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OCD

COMMUNICATIONES





Study of the Declaration on our Charism

As reported in the Definitory's September letter (11/09/19), within the context of the process of rereading our laws initiated after the Avila Chapter (2015) and taking into account what was approved by the Goa Extraordinary Definitory (2019), the General Definitory has prepared a first draft of the Declaration on our Charism, which largely reflects the proposals made by all the Circumscriptions of the Order during the first phase of the process: the rereading of our Constitutions. The first step in improving this draft is the reading and study of it by groups of religious between 30 and 45 years old - coming from all the Circumscriptions and gathered by geographical areas - as already



indicated in the above Letter.
The first study days took place in Latin America - specifically in Villa de Leyva, Colombia, where 25 religious from Latin America and the Caribbean met together with the General Definitors, Agustí Borrell and Javier Mena.

As those taking part commented, the meeting took place in a prayerful, fraternal and industrious environment, which was most helpful for developing the work in hand, which concluded with a good assessment of the Declaration on our Charism and a serious commitment of all present to share the fruit of this work in their circumscriptions.



4th CENTENARY CELEBRATIONS IN MANGALURU

Carmelite Family of Mangaluru Region celebrated the 400th anniversary of the arrival of Carmelite Friars in India, on Sunday 3rd of November 2019 here at Carmel Hill, Infant Jesus Shrine. Rt. Rev. Dr. Aloysius De Souza, the Bishop Emeritus of Mangaluru celebrated the Thanksgiving Eucharist. Fr. Archibald Gonsalves OCD preached a meaningful homily highlighting the contribution of Carmelites to the local Church. After the Mass, a Music Dance Narrative followed on the open stage. The 8 Stages that led to the arrival



of Carmelites in Goa was depicted through beautiful music, dance and narratives. Fr. Alwyn Sequeira OCD wrote the narrative and composed the songs. Joel Pereira rendered the music and Cliyon D Souza prepared the audiovisuals. The students of St. Agnes CBSE School performed the dances. The contribution of Dhanraj a dance Teacher from St. Agnes School though a non-Christian and non-Konkani, was recognized and appreciated. Fr. Wilfred Rodrigues OCD who was the Convener and



MC of the programme said that Sir Dhanraj choreographed the dances so well that the expressions were so well synchronized with the music. Incidentally, most of the dancers too were non-Christians. The rendition of “Havem tuka apovn hadlam” by the Carmelite Scholastics in four parts was the highlight of the program. Earlier the President, Rev. Fr. Charles Serrao OCD, the Provincial of Karnataka Goa Province recalled how the Carmelites from Goa and Verapolly and the first 3 Bishops of Mangalore took care of Canara Christians for almost 300 years and the contributions of Affiliated Congregations such as Cloistered Sisters, Apostolic Carmelite Sisters, Sisters of St. Teresa, and the Secular Carmel in forming this Diocese. He also mentioned that the Carmelites were responsible for the starting of St. Joseph’s Seminary Jeppu for the formation of the local clergy and the first English Medium School in Mangaluru. Sr. Dr. Olivia AC thanked all those contributed to the program. Many religious priests and nuns and lay faithful participated in the programme.





DEATH OF FR CONRAD DE MEESTER, OCD

Recently, on the night of December the 5th, Father Conrad de Meester, a Discalced Carmelite of the Flanders Province, died in hospital. He was a great specialist in St. Therese of the Child Jesus and St. Elizabeth of the Trinity and a remarkable spiritual theologian who had studied at the Teresianum, among other centres.

