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COMMUNICATIONES

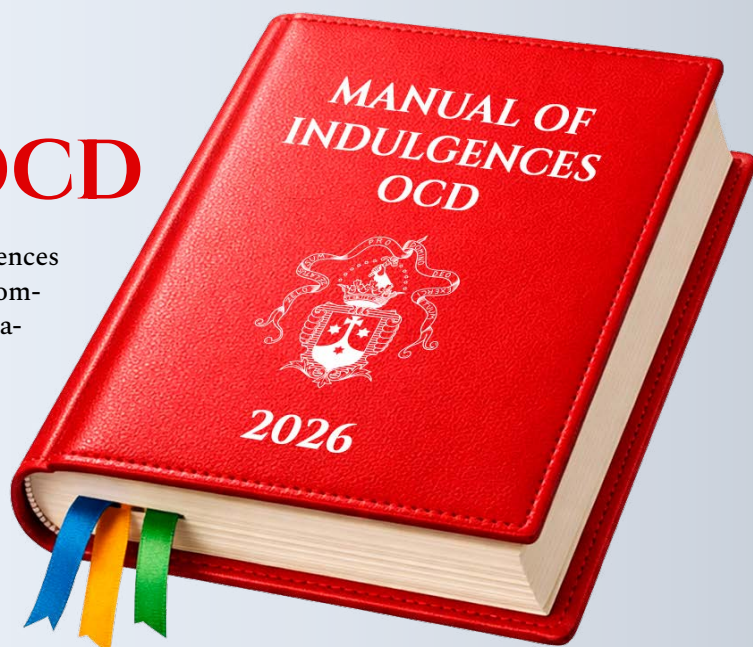


DISCALCED CARMELITES
GENERAL CURIA OF THE TERESIAN CARMEL

MANUAL OF INDULGENCES OCD

In response to several requests regarding the indulgences granted to our Order, the General Postulation has compiled the Decrees issued by the Apostolic Penitentiary (for the whole Order or for particular branches) that remain in force following the Second Vatican Council reform. This small collection, intended as a kind of “Manual of Indulgences OCD”, is now available on our institutional website, both in its original Latin version and in translation:

<https://www.carmelitaniscalzi.com/en/2026/manual-of-indulgences-oed/>



Poland: Anniversary of the Discalced Carmelites of Kraków

To celebrate the 150th anniversary of the Discalced Carmelites community on Łobzowska Street in Kraków, the friars of the Province of Kraków gathered on 20 November 2025. This jubilee celebration held particular significance, as the sisters played a key role to the rebirth of Carmel in Poland at the end of the nineteenth century.

Mothers Jagellonne Wielhorska, Maria Ksawera Czartoryska, and Teresa Steimetz, together with the nuns of Liège-Cornillon (Belgium), were at the origin of this renewal of the charism. Thanks to them, the reform of the friars' monastery at Czerna founded by St Rafał Kalinowski became a reality. He himself stated that he “owed everything to the sisters”. Their collaboration lasted thirty years. Other monasteries were founded, and the deep bond between the friars and the sisters bore abundant spiritual fruit.



Philippine: East Asia and Oceania Students and Formators Encounter

The Philippine OCD Province, comprising friars from Vietnam and the Philippines, was privileged to host the East Asia and Oceania Students and Formators Encounter, held from 28 December 2025 to 2 January 2026.

With the theme “*Kapit* (Hold On): Journeying as One in Hope,” the encounter gathered some of the major superiors, formators, and students from various circumscriptions of the Order in the region: Australia, Japan, Indonesia, Korea, Singapore-Thailand-Malaysia and the Philippines. Among the highlights of the encounter, aside from moments of communal prayer and celebration of the Holy



Mass, were conferences delivered by various speakers, recreational and sports activities, audiences with communities of OCD nuns, fellowship dinners, and cultural nights that showcased the rich diversity of traditions within the region. During the week of the encounter, the brothers also welcomed the new year 2026 through the celebration of the Midnight Mass with the parish community and the traditional New Year's Eve dinner. The encounter was especially graced with the presence of the Definitor General of the Order, Fr. Christianus Surinono, OCD. Meanwhile, the Father General also expressed his closeness and encouragement through a video message.



