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## Digital Library

**Now available: the Teresian Digital Library, the largest project for spreading knowledge of Saint Teresa**

**Avila-Spain, October 5, 2014 (Communicationes).**- The Junta of Castile and Leon has begun the Teresian Digital Library, a project which will facilitate open and free access to the bibliographical and documental sources concerning Saint Teresa of Jesus, which are preserved in the libraries and archives of the region. It will be a project spreading the cultural legacy of the Saint on a global scale, since it will be able to be consulted from any part of the world.

The library meant turning into digital form some 204,540 documents among which are 643 works and a great variety illustrations, photographs, engravings or periodicals covering the period of 1582 to 1959.

Among these documents stand out the first edition of St Teresa's works which came out at Évora in 1583 or the basic editions produced by Guillermo Foquel in Salamanca in 1583 and edited by Fray Luis de León. Of equal importance is her work 'Concepts of the love of God' annotated by her confessor, Father Gracián, and printed in Brussels in 1611.

Despite already having more than 200,000 documents from the libraries and archives of Castile and León, the Teresian Digital Library will be a continuing project in

permanent construction, to the point that it is envisaged that, between the end of 2014 and 2015, it will incorporate into the library in digital form another 100,000 documents.

The growth of the Teresian Digital Library can also be thankfully attributed to the collaboration of the Carmelites who have shown interest in incorporating into this project documents relating to St Teresa found in the monasteries of the Order.

In the Teresian Digital Library, St Teresa's works can be found in English, French, German, Italian, Portuguese, Flemish, Latin and Spanish. Shortly to be incorporated into the library will also be an edition in Arabic and another in Malayalam, the language of the Kerala region in South India.

The Minister of Culture and Tourism said that the investment effort in the Teresian Digital Library currently exceeds 100,000 Euros. It is a project that will remain in time beyond the fifth centenary.

The Teresian Digital Library can be accessed through the Digital Library of Castile and León [www.bibliotecadigital.jcyl.es](http://www.bibliotecadigital.jcyl.es) which in its turn resides in the Libraries' site of Castile and León [www.bibliotecas.jcyl.es](http://www.bibliotecas.jcyl.es) with free access. To assist gathering information, the digital library offers the possibility of carrying out searches in the complete text of the printed works making up its basis. This aid assists finding names of persons or places which appear in the pages of the works.

## Congress

### International Teresian Congress in the Salamanca Pontifical University

**Salamanca-Spain, October 28, 2014 (Communications).**- Sr María José Pérez. Celebrated in the Salamanca Pontifical University from the 22<sup>nd</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> of October was an International Congress dedicated to penetrating into the person and work of Teresa of Jesus in three fields: History, Language– Literature and Thought.

More than two hundred people took part and conferences were given by prestigious and well known people, both national and international, who provided new perspectives for studying the saint. In the History section, contemplated with a variety of topics and types, was the iconographic development, resulting particularly from the canonization of Teresa of Jesus. Also addressed was her ability in managing financial issues in running her communities. There was also time to demonstrate how there was in Teresa a development in her initial plan, from an eremitical cut to one more apostolic. Something especially interesting was to see how Teresa of Jesus breaks the mould of perfection of her time, by being a woman able to express her feelings (humor, tenderness...) openly in her writings.

In the literary field, possible literary influences on her were pointed out, as well as her very important influence on subsequent writers Also of great interest was the use of rhetorical

strategies on the part of Teresa, which allowed her to express what she wished and to advance her mission of foundations despite being a woman, which also did not allow her to be a writer.

In the area of thought, the lecturers treated various topics: the mystic as the bridge and way to dialogue with the world of disbelief; the world of desires in Teresa of Jesus; her connection with St Paul; the presence of the Johannine writings in *The Mansions*; the importance of “experience” and the capacity to understand and express this experience; her ability to think and open future ways.

The closing discourse was given by Fr Emilio Martínez, OCD Vicar General, who developed the topic of the spiritual meaning of the fifth centenary, an event which cannot give rise to nostalgia, but rather to a desire to read and understand Teresa of Jesus better and, in our time, to keep her company in the thirst for searching.

In addition to the academic work was a guided visit to the principal points in the city associated with Saint Teresa, a concert in homage to St Teresa given by the “Tomás Luis de Victoria” choir and a trip to Alba de Tormes, to pay a visit to her tomb and the Carmelite museum.

## Bangui

### School of prayer in Bangui

**Central Africa, October 28, 2014 (Communicationes).**- The Bangui community in Central Africa have begun a School of Prayer as part of the celebrations for the fifth centenary of the birth of Saint Teresa of Jesus. The school will consist of seven sessions to take place on the second Sunday of each month (from November to May) in the Our Lady of Mt Carmel monastery in Bangui.

