

OCD COMMUNICATIONES



DISCALCED CARMELITES
GENERAL CURIA OF THE TERESIAN CARMEL

Italy: Jubilee Celebration of the Carmelite Family in Rome



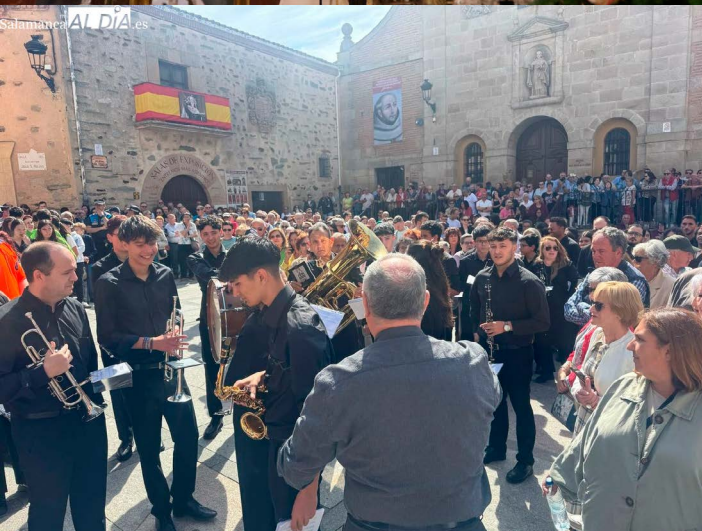
On the 2nd of June, the Order of Carmelites (OCarm) and the Order of Discalced Carmelites (OCD) celebrated their jubilee of the Holy Year together in Rome. At 3:45 pm, the two general councils began their pilgrimage to the Holy Door of St Peter's Basilica. At 6.30pm, a solemn Mass was celebrated in the church of Santa Maria in Traspontina with all members of the two Carmelite orders present in Rome in attendance. Brothers, nuns, lay members, members of associated institutes, and friends were also present. The Prior General of the Order of Carmelites, Fr Míceál O'Neill, presided over the solemn Mass, while our Father General, Fr Miguel Márquez Calle, gave the homily. Afterwards, the two General Curias met at the Centro Internazionale Sant'Alberto for a fraternal diner.



Spain: Saint Teresa returns to her shrine in Alba de Tormes



On the 26th of May, the urn containing the body of Saint Teresa of Jesus was returned to its usual place in the centre of the altarpiece in the church of the Discalced Carmelites in Alba de Tormes. From the 11th to the 25th of May, more than 93,000 pilgrims came to venerate her body in public. The urn's return to its usual location took place in two stages: first, a procession through the streets of Alba; then, a simpler procession within the church. Those taking part in the latter included the Discalced Carmelite community of Alba de Tormes, numerous nuns from various Discalced Carmelite monasteries, and around thirty Discalced Carmelites from different communities in Spain. Our Father General, Father Miguel Márquez Calle, was present to witness this unique event. Following restoration work on the reliquaries, the urn containing the body of Saint Teresa will now be on display. Before the loggia containing the shrine was closed, the ecclesiastical court signed the closure acts and the sepulchre was sealed in accordance with the canonical rite.



Liturgy Proper of the Order

A new section has been created in the 'Documents' section of the Order's website (https://www.carmelitaniscalzi.com/en/categoria_documenti/liturgy/). This section will contain all the new official texts of our Proper Liturgy. It is currently possible to view our Proper Calendar in various languages with the latest updates. We hope to be able to send you the new edition of the *Proprium Missarum OCD* (Proper Missal of the Order in Latin) soon. It is currently being examined by the Dicastery for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments. Once approved, we will be able to proceed with translations into various languages, which will also require the aforementioned Dicastery's approval. Work on the *Proprium Liturgiae Horarum OCD* (Liturgy of the Hours) will have to await the approval of the *Proprium Missarum OCD*. The new *OCDs Ritual* (in Italian) is also under examination by the Dicastery for approval.



