

Communicationes N. 278

07/02/2015

CONTENTS:

- Preparations underway for the “family gathering” around Saint Teresa in August 2015
- Teresian activities in Sora, Slovenia
- A new book about "The Way of Perfection"
- Opening of the process for beatification of Léonie, Saint Thérèse’s sister

Teresian Family Encounter

Preparations underway for the “family gathering” around Saint Teresa in August 2015

February 7, 2015 (Communicationes).- The 5th centenary of the Birth of Saint Teresa calls the entire Carmelite family and other congregations and movements that share Teresian spirituality to meet in a grand encounter in Ávila, around Teresa, our mother. This gathering invites us to live the fraternity and universality of Teresian spirituality that flourishes on the five continents in diverse circumstances and initiatives.

Together we want to delve into the knowledge of Saint Teresa, from her hand, and in prayer and mission. We want to live a personal experience of God, of his saving action that renews our lives and produces fraternity, freedom, simplicity, humility, and an attitude of missionary availability: “what dost thou ask of me?” The gathering will be celebrated in Ávila from August 10 to 14, 2015. Teresian places and other locations in the city will host moments of reflection, prayer and workshops, festivities and sharing, that will culminate in a closing Eucharist. We are waiting for you!

For more effective organization, each province, affiliated institute, congregation, or group should designate a point of contact for the organization and get in touch with the organizers of the encounter at the following email address: etiavila2015@gmail.com.

For more information, to see the program, and for help preparing for the trip, visit www.avila2015.com.

5th Centenary

Teresian activities in Sora , Slovenia

Sora, Slovenia, February 7, 2015 (Communicationes). - Sister Ivana Podergajs, Prioress of the community of Sora, Slovenia.- The Discalced Carmelites of Sora, Slovenia, are preparing several

activities for the 5th Centenary of the Birth of Saint Teresa of Jesus. One of the main activities is the production of the DVD titled, *Mysticism made Word: Saint Teresa, Writer*, translated into Slovenian.

We began to live the centenary by remote preparation, embracing the idea that arose throughout the entire Order: reading the works of Saint Teresa. We decided to begin reading them with the help of the commentaries by Father Tomás Álvarez.

It can be readily understood that we lack Slovenian texts for anything that could be used as a resource to study her works. To gain a better understanding of what we read, we decided to ask one of our sisters who has a licentiate in Hispanic philology to translate, chapter by chapter, the commentaries of Father Álvarez about the specific work we were reading, and then commenting amongst ourselves during chapter. We did this with all the works.

This type of reading enriched us greatly on both the personal and community levels. Above all, we have felt palpably, truly united to the Order. It is amazing how unifying such an experience is, and how it solidifies “the body” of the Order.

The actual entry into the beginning of the jubilee year was very solemn. We “decorated” the room with the works of Saint Teresa, the walls with various photographs, drawings, and thoughts of Saint Teresa; we placed a basket full of papers with the logo and thoughts from her books. Liturgically, the entry into the jubilee year was marked by the celebration of two Eucharists: one on the evening October 14 and the other on October 15.

Since then and until the birthday of Saint Teresa, we celebrate a Mass in her honor on the 28th of each month.

All the Catholic media in the country has echoed our activities. We have given many interviews about the importance of the message of Saint Teresa, the meaning of prayer and enclosure, also about the importance of the Year of Consecrated Life, etc.

Additionally, the Focolare publishing house asked us to prepare 100 pages on Saint Teresa. The sister that prepared it chose the Autobiography of Teresa and used Teresa’s own works to write the book. It has just been published.

We have yet another wish, this time musical. We want to find a melody for Saint Teresa’s poem, *Para Vos nací* (I Was Born for You), for we would like to learn it as soon as possible and sing it during Mass and recreation.... Our wish is coming true: several days ago, Father Eusebio Gómez of the Carmelite community of Salamanca sent us the musical score.

Book

A new book on "The Way of Perfection"

India, February 7, 2015 (Communicationes).- The Forum for Carmelite Studies has published a series of monographs on "The Way of Perfection. Intercultural, interdisciplinary, and hermeneutical contributions of the spirituality."

Father Augustine Mulloor, OCD Definitor General, edited the book, which contains contributions from 14 Indian Carmelites specialized in diverse fields.

The book, edited in English, has 15 chapters that may be requested by writing to one of these email addresses: jbocdmanj@gmail.com or wilsonsjoed@yahoo.co.in.

Léonie

Opening of the process for beatification of Léonie, Saint Thérèse's sister

France, February 7, 2015 (Communicationes).- Saturday, January 24, the bishop of Lisieux, Jean-Claude Boulanger, announced the opening of the diocesan process for the beatification of Léonie Martin, the sister of Saint Thérèse of Lisieux.

The process opened with the celebration of the Eucharist in the Monastery of the Visitation of Caen, in northeastern France, where Léonie was a religious from 1899 until her death at 78 years of age in 1941.

The bishop chose the feast day of Saint Francis de Sales to make the announcement because his was the spirituality she professed.

In life, the new "Servant of God" took the name in religion of Sister Françoise-Thérèse.

"Her vocation is the fruit of the accompaniment of her sister, Thérèse. Thérèse helped Léonie form herself as a religious of the Order of the Visitation.... She was very serious about the little way which her sister, Thérèse of the Child Jesus, preached. And she put it into practice with incredible fidelity," assured Father Antonio Sangalli, OCD, postulator of the cause for beatification.