

Communicationes N. 270

09/12/2014

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Congress

Teresa of Ávila in dialogue with Africa

Nairobi-Kenya, December 9, 2014 (Communicationes).- Father George Tambala, definator for Africa, opened the Teresian Congress in Africa with words of welcome. "This is the most important event of the 5th Centenary on a scientific level in the African continent. It completes and broadens the interesting horizon presented by the agreements and symposiums that have taken place regionally," said Father Tambala.

The Congress was held in Nairobi, Kenya, and was organized by the Anglophone and Francophone conferences of superiors. It therefore represents a milestone in the collaboration between both provinces. The objective was to establish the bases of a new plan for Teresian studies in Africa with the hope that the Carmelite family on that continent will make a valuable contribution to the understanding and propagation of the spirituality of Saint Teresa. The minutes of the congress will be published this year.

The Congress was opened with a talk by Father Emilio Martínez, Vicar General of the Order, who presented the main objectives of the celebration of the Centenary. In his opinion, the Centenary should primarily make the person and doctrine of Teresa known as a way of union

with God through prayer and fraternal life in community, in the same way as the Saint explains in her writings.

In the afternoon, the Nigerian priest Father Emmanuel J. Nnadozie presented an interesting conference of the essential elements of the Teresian charism from an African perspective.

Women took the floor during the second day of the Congress. Sisters Collete Marie and Domitille, Discalced Carmelites from Rwanda and Ivory Coast, respectively, provided a portrayal of Saint Teresa from a feminine perspective.

The Congress also featured a presentation by Father Zacharie Igirukwayo, who talked about a topic of enormous intercultural interest: the itinerary proposed by Saint Teresa in *The Interior Castle* from the point of view of African rites of passage.

Father Reginaldo Cruz, Xaverian Missionary residing in Kenya, talked about African models of holiness, particularly in the Teresian Carmel. In the ensuing dialogue, a lively discussion on the fruitfulness of Teresa's charism and its ability to incarnate in the spirit and culture of Africa took place.

The last day of our Congress began with an interesting exposition by Father Jerome Paluku who made an exhaustive presentation on the foundations of the missionary spirit of the Order, all related to the Teresian charism.

Lastly, Father Thomas Otonga, Kenyan Carmelite, concluded the conference with a talk titled, "Teresa of Jesus and Africa: Dialogue or Monologue?" Otonga underscored the key cultural characteristics that facilitate the assimilation of the Teresian message on the African continent. He highlighted the possibilities it offers to help with the work of evangelization.

Sincere appreciation goes to the organizers, Fathers Steven Payne, Marie Joseph Dol, and George Tambala, as well as to the European and North American provinces of the Discalced Carmel, the Discalced Carmelite Nuns of the Spanish province of Navarre, and the OCD's 5th Centenary Foundation, which financed the Congress.

Camino de Luz

Path of Light (Camino de Luz) pilgrimage successfully completes its Latin American leg

Rome-Italy, December 9, 2014 (Communicationes).- The Path of Light team, pilgrims on a worldwide journey that is taking Saint Teresa's original walking cane to 30 countries in the five continents on the occasion of the 5th Centenary of the Birth of the Saint, has completed the Latin American part of the pilgrimage.

The team, made up of the Carmelite priest Antonio González, author Amaya Álvarez, producer Pablo Montesinos, and physician Cristina Marcos, were warmly received in the Latin American countries in which this homage to Saint Teresa of Jesus was celebrated, to date: Brazil, Paraguay, Uruguay, Argentina, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, and Mexico.

The trip leaves in its wake many anecdotes and interesting images, such as the reception of the Path of Light team by the Ecuadorian president, Rafael Correa, who held the Saint's cane; or the procession with drums through the center of Quito.

The videos and narratives of the trip include, in addition to the news already mentioned, exclusive interviews with members of the Order of Discalced Carmelites and articles written in the first person by members of the team. They can be seen online at www.stj500.com/caminodeluz.

Path of Light is a homage to and recognition of the "restless and roving nun" that walked the length of Spain founding Discalced Carmelite convents.

The pilgrimage left Ávila on October 15 of this year (the Saint's feast day) and will return to that city on March 18, 2015 (date of the 5th Centenary of Saint Teresa's Birth). At that point it will begin its travels through Spain. Path of Light will take Saint Teresa's cane through 30 countries in the five continents and will travel 117,000 kilometers (72,700 miles) in 164 days.

App

The province of Austria creates an Advent app for mobile devices

Austria, December 9, 2014 (Communicationes).- The province of Austria created a mobile phone app to experience Advent in the context of the celebration of the Year of Consecrated Life and the 5th Centenary of the Birth of Saint Teresa of Jesus. The app is available in Italian.

It features daily meditations in preparation for Christmas. The free app can be downloaded to iPhones and Android phones.

The prepared texts are based on the life and writings of Father Jacques de Jésus.

It can be found by searching for "Online Carmelite Retreat 2014." Additionally, the meditations can be received by email by subscribing at:

<http://karmel.us6.list-manage.com/subscribe?u=7c9d2aa0ecc1fde64fd44bc67&id=48970c68bf>

Museum

New Carmelite museum in the province of Krakow

Krakow, December 9, 2014 (Communicationes).- Toward the end of November, the new Carmelite museum in Czerna, province of Krakow, was inaugurated. The museum is located in the lower part of the pilgrimage center next to the convent.

Many experienced professionals worked on the preparation and development of the museum.

The new Museum of Carmel has, among others, many items used daily by the residents of the old monastery and a notable collection of objects used by Saint Raphael Kalinowski.

The museum will be open every day from 10:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m.

The solemn Eucharist for the opening was presided by Father Albert Wach, the Order's Definitor. In his homily, Father Wach said that the museum is in keeping with the spirit of Saint Raphael Kalinowski, who always had a profound respect for the legacy of past generations.

Father Marcel

Father Marcel of the Immaculate

Ferrara-Italy, December 9, 2014 (Communicationes).- The feast day of the Immaculate Conception was chosen to celebrate the first session of the diocesan investigation on the life, virtues, and reputation of holiness of the Servant of God Father Marcel of the Immaculate, Carlo Zucchetti.

Father Marcel, son of the Teresian Carmel, spent a large part of his life in the convent of Saint Jerome in Ferrara, the former home of the Society of Jesus. He lived the sacrifices of his life with extraordinary and ordinary love, a commitment that had Jesus as its only objective.

This is a day of great celebration for the diocesan community and the Order of Discalced Carmelites, who see the beginning of this journey 100 years from Father Marcel's birth in 1914 and 30 years after his death in 1984.

The solemnity of the Immaculate was not chosen by chance; it was selected as the proper frame for the profound devotion Father Marcel had for the Immaculate One.