

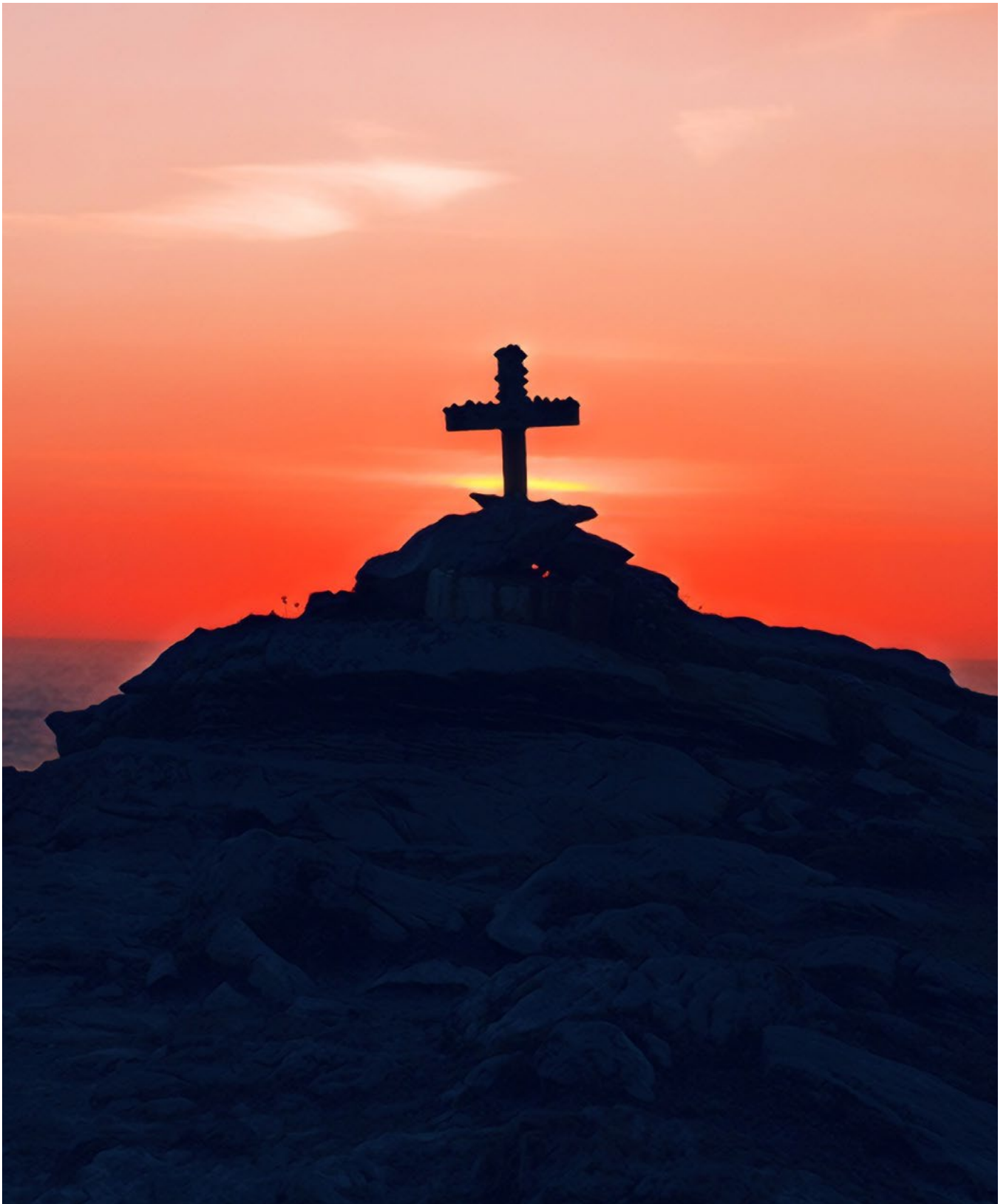


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OCD

COMMUNICATIONES





Generalate Organises Workshop for the 4 Associations in India

Vultum Dei Quaerere, Cor Orans and Art of Seeking God have introduced new trends in to women contemplative life. Several seminars, meetings were organised all over the world to understand and assimilate the novelty that the Church wants to introduce into the contemplative life. As part of these efforts to understand, assimilate and apply, Fr. Johannes Gorantla our General Defini-





tor incharge of South Asia has organised several regional meetings in the past three years. However in these days (from 26 January to 2 February) he along with Fr. Rafal Wilkowski, the secretary for the nuns has organised a workshop for all the Presidents and their councils at Carmelaram, Bangalore, India.