Each meeting will include a talk at 8.30 followed by time for discussion and Mass. The conferences will be in French and be open to all those who wish to attend.

It is an event that takes place in a land marked by war. We can see proof of this in the work of the journalist Roberto Travan who, in writing about the war in Central Africa, includes photos of the refugees in the Carmelite monasteries.

<http://www.lastampa.it/2014/10/24/medialab/webdocauto/centrafrica-1k9N5g8GtPaWX8uGqQ2OLM/pagina.html>

## Chile

### The Teresian family in Chile united for the fifth centenary

**Chile- October 28, 2014 (Communicationes).**- **Claudio Mellado Díaz.** The Teresian Carmelite family in Chile, made up of Friars, Nuns, Seculars, Religious of Active Life and Missionary Sisters, are all united in celebrating during the year the fifth centenary of our Holy Mother, Teresa of Jesus.

One of our preliminary objectives was to set up the web page, [www.ocdchile.org](http://www.ocdchile.org), to represent all the congregations in Chile, with national and international information, for the ultimate purpose of maintaining us united and to continue journeying as a family.

Geographically, we are quite remote and isolated, but spiritually, with our Saint Teresa of Los Andes, we are closely united.

## Poznan

### Echoes of the Symposium of Poznan about the Theresian Epistolary

**Poznan- October 28, 2014 (Communications).**- Many initiatives are being carried out throughout the world, especially since the start of the 5th Centenary of Saint Theresa's birth.

Also from the Major Seminary and the Institutum Carmelitanum of the Fathers in the Province of Warsaw, from October the 16th till the 18th, has been organized a Symposium about the Theresian Epistolary under the motto: «Saint Therese, teacher in the mail». During the first day (Thursday the 16th), from Professor Andrzej Draguła and Sister Lidia Wrona's hand and pen it was addressed the picture of the Theresian Epistolary and the communication as portrait of the soul (yesterday and today, considering the contemporary communicators and the social networks too). The second day (Friday, the 17th), with Mr. Marcin Gajda and Father Krzysztof Pawłowski, ocd, were developed subjects as the role of the friendship in the life of faith and in the saints of the Carmel. And it ended with the 3rd day (Friday, the 18th), dealing with the familiar influence and the role of the family in Saint Therese's life, in charge of Professor Andrej Urbaniak and Father Wojciech Ciak, ocd.

The special guest during those three days have been Father Julio Almansa, General Secretary for the Missions who, in addition to make the assembly more pleasant with some contemplative song before his speeches, has been introducing some aspects of his recent book (already translated to Polish by Sister Ela Strach, cmt): *Mistyka i realizm w okresie Reformy terezijskiej* («Mysticism and realism in the troubled perior of the Carmelite Reformation»).

With an important attendance of seculars, religious and friends of the Carmel, who have full during those three days the crypt of the Sanctuary of Saint Joseph of Poznan, it has started being celebrated the Theresian Holy Year, which we hope to give many and good fruits to the Church and to the Carmel.

## Hurricane

### Hurricane Hudud was in Visakhapatnam (Andhra Pradesh, India)

**India- October 28, 2014 (Communications).**- On 11, 12 and 13 October have been the most disastrous days in the history of Andhra Pradesh, specifically in the North area of the State.

Hurricane Hudud has devastated the city of Visakhapatnam. The Government advertised a lot of time before about the hurricane, so people have been able to get ready basing on the means available, and lots of deaths have been avoided. 40 people have died, but considering the strength of the hurricane, there could have been much more death people. Anyway, the material disaster has been enormous. This city and three more districts in Andhra Pradesh (Visakhapatnam, Srikakulam, and Vijaya Nagaram) could not resist a devastating wind speed of 180 kilometers and a heavy rain. Multiple trees have fallen. Many roofs flew away. The electrical system, communications, everything became completely inoperative.

Only yesterday (one week later) the electric system could be restored in an 80%. People have suffered a lot without drinking water, electricity, food and gasoil. Thanks to God, the Government and some volunteers associations are working towards the normality to return to this city and the other three affected districts, but a lot of time is needed.

The Discalced Carmelites we have to Convents in this affected by the hurricane Hudud area: the convent of Pendurthy and the convent of Ranasthalam. In Pendurthy there are 4 students in philosophy and two accompanists friars. This is a parish. Here all the trees of the convent and 40 mangos from Ranasthalam have fallen. Thanks to God, the friars have not being harmed. They have been able to find water and food, and we can thank God and the caution of those friars.

What more damages have suffered it was the church. The roof must be completely rebuilt, and some parts of the wall that rounds the convent too. We already thank from here to everybody that generously want to contribute to the rebuild of those structures.