Meeting of the European Provincials in Fátima, Portugal

From the 26th to the 30th of May 2025, the Conference of European Provincials (CEP) held its assembly at the *Domus Carmeli* in Fátima. This meeting provided an opportunity for common discernment, strengthening our Teresian charism, and fostering communion between the different provinces of Europe. During this time, the provincials reflected on issues essential to the life and mission of the order, such as up-

dating the *Ratio Institutionis OCD*, preventing abuse, and fostering collaboration between provinces. Thursday 29 May, dedicated to the Marian life of the Order and the revision of the 1991 Constitutions of the nuns, was particularly significant. The atmosphere of prayer, work, and fraternity enabled us to discuss the current challenges and hopes for a renewed presence of Discalced Carmelites in Europe, with the Teresian charism at the heart of our actions.



BELARUS: CONSECRATION OF THE CARMELITE CHURCH OF MINSK



The Carmelite Church in Minsk was consecrated on the 7th of June 2025. The people of Belarus built the Church of the Holy Cross to give thanks for the gift of the Eucharist. Those who attended the celebration included the Archbishop-Metropolitan of Minsk-Mahilyow, Msgr Yuzup Stanevski; the Apostolic Administrator of the Greek Catholics of Belarus, Archimandrite Syargei Hajek; the Provincial of the Carmelites, Fr Lukasz Kansy, OCD; and the Regional Vicar of Belarus, Fr Piotr Froščega, OCD. Representatives of the state authorities

and the diplomatic corps were also present, including Mr Dzmitry Chaslavavich Vrublevski. Numerous priests and faithful from the Carmelite nuns and friars of Belarus also attended the celebration.

At the end of the Eucharist, the parish priest, Fr Yurii Kulai OCD, thanked everyone who had contributed to the construction of the church. Archbishop Stanevski blessed a commemorative plaque to be placed in the church.

In the evening, a fraternal picnic was organised where parishioners and guests alike enjoyed spending time together in a convivial atmosphere.



