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COMMUNICATIONES



CAPITOLO
GENERALE
2021 | CARMELITANI
SCALZI

Monday, 30th August 2021

At 9.30 Fr General, Saverio Cannistrà, formerly opened the General Chapter. Fr General began by referring to the Chapter Assembly (those present and those absent). Our brothers from India are at the Teresianum where they are completing their quarantine, but were able to join the Chapter using Zoom.

It was noted that for the first time more than half of those present are attending a General Chapter for the first time. Another new feature: this year the Definitory wanted to give more space to the group meetings and to the working groups, be the language groups (english, french, spanish, itlalian) or geographical groups.

The Eucharist was presided by Mgr. Jose Rodriguez-Carballo, the Secretary to the Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life. In his introduction to the Mass, he pointed to the Holy Spirit, and insisted on the fact that during the Chapter we must put the Holy Spirit into our minds and hearts and also in our votes.



Tuesday, 31st August 2021

We had a morning of spiritual renewal. We began by listening to Mgr. Libanori, SJ, auxiliary Bishop of Rome. His meditation was based on 1 Kings 19, in which the prophet Elijah fled into the desert and walked for forty days and forty nights until he reached the mountain of the Lord. Mgr. Libanori made these practical conclusions: we must keep hope alive for the sake of our world. To this end, it is perhaps the time to adopt the position of the Apostles who were together in the Upper Room with Mary, as they waited for the coming of the Holy Spirit. Only the true contemplative can discern and announce the ways of the Lord. In the second part of the morning,

our confrere, Mgr. Oswald Escobar, OCD, shared with us something important, along the lines of Pope Francis, “Going out from Carmel”. He sees three challenges for our Order today: to commit ourselves to the new evangelization, to move away from self-reliance to solidarity with others and to look after those whom God has put into our care (sheep or friars). This afternoon, the friars met again in small groups to discuss what had been said in the morning. Then, in the Chapter meeting room, every group shared the questions raised from the reports of the various structures linked to the central Government, as well as specific questions from some geographical areas.

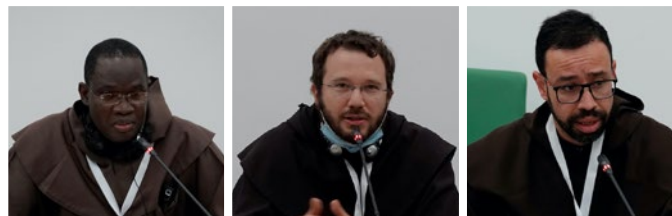


Wednesday, 1st September 2021

The entire day was given over to listening to some of our young confreres, that is to say, who are under forty. The challenge put before us today was to listen. To have these young Carmelites was new, it has never happened before at a Chapter. The General Definitory invited nine friars from all over the world to come to the Chapter for one day with the goal of sharing with us, in a concrete way, two challenges or problems proper to their geographical area, and to give two suggestions for the renewal of the Order. Thus three brothers came from Europe, two from Asia, two from Africa and one from North America and one from Latin America. The assembly took seriously the words and ‘provocations’ of our young friars and replied with the same trust and goodness and ‘provocation’.

A noteworthy element from this day was the profound unity among all the speakers, no matter where they came from. We cite three hopes that were at the same time challenges: an intimate life with God, community life and initial and on-going formation.

At the beginning of this Chapter, we recalled the beauty of our vocation and the fact that we also here in Rome are working for these young friars.



Thursday, 2nd September 2021

Today concentrated on Fr. General's report of the state of the Order. The morning was dedicated to the listening to this report of the state of the Order by Fr. Saverio Cannistrà. In the afternoon, the chapter members met in various language groups to discuss the report. His report, more than an observation, was an expression of someone who for twelve years has dedicated himself to the service of the Order. Fr. General presented the present challenges that the Order must face and to which it must reply concretely; not only rhetorically: interculturality, formation, communion between the three branches of the Order.

The complete report has been published on our website.



Friday, 3rd September 2021



The morning began with a votation of the members of the two commissions: one for the revision of our Norms and the other for the editing of the final document of the Chapter and the message from the General Chapter.

The rest of the morning was then dedicated to the financial report from Father Paolo di Carli, the General Bursar. Because we are speaking about an internal document, we cannot unfortunately give you an account here. We can only say that all together the financial statements are positive, in spite of the impact of the pandemic which we have all experienced in recent times. Nonetheless, we must be attentive and discerning in the administration of our assets.



Saturday, 4th September 2021

That morning Fr. Augsti Borrell, the Vicar General of the Order, presented the Declaration on the teresian-carmelite charism. This text is the fruit of a long journey for the the Order that began with the General Chapter of Avila in 2015. The first thing we did was to read the writings of our Holy Mother, then we reread of our Constitutions, and lastly the decision was made by the Extraordinary Definitory in Goa (India) in 2019 to write a Declaration of our charism. This was a first presentation. Monday 6 September was entirely devoted to working on the text, either in groups or in assembly, as was part of the morning of Thursday 9 September. It will be finally approved on Sunday 12 September.

NB: The Declaration on the teresian-carmelite charism is currently in its final stage of translation and will soon be sent to the whole Order and available on our website.

In the afternoon, at 4pm., the Chapter members met in the Chapel to invoke the Holy Spirit before the election of the new General. After this we went to the Chapter room to proceed with the election of the new Father General. The Chapter Assembly elected Fr. Miguel Marquez Calle (Miguel de Maria) as the new General of the Order.



Introducing Father Miguel Marquez Calle, General Superior:

Fr. Miguel of Mary Márquez Calle, O.C.D. was born in 1965 in Plasencia (Cáceres), Spain. He entered the Discalced Carmelite Order in 1983 and made his religious profession in 1985. He was ordained a priest in Medina del Campo in 1990. He has a degree in Dogmatic Theology from the Comillas Pontifical University in Madrid, with a thesis on the image of God in the Magnificat. Has held numerous positions of responsibility in the life of the Discalced Carmelite Provinces of Castilla and Ibérica. In the Province of Castilla, Father Miguel served as a Provincial Councilor from 1999–2002, then as Vicar Provincial from 2002–2005, a position to which he was elected once again at the Provincial Chapter of 2008; next, he served as the Provincial Superior of the Castilian province. He also has served as a



formator in that province, directing the students for six years in the community of Salamanca. In February 2015, Father Márquez was the first provincial superior elected to serve the new Iberian Province of St. Teresa of Jesus, which was created from the union of all the smaller Discalced Carmelite provinces in Spain and the Balearic Islands during the extraordinary provincial chapter that was convened for this specific purpose. He was re-elected to serve once again in the first ordinary provincial chapter in April 2017 for a term from 2017–2020. Since May 2021 he has resided in the friars' convent in Santa Cruz de Tenerife, Canary Islands. Father Márquez is author of numerous publications on theology and spirituality. He also has written many articles as a regular

contributor to magazines and journals. Father Márquez also has served as a professor of mysticism and Mariology in the CITEs University of Mysticism in Avila, as a professor of Mariology in the Carmelite renewal program at Stella Maris Monastery on Mount Carmel, and he