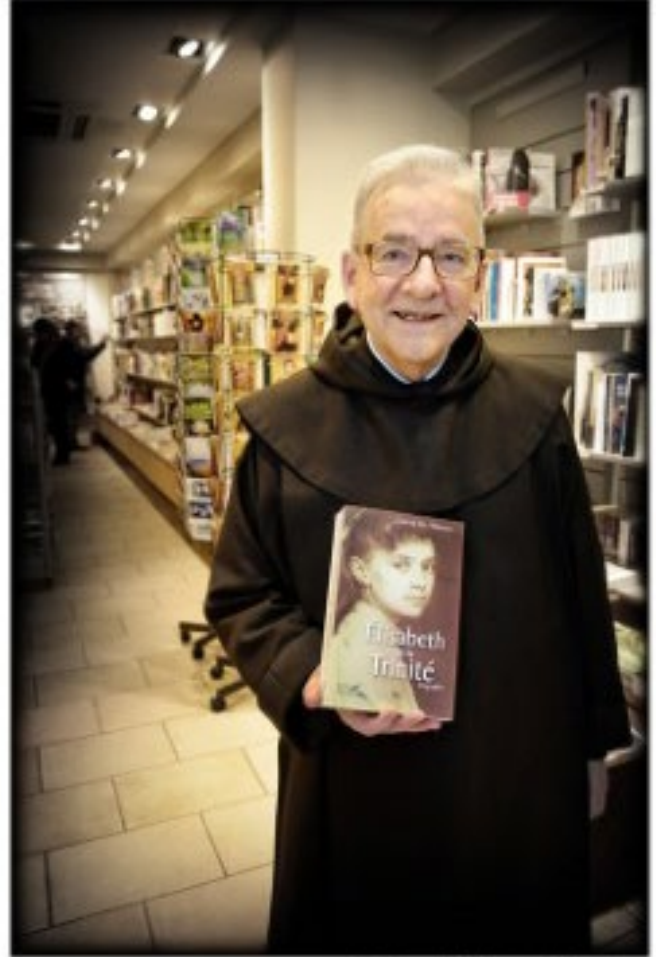
Father Conrad lost consciousness as a result of a severe stroke. Although he was immediately admitted to hospital, his condition worsened and nothing could be done to save his life. Keeping him company in hospital was the provincial of Flanders, Fr. Paul de Bois, along with other friars. His funeral was held on December the 14th, the feast of Saint John of the Cross.

Here we present a few words from Father General upon learning of his death: "Truly, Father Conrad worked hard to deepen and make known the riches of our Carmelite Saints. He possessed both a

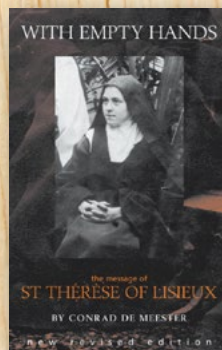


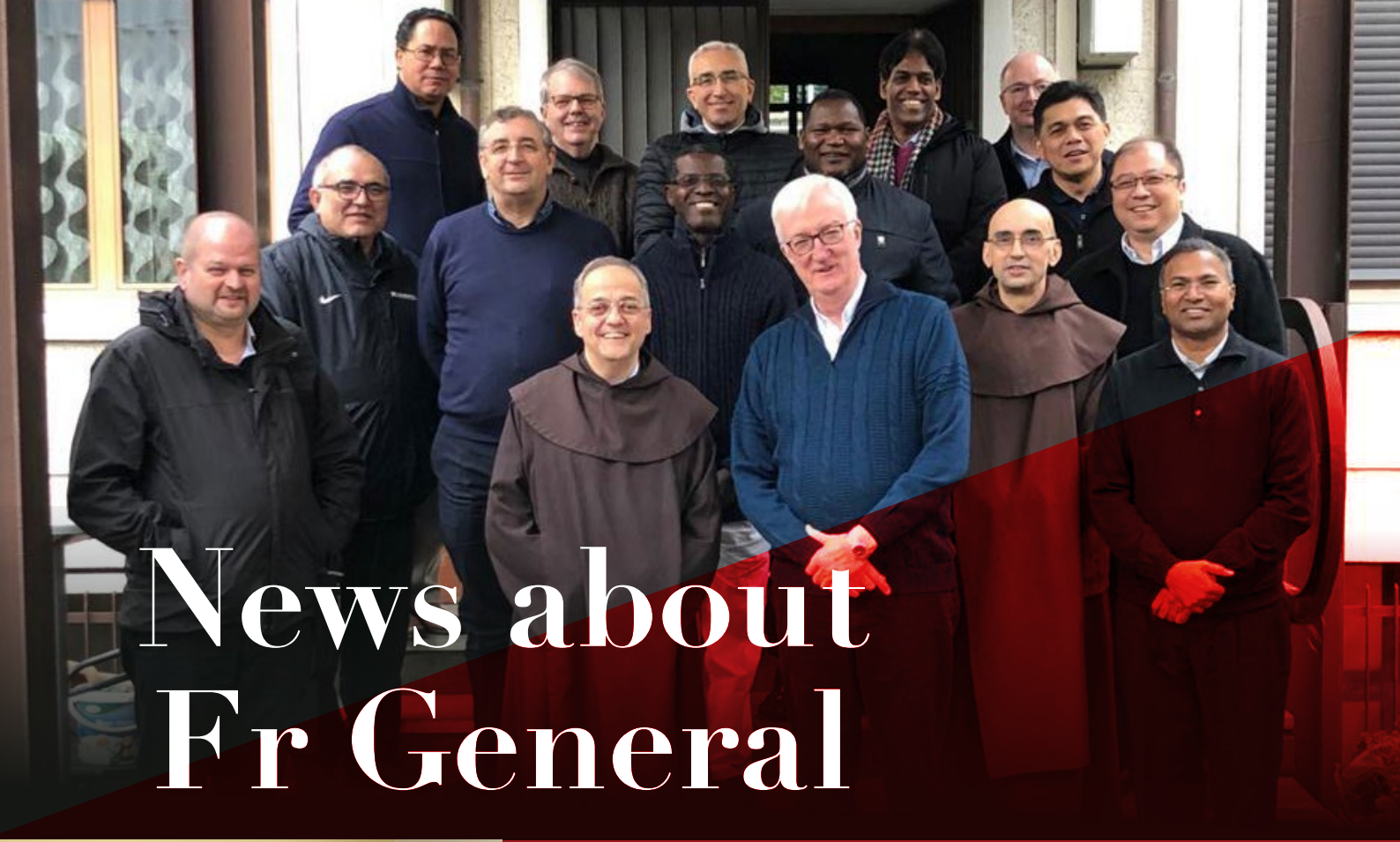
theological competence and an admirable philological and historical precision. The Order owes much to his work as a specialist in spiritual theology and as a competent sharer of it. We pray that the Lord may grant him the reward of a life generously given to the Order and to the Church.”