Indonesia : OCD & OCDS

Nasional seminar and retreat

The seminar entitled *"Experiencing God in the Dark Night: The Spirituality of St. John of the Cross"* was held on January 9, 2026, at the Pastoral Center of the Archdiocese of Jakarta, in celebration of the Jubilee of St. John of the Cross. The event was initiated by the OCD Friars and the OCDS Jakarta, and featured Fr. Christianus Surinono OCD as the main speaker. A total of 160 participants attended the seminar.

As a continuation and deeper exploration of the theme, a national retreat was conducted from January 10–11, 2026, with 55 participants joining from various regions across Indonesia. The retreat offered participants an opportunity to interiorize the teachings of St. John of the Cross through prayer, silence, and guided reflection, fostering a deeper personal encounter with God.

The theme of the "Dark Night" in the spirituality of St. John of the Cross reveals that experiences of darkness, spiritual dryness, and uncertainty are not signs of God's absence, but rather a path of purification leading to deeper union with Him. This seminar and retreat invited participants to view suffering and silence not as an end, but as a grace-filled journey toward spiritual maturity and authentic love.



Tanzania: celebrations at the Our Lady of Mount Carmel Mission in Vikonje



Sunday, 28 December 2025, was a historic day for Our Lady of Mount Carmel Mission, Vikonje, entrusted to the care of the Discalced Carmelite Friars of Tanzania.

On this day, the community celebrated the first Baptism in the new church, during which 28 children received the Sacrament of Baptism. The celebration also coincided with Family Day and Children's Day, highlighting the importance of Christian family life.

The day further marked the first anniversary of the entrustment of the outstation to the Carmelite Friars and the inauguration of the Jubilee Year of St. John of the Cross.

After the Holy Mass, a fraternal gathering was held, and food was shared with all the faithful, fostering joy and unity among the community.





India: Infant Jesus Shrine commemorates 30 years of consecration

The Infant Jesus Shrine, Bikarnakatte, marked a significant spiritual milestone on Sunday, January 11 as it commemorated the 30th anniversary of its consecration on the seventh day of the Novena in preparation for the Annual Feast of the Infant Jesus. The day's celebrations were centred on the theme "I will make streams in the desert," inspired by the spirituality of St John of the Cross. A total of nine Holy Eucharistic celebrations were held in various languages, enabling devotees from different linguistic backgrounds to participate actively. Religious priests and sisters were specially remembered in prayer, and the faithful were encouraged to reflect on vocations to the priesthood and consecrated life as paths of faithful surrender and selfless service. Following the 10:30 am solemn Mass, a special Eucharistic Adoration was held. The commemoration of 30 years of the shrine's consecration made the seventh day of the Novena a deeply meaningful spiritual landmark, renewing the faithful's commitment to prayer, service, and trust in God's guiding grace.



Italy: Carmelite New Year: Young People on the Journey Between Faith and Prayer



From 29 to 31 December, we had a wonderful experience with the second stage of the Carmelite Path for Young People. Twenty-five young people chose to bid farewell to the previous year and welcome the new one by embarking on a journey with light backpacks and a strong desire to share their faith and friendship. This year's theme is mental prayer, guided by St Teresa of Ávila. It is a simple, concrete and achievable form of prayer in everyday life.

The sun accompanied us on two wonderful hikes: the first from Montemarcello to Ameglia and the second around Portovenere up to Fort Mottarone. The experience was made even more special by the house that welcomed us: our convent at Bocca di Magra. Two lovely 'bonuses' were added to all this. First, we had the opportunity to arrive in Arenzano on 28 December to take part in the closing of the Jubilee and pray for suffering children. The second was the option for those who wished to extend their stay until New Year's Day in Arenzano, where they could attend midnight Mass and watch the fireworks. They would also have an extra day to welcome the relics of Saint Thérèse of the Child Jesus, which were passing through at that time.

These were intense days lived with simplicity and depth, filled with walking, prayer, friendship and a great desire to listen. It was a beautiful way to begin the new year, taking things step by step together.



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

www.discalcedcarmelite.com