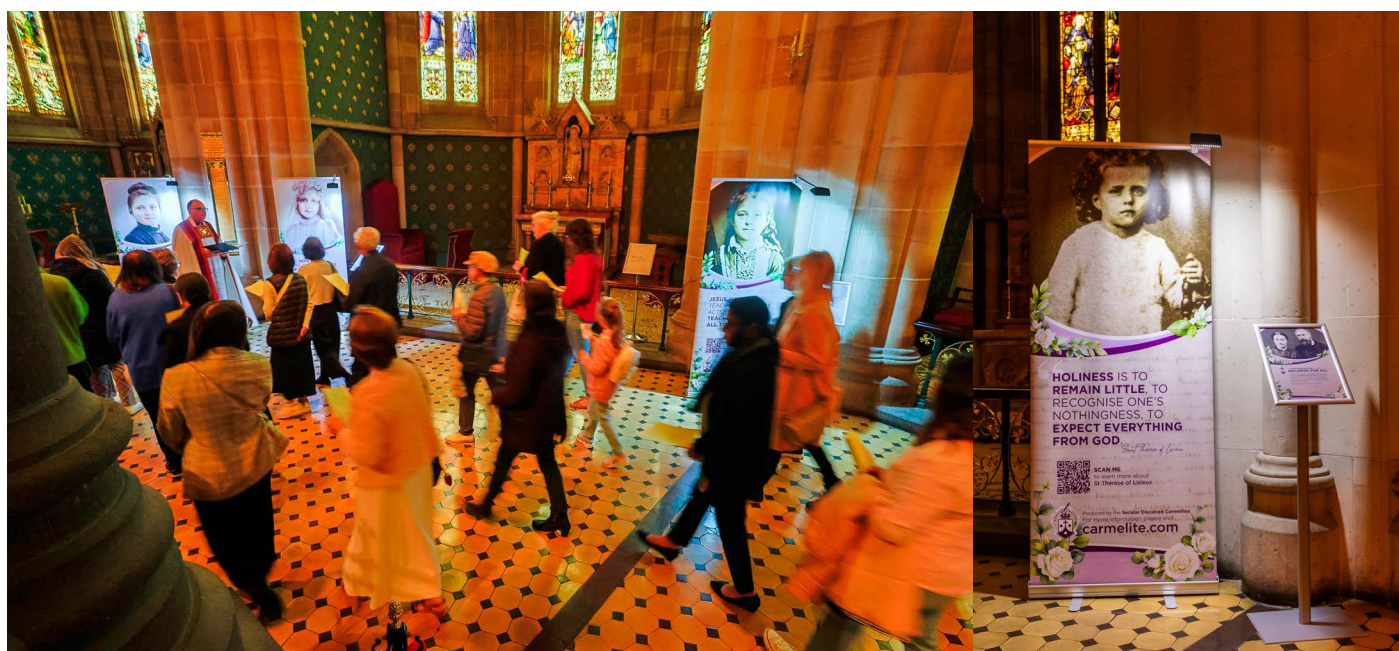


Australia: OCDS celebrates St Therese of Lisieux's Canonisation

To celebrate the centenary of the canonisation of St Thérèse of Lisieux, the OCDS community of Melbourne presented *Holiness for All* – an exhibition on the life and spirituality of St Thérèse. The exhibition was held at St Patrick's Cathedral Melbourne. The Expo was open from 1st October until 4th November 2024 and again in 2025 from the 10th May until the 27th May. The Dean, Mons. Stuart Hall launched the Expo with a beautiful liturgy, moving around and praying at each of the banners, joined by the OCDS and other visitors. Bishop Rene Ramirez RCJ celebrated Mass at the Cathedral on the 18th May 2025, and

gave an inspiring homily on St Therese.

The Expo exceeded our expectations: about 7000 prayer cards on St Therese were distributed, along with hundreds of brochures on the Friars, Nuns and Seculars and nearly 300 books on St Therese were sold. OCDS were present at the Expo each day. This was important as many visitors wanted to ask questions, talk about faith issues or request prayers. Many were also very pleased to be able to pray with the relics of Saints Therese, Zelig and Louis Martin, which were on display. Please God this endeavour will continue to bear much fruit.





Meetings with the OCDS of Thailand

The OCDS communities of Bangkok, Nakhon Sawan and Nakhon Pathom held a series of meetings from the 11th to the 14th of May with Brothers John Bosco Pricha Yangyuen, OCD, Joseph Somkrit Supatimasaro, OCD, spiritual assistants, and Ramiro Casale, OCD, General Delegate of the OCDS. One of the meetings took place at the Cathedral of the Assumption in Bangkok, whose Archbishop, Francis Xavier Vira Arpondratana, has always supported the OCDS' presence. Another meeting took place at the monastery of the Discalced Carmelites nuns in Nakhon Sawan, who played a key role in establishing the OCDS in the city. The final meeting took place in Nakhon Pathom at the community of the friars.

During these meetings, the communities discussed their experiences of living their vocation within the OCDS and their projects. The essential elements of the Carmelite charism were discussed during the conferences. There was also discussion of OCDS projects on a global scale, and of the importance of communion between communities within a country and with the Order as a whole. The discussions were fascinating, and the exchanges made these meetings fruitful.



Singapore: Meeting with the OCDS



From the 16th to the 18th of May, the members of the OCDS in Singapore came together to explore three key themes in the life of the Secular Order: the role and identity of the OCDS, formation in Carmelite spirituality, and living as Secular Order of Carmelites in the world. Many members of the OCDS attended the meeting, including President Laura Chua and all the members of the National Council, as well as the Spiritual Assistant, Brother Christopher Supramaniam, OCD, and the General Delegate for the OCDS, Brother Ramiro Casale, OCD. The president gave a presentation on the OCDS in Singapore, recalling that the first candidates began gathering at the Discalced Carmelites' monastery in 1973. The monastery supported the foundation of the OCDS and provided spiritual guidance. She also presented the activities of the communities, apostolates, and annual retreats of the OCDS. During the meeting, participants shared their reflections on the topics presented. This enriched the dialogue and time was set aside for questions and answers to help clarify certain points. The meeting took place in a fraternal atmosphere, with time set aside for prayer, work and recreation.



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