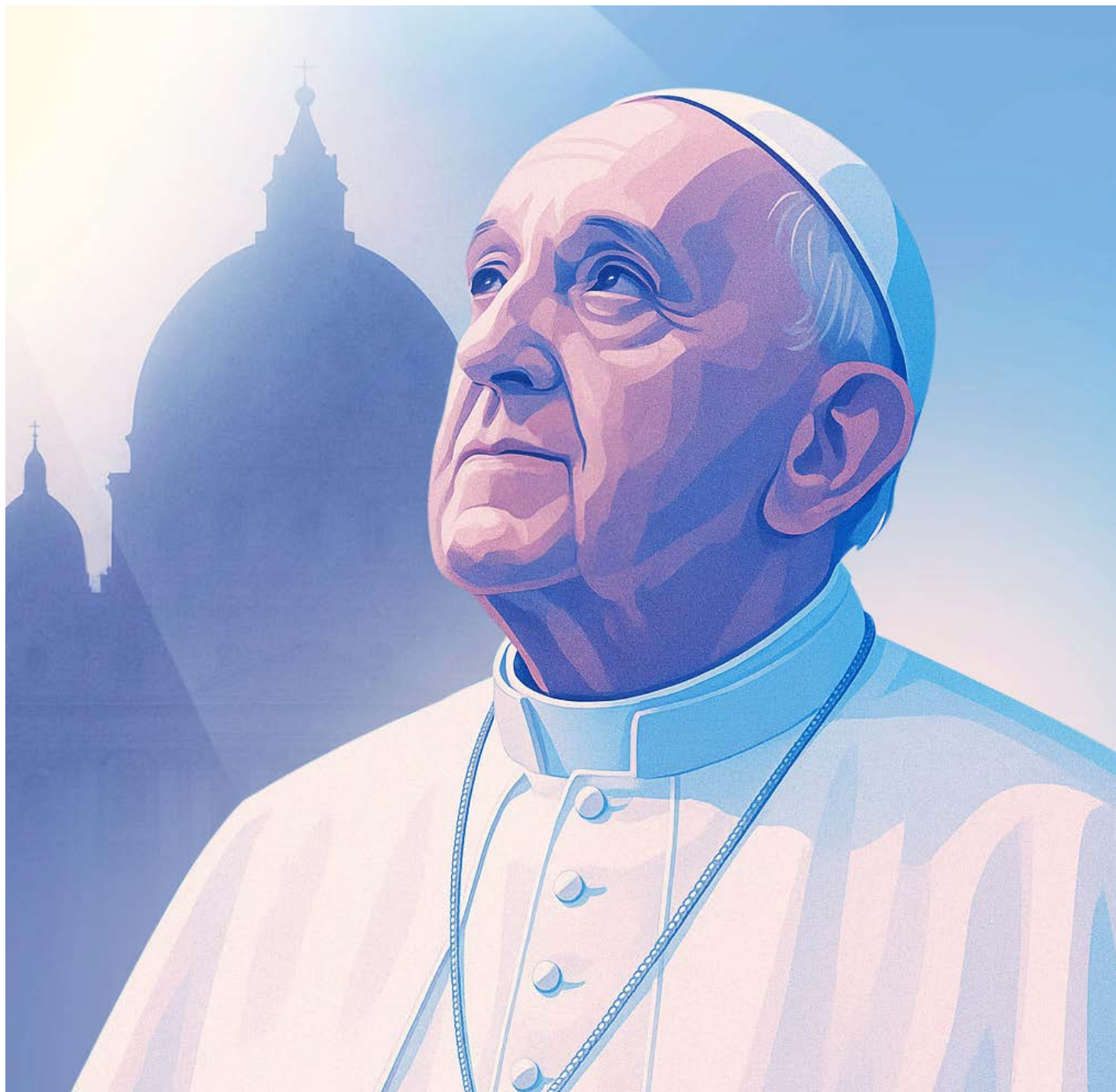




# OCD

## COMMUNICATIONES



**DISCALCED CARMELITES**  
GENERAL CURIA OF THE TERESIAN CARMEL

# On the death of Pope Francis, In grateful remembrance

Dear brothers and sisters of the whole family of the Discalced Carmel, friars, nuns, OCDS and all affiliated members: PEACE AND HOPE!