There were present 4 Presidents, their respective councils and other office bearers (30). The objective was to help our sisters in the administration of federations. In particular on the functions of the president, councils and other office bearers with emphasis on how to make visita-

tions. Added to this the meeting gave an opportunity to discuss on the present situation of South Asian Carmel and try to find out its strengths and challenges. The inter association assembly unanimously agreed on some fundamental issues in order to live our life with increased enthusiasm. This gathering gave them an occasion to discuss about the possible collaboration between the associations. South Asia has 37 Carmels with more than 500 sisters (India 34; Srilanka 3). They are divided into 4 associations.



Contemplative nuns meet in Rome

On the 31st of January and the 1st of February, the Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life (CIVCSVA) organized a meeting with the title: Economy at the service of contemplative forms of life for Italian contemplative nuns.

The objective of the meeting, as can be inferred from its title, was to give some guidelines on the financial management of communities and monasteries of contemplative life, in the light of the principles that canonical and civil law offer.

The nature of the ecclesiastical authori-

ties, the real estate heritage of monasteries and cultural assets, as well as the necessary transparency of accounting and balance sheets, were some of the issues addressed by different specialists in the two days.

Different liturgical celebrations accompanied the reflections, at which presided Monsignor Carballo or Monsignor Braz de Avis (Secretary and President of CIVCSVA, respectively). On the first day, as on the closing day of the meeting, the nuns attended the solemn Mass in St. Peter's Basilica at which presided Pope Francis.



INAUGURATION OF “BENZIGER HOME”



The Discalced Carmelite Friars' Malabar Province inaugurated on February the 14th the "Benziger Home" in Edappazhanji, a Kerala village near Trivandrum, India.

This house will receive cancer patients who come from different locations to receive therapy. As therapy does not usually require admission to hospital, these people need a place to stay, which

would be a very costly and difficult expense for the most disadvantaged.

Thus, "Benziger Home" will offer lodging and food to poor, sick people, free of charge. The house has been designed taking special care of its brightness and ventilation, so that the sick and their companions are as comfortable as possible.

We thank the Lord and our brethren for such a beautiful initiative.



Clothing



On March 19, the feast of St. Joseph, the young Iraqi lady, SIHAM KHOURANI, received the Carmelite habit in the Carmel of Aleppo. Monsignor Georges Bou Khazen, Latin Bishop of Aleppo, presided at the ceremony, which took place in the monastery chapel.

This is a sign of hope in a society sadly marked by death.

The Carmelite nuns have lived in their monastery all the time of the Syrian war. They have helped the local Church through their prayerful presence and charitable activities, offering support and food not solely to Christians.

During this period, they received with great joy a visit from Fr. General, Saverio Cannistrà.

There are currently eight nuns in the monastery, who always pray for peace in Syria and throughout the world.



General Definitory

The Father General as well as the Definitors are in Rome in the Generalate, according to the norms established by the Italian government in response to the crisis generated by COVID-19

which affects practically the entire world.

From there, they wish first to send a fraternal greeting to all the communities of brothers and sisters that are suffering during this pandemic, with a special remembrance and deeply felt prayer for the deceased and their families.

Our General Definitor continues working in the service of the Order thanks to the possibilities that the internet offers. During these days, he also held a meeting to review the project of the Norms that were approved in the Extraordinary Definitory of Goa.

Likewise, our brothers in the Curia wish to express their gratitude to the religious who, through a variety of initiatives, accompany the people of God and all humanity that is suffering under the scourge of the pandemic.



Our Communities in the face of COVID-19

The Information Secretary of the General OCD Curia has been made aware of a great number of initiatives being carried out by the religious of the Order to address the COVID-19 crisis. Also, we have confirmed that some religious provinces and monasteries are directly suffering the consequences of the pandemic and, tragically, we have been notified of some deaths as well as problems caused by the illness. Many people and organizations are aiding our brothers and sisters, including financially, so that they may weather this time. Also,

there is no lack of examples of solidarity between the many groups and among their members.

In the face of the pandemic, many communities of sisters around the world are collaborating by making masks or protective clothing for the care givers who work in hospitals and geriatric facilities, as wells as for patients.

Furthermore, friars and monasteries in the Provinces have developed innumerable pastoral initiatives, taking advantage of communications, especially social networks.

In addition, our brothers and sisters have not forgotten the best way to fulfill their mission to serve the Church and humanity: embracing in prayer and the fraternal life the suffering and uncertainty that anguishes everyone, near and far; lending help to all to discover the Light that illuminates the darkness; sharing the hope that restores when we plunge into the mystery of communion with God.





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