Among his numerous publications, we simply highlight the “The Power of Confidence”, a classical study on the doctrine of Therese of Lisieux, translated into various languages, or the recent biography of Elizabeth of the Trinity, of whose complete works Fr Conrad made an excellent critical edition. May he rest in peace.



Dominique Dierick voor De Gostenaar





News about Fr General



Fr Saverio Cannistrà, our General, took part in the ordinary meeting of the Union of Superiors General, held at Ariccia, Rome, Italy, between the 27th and 29th of November. After participating in the audience that Pope Francis offered to all the members of the meeting, he moved to the Teresianum, where he shared with religious from Europe and the United States a day of reflection and study on the Declaration on our Charism prepared by the General Definitory. These religious, staying in our Theological Faculty of Rome, continued the analysis of the Declaration started in Latin America and which will continue through the other geographical areas in which the Order is present. In total, about 30 religious from various European Provinces and Circumscriptions and

the United States of America were gathered, accompanied by the General Definitors, Frs Agustí Borrell, Lukasz Kansy and Daniel Chowning.

Precisely on the day Fr General celebrated his name day accompanied by the community of the General House and some members of the Teresianum the December meeting of the General Definitory began; this session of the Definitory included a meeting with the General Council of the Carmelites.

On the 11th of December, together with Fr Agustí Borrell the Vicar General, Fr Saverio presided over the presentation of the digital version of the BIS (Bibliografia Internationalis Spiritualitatis), held at the Theological Faculty of the Teresianum. More detail of this event is reported on this same page, although we have already reported it in posts on our social media.

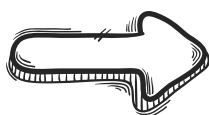
Finally, on December the 14th, the feast of Saint John of the Cross, in the chapel of the Teresianum Fr. Saverio presided at the Eucharistic celebration in which six students of the International College made their solemn profession: Br. Immanuel and Br. Sandeep from South Kerala (India), Br. Tolobatoa of Madagascar, Br. Pradeep and Br. Mariyanna of Andhra Pradesh (India) and Fr. Rajeev from Manjummel (India).



