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INDEX:

- Pope Francis begins the World Day of Prayer for Peace
- Celebration of St Teresa's birthday in the house where she was born
- The Order's web page is now available in Portuguese
- New version of *Nada Te Turbe*
- Teresian Exhibition in Germany

World Prayer

Pope Francis begins the World Day of Prayer for Peace

Rome-Italy, April 7, 2015 (Communicationes).- On 26th of March last, before beginning Mass in the chapel of Santa Marta, Pope Francis opened the World Day of Prayer for Peace on the occasion of the 5th centenary of the birth of Saint Teresa of Jesus. **Concelebrating with him in the Mass were Fr Saverio Cannistrà, the General of the Discalced Carmelites and Fr Emilio José Martínez, the Vicar General.**

Pope Francis began the World Day of Prayer by saying, "With the whole of my heart I join in this initiative, that the fire of God's love may quench the flames of war and violence afflicting humanity; and that dialogue may prevail everywhere over armed conflict. May St Teresa of Jesus intercede for us as we pray."

After his homily, the Holy Father handed a lighted candle to Fr Saverio Cannistrà, who replied "This light is the visible sign of this prayer. It symbolizes each one of the souls who today are going to dedicate part of their time to God to try to shed the light of peace on the world."

After the Eucharist, in a friendly chat with Fr Saverio and Fr Emilio, Pope Francis had some very affectionate words for the Discalced Carmelite nuns. Fr Emilio reported, " He told us that he knows that the Carmelite nuns pray a lot for him and he told us how much he values the prayer of our sisters."

A day long hoped for

The celebration of Saint Teresa's birthday in the house where she was born

Avila-Spain, April 5, 2015 (Communicationes).- **Julio Navío.**- It is difficult to sum up in a few lines what we children of Saint Teresa experienced on the day of her 5th centenary, after so much time preparing and looking forward to it!!!

The day was charged with emotion and so beautiful, like the radiant sky Avila enjoyed that morning. The day began by reciting Morning Prayer in CITEs and the tenth Eucharist in the house of her birth, which was celebrated by the Bishop of Avila. We had the joy of seeing concelebrating with him the Generals of the Discalced Carmelites and the Order of Carmel.

An emotional Bishop Jesús, read out the Pope's message: His heart was in Avila and he encouraged us to follow the Saint through her way of prayer, rising up over our totally other way of self centeredness, with joy and liberty. It was moving to listen to Teresa through the Pope, who in these words reminded us of the beautiful words in the *Way*, "not to turn in on oneself, for if the soul begins to get discouraged, it is very bad for all that is good, for you begin to see yourself useless for yourself and for others" (cf. *Way*, Escorial, 71:5). Fr Saverio gave a summary of the Pope's *Message to the Order*: Prayer, the centrality of Christ, Mission and Fraternity (all must be friends, all must be loved, all must be held dear, all must be helped" – *Way* 4:7).

After the Mass in the Cathedral and the procession of St Teresa to St Joseph's, where a Happy Birthday was sung to her, she was welcomed by her excited daughters, aware of how wonderful it was that the Saint visited them on her birthday. In the evening the procession left St Joseph's for la Santa, together with the staff she carried with her on her foundations, which had just traveled the whole world. Her departure from St Joseph's was particularly moving when the saint turned to say goodbye to her nuns, who were watching her from the tiny windows of the monastery – everyone with a lump in their throat.

Carmel went out of its way to celebrate: it was pleasing to see the increasing numbers of white mantles, as the Vicar General wanted in Alba de Tormes and to see, for example, Fr. David and Fr Antonio running to take part in everything and to take care of everyone. The people of Avila were pleased. The nuns were smiling. Everyone carried St Teresa in their hearts!!!

Web

The Order's web page is now available in Portuguese.

April 7, 2015 (Communicationes).- The Order's web page www.carmelitasdescalzos.com, is now available in Portuguese. With this new language, there are now six languages for visiting the General House's web page.

This means that all Portuguese users can use their native tongue to navigate the web in order to receive the various numbers of Communicationes. To do this, they can register to receive the Newsletter on the left side of the home page.

This initiative was brought about thanks to the cooperation and work of the three Portuguese speaking Provinces of the Order.

Song

New version of *Nada Te Turbe*

Peru, April 7, 2015 (Communicationes).- The Discalced Carmelite nuns of Arequipa in Peru have created a new sung version of *Nada te Turba*, the poem of St Teresa of Jesus. This new version is made with a blend of Baroque and Andean instruments.

You can hear this version in the CD the sisters recorded for the 5th centenary.

To listen: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cW1KceWBCto&feature=youtu.be>

Exhibition

Teresian exhibition in Germany

Germany, April 7, 2015 (Communicationes).- For the 5th centenary, the German Province prepared a traveling exhibition on Teresian topics. At the moment, the display has been some weeks in Munich, where it has been visited by more than 2,500 people.

The exhibition has been organized in six parts. The last concerns *the Interior Castle* in which St Teresa's idea of mental prayer is explained, with text, sound and images.

It is not an exhibition where priority is given to works of art, rather it is interactive. The visitor takes part in the exhibition in an interactive way by means of videos.

As well, during March, various discussions have been arranged with Saint Teresa as the central topic. So far, one was held in the Passau diocese where more than 100 people took part; in Munich there was another in which 350 people were present.