Having learned of the death of our Holy Father, Pope Francis, we unite wholeheartedly as an Order, the entire Discalced Carmelites, children of Teresa and John of the Cross, children of the Church, in giving thanks to God for his life and service during the twelve years of his Pontificate. We entrust his life to the maternal love of Mary: may she lead him to the heavenly home with all the saints, his predecessors and all his loved ones.

We pray fervently that the Spirit will give the Church the Pope she needs to respond to the needs of our time and of the Church according to the heart of God. We will receive him with a spirit of obedience and fidelity.

In this moment and always, we are one in the following of Jesus and in fidelity to the Church and to the Shepherd who guides us. We have been united with Pope Francis and we will continue to be united with his successor in the spirit of our Holy Mother, St Teresa of Jesus.

I would like to recall two of his phrases to the OCD General Chapter on 11 September 2021:

*Dear brothers, the harmony between these three elements: friendship with God, fraternal life and mission, is a fascinating goal, capable of motivating your present and future choices. May the Holy Spirit - it is He who creates harmony - enlighten and guide your steps on this path. May the Blessed Virgin protect and accompany you. I bless you from my heart.*

And in the meeting with the Discalced Carmelites, during the revision of the Constitutions, Nemi 18 April 2024:

*...you are showing me that the contemplative vocation is not about tending embers, but rather about fanning into flame a fire that can continue to burn and provide warmth to the Church and the world... Look to the future with evangelical hope, with bare feet, that is, with the freedom of abandonment to God. Look to the future with your roots in the past. May your complete immersion in the Lord's presence always fill you with the joy of sisterhood and mutual love. May Our Lady accompany you.*

In communion with the Church, and praying like the disciples on Easter morning, I would like to repeat the words which I addressed to the Pope on behalf of all the Friars during the Audience of our General Chapter on 11 September 2021; if you wish, we could now address them to the next Successor of Peter:

*Holy Father, I want with my brothers and sisters to risk our lives, without waiting for tomorrow, without fear of being wounded, as "knights without pay", as Teresa said, (Life 15:11), helping Jesus to carry the cross, helping the Pope to carry the cross, with our obedience and service, without turning back.*

**HAPPY EASTER OF RESURRECTION!  
REST IN PEACE, DEAR POPE FRANCIS!**

**Rome, 21 April 2025  
Monday of Easter Week**

fr. Miguel Márquez Calle  
OCD Superior General







# Philippines: Congress on prayer

**O**n April 9, 2025, thousands of faithful gathered at the Smart Araneta Coliseum for the “Congress on Prayer II: Confidence in Love”. The event marked the 100th anniversary of St. Thérèse of Lisieux’s canonization and celebrated her enduring legacy of trust, humility, and love through her “Little Way.”

The congress included three key talks focusing on different aspects of St. Thérèse’s life and spirituality. Sr. Mary Bernard Tescam, OCD, presented the first talk, “Saint Thérèse: Wounded Child,” followed by Ms. Imelda D. Ramos, OCDS, with “Saint Thérèse: Warrior Soul.” The final talk, “Saint Thérèse: Doctor of Love,” was delivered by Rev. Fr. Mariano R. Agruda III, OCD.

The event culminated in a Holy Mass, celebrated by Most Reverend Socrates B. Villegas, Archbishop of Lingayen-Dagupan.

The congress was a powerful call for spiritual renewal, urging the faithful, particularly the youth, to respond to God’s love through prayer, service, and possibly embracing a religious vocation. Inspired by St. Thérèse of Lisieux, participants were encouraged to live their faith with confidence in God’s merciful love.





# Italy: OCDS Assembly of the Province of Venice

**O**n Saturday 29th and Sunday 30th March the traditional Provincial Assembly of the OCDS took place in the Spiritual Centre of San Fidenzio (Verona). The 45 participants, who came from almost all the communities of the Province, dealt with a delicate and important theme in the formation process: How to discern in the light of the Spirit, respecting the charism and the uniqueness of the person. Fr. Ramiro Casale, General Delegate for the Secular Order was our guest speaker.