BIS

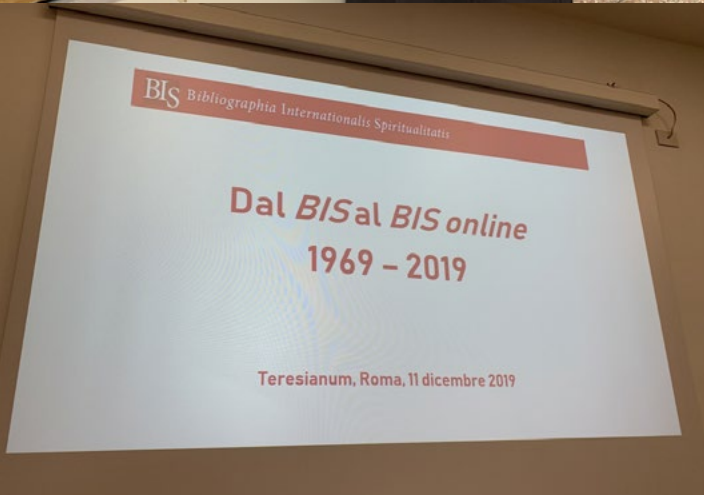


Online



On Wednesday, 11th December at 10:20 am, presentation of BIS - Bibliographia Internationalis Spiritualitatis online began in Aula 1 of the Pontifical Theological Faculty Teresianum, which continues the paper edition which began in 1966 and was interrupted in 2007.

The new venture of BIS is the fruit of collaboration between the Carmelite Institutum Carmelitanum and our Faculty.



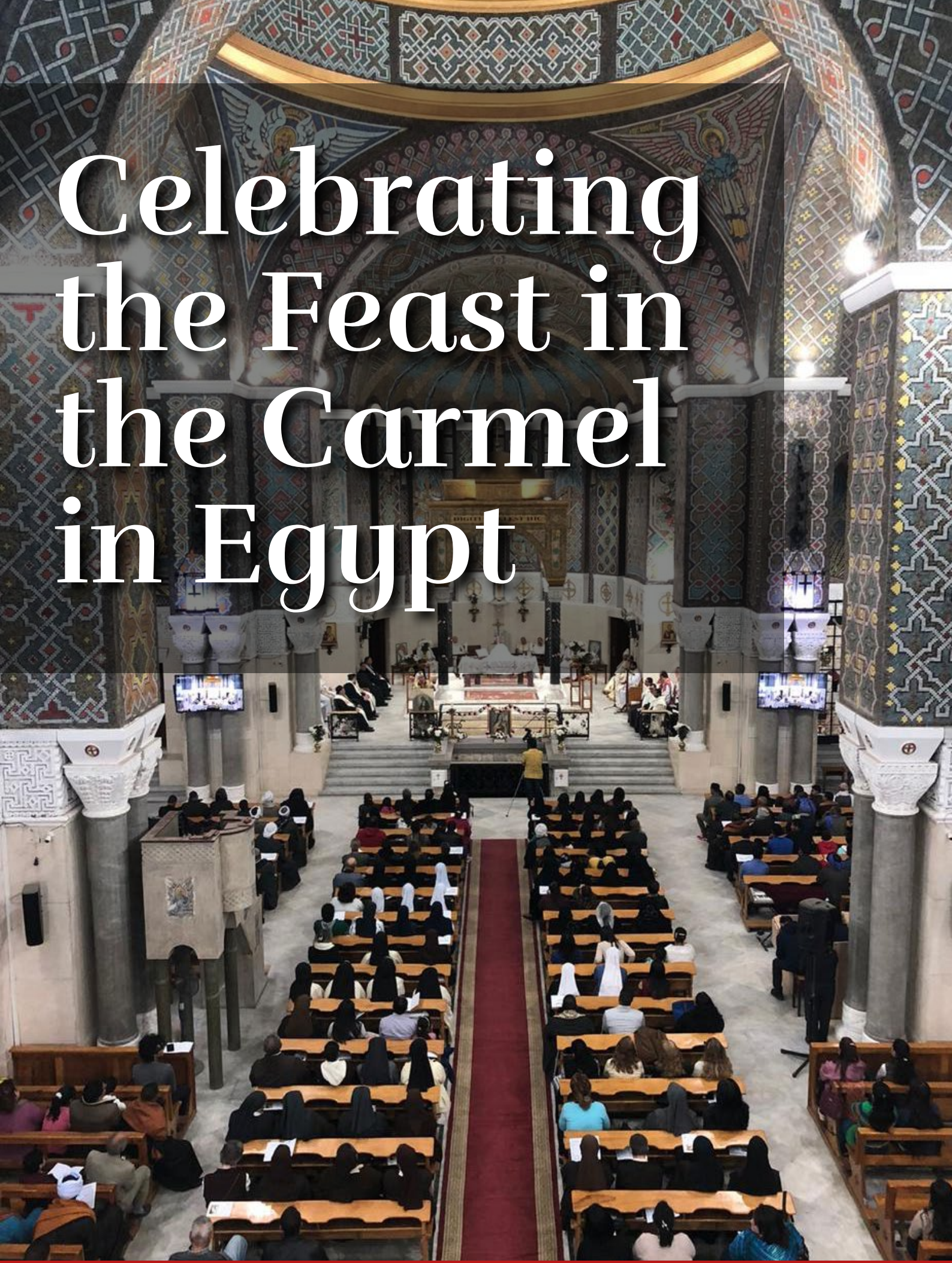
The event began with speeches by Fr. Denis Chardonnens, OCD, who chairs the Teresianum and Giovanni Grosso, Director of the Institutum Carmelitanum. An introduction to the history of the BIS followed, given by Fr. P. Lukasz Styrz-Steinert, OCD, during which those who had worked on the publication of BIS over the years were thanked, particularly Fr. Otilio Rodríguez and Fr. Juan Luis Astigarraga (to whom the Vicar General, Agustí Borrell dedicated some words of appreciation). Following the speech by Fr. Lukasz, Fr. Christof Betschart, OCD, took the floor to explain the current breadth of the BIS online project. The General, Fr. Saverio Can-