Fr Ramiro emphasized an integral vision of the human person, both body and spirit. At the human level, discernment implies knowledge of our whole inner world. Every formator and every person in formation needs to be aware of this inner dynamic, which is the first step towards spiritual discernment, which aims at listening to the voice of the Spirit and discovering God's plan for each person's life: to reflect his love.







## ARGENTINA: OCDS NATIONAL ASSEMBLY 2025

**T**he National Assembly of the OCDS of Argentina was held from 28th through the 30th of March in the Spiritual Centre of Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe in Luis Guillón (Buenos Aires).

It took place in an atmosphere of joy and celebration, since it coincided with the anniversary of the birth of our Holy Mother, Saint Teresa of Jesus. For this reason, after the election of the new National Council, we shared a time of recreation during which the different communities presented several creative activities that had been prepared in advance to commemorate the birth of our Holy Mother Teresa.

During the three-day meeting, we were able to participate in a Mass presided by Fr. Ricardo Prado OCD (General Delegate for Argentina) with the Carmelite Sisters of the Monastery of Our Lady of Peace, who also gave us a warm welcome in their parlour. During the meeting, the new National Council was elected, with Alejandra Rocha, OCDS, as President.

The presence of Fr Ricardo Prado OCD throughout the meeting allowed us to share this moment with all the branches of our Carmelite Order in a true family atmosphere.







## MEXICO CITY: VII NATIONAL MEETING OF THE CARMELITES

**O**n the 14th, 15th and 16th of March the VII National Meeting of the Carmelites was held in Mexico City, with the participation of the great Mexican Carmelite Family: Brothers, OCDS, laity, etc. from the communities that make up the Province of Saint Albert. The Provincial, Fr. Cándido Celestino González, invited the participants to make this meeting not only an experience of conviviality, but above all an authentic experience of God, and to discover the depth of our love for our vocation and our creativity at the service of others.

The formative dynamic of the meeting was centred on an in-depth study of great figures important to our Order and our spirituality, such as Anne of Jesus, Anne of Saint Bartholomew, Mary of Saint Joseph and our brother, the Servant of God, Father Salvador Rivera, known as “Father Chavita”.

The participants shared times of reflection, study, fraternal fellowship, prayer and the celebration of the Eucharist. We give thanks to God for this time of grace.







## PERU: Annual retreat for OCDS communities

**T**he annual retreat was organised by the OCDS Council of the Commissariat, chaired by Fr Hipólito Rodríguez, with the support of our Superior, Fr Grover Cáceres, and the OCDS Delegate, Fr Fernando Chávez. Sixty-six lay members of the Discalced Carmelite Order from Abancay, Arequipa, Cusco, Ica, La Libertad and Lima participated in the retreat at the Siloé Centre of the Camillian Fathers. This time of meeting, reflection and fraternity was led by Most Rev. Oswaldo Escobar Aguilar OCD, Bishop of Chalatenango, El Salvador. He gave us practical advice regarding our prayer life in the light of the teaching of St. Teresa of Jesus, as well as some criteria from Thoughts on the Love of God to “discern” the quality of our prayer life. He concluded by encouraging us not to resist the voice of the Lord and the action of the Spirit that we have received during the retreat, to allow ourselves to be guided by the Lord and, above all, to remember that we are missionary disciples and that, as Saint Teresa says, our goal is to produce “works” and fruits of the Spirit.





# India: Way of the Cross on the theme of 'Women' held at Infant Jesus Shrine

**T**he Infant Jesus Shrine, Bikarnakatte (Mangaluru), organized an open-air Way of the Cross on the theme “Women” on March 9, 2025. A large number of devotees participated in this time of prayer and reflection, meditating on the sufferings of Christ while drawing attention to the struggles faced by women in modern society. Coinciding with International Women’s Day on March 8, the devotion highlighted the heavy crosses many women bear - oppression, inequality, exploitation, illiteracy, and more. The reflections during each station shed light on these societal issues, inspiring participants to work towards the liberation and empowerment of women. The devotion also focused on Mary, the Mother of Jesus, as a source of strength and inspiration for women in their struggles. Women themselves conducted the Way of the Cross and carried a nine-foot-long cross, symbolizing their resilience and faith. The event drew a significant gathering of devotees, making it a powerful spiritual and social awakening in preparation for Easter.







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