nistrà, who presided the event, made a speech about research in Carmel, after which those present were invited to talk with the speaker.

To conclude the proceedings, Don Axel Alt, the chief bibliographer of the BIS, gave a practical introduction for the use of this digital tool. The link to access the Bibliographia Internationalis Spiritualitatis online is as follows:

http://cpps.brepolis.net/bis/search.cfm?action=search_advanced&





Celebrating the Feast in the Carmel in Egypt

During the Vigil of the Immaculate Conception this year, three young Discalced Carmelites from the General Delegation of Egypt: Friar Pedro, Friar Juan and Friar Zacharías made their solemn profession by the hands of Fr. Abuna Patrik (Patricio) Sciadini, delegate.

It was a moment of great joy for the Carmel in Egypt, with the presence of the families of the newly professed together with a large number of faithful.

The Eucharist was presided by the Bishop of Assiut, Monsignor Kyrillos William. There was also a large number of brothers from the Lebanon.



The 13th General Assembly of the Association of Monasteries of Discalced Carmelite Nuns in the Philippines



To call the recently concluded General Assembly ordinary would be to downgrade it. For it is anything but ordinary and unexceptional.

As the first General Assembly after the Sacred Congregation gave us *Cor Orans* last year, it was the most opportune time and occasion to study the significant and radical changes the document made in our lives, in our communities and as an Association.

And as only a loving and merciful Father would design it, we had the Secretary General for the Nuns, Rev. Fr. Rafal Wilkowski, and a Canon Lawyer himself for four days to explain the document and patiently answer our questions.

It was also the first General Assembly for the Carmel of the Immaculate Heart of Mary in Kuching, East Sarawak, Malaysia since their acceptance to the Association last May 16. For us, Filipina Carmelites, it was equally the first General Assembly to try to break the language barrier, forgetting ourselves and our natural inclination to express ourselves in our native tongues.

The first few years of the Association was spent in bridging the gap between the federated Carmels and non-federated Carmels, more popularly known by two points in the

compass. The South Federation willingly dissolved itself to give way to the Association on 14 June 1983.

The Association has grown in age and in spirit and has now spread its wings to include a sister Asian Carmel to face together the challenges of the present times as presented by *Vultum Dei Quaerere* and *Cor Orans*.

Aside from the task of revising its Statutes, the Assembly signified its desire to be an authentic “structure of communion” by changing its name. The road ahead looks challenging, even intimidating but the novelty and radicalness of some of the norms could be exciting. And what makes the 13th General Assembly momentous is the fact that our efforts today will serve the Carmelites who will come after us. May all our endeavors follow closely the footsteps of Our Holy Mother, who declared, “I am a daughter of the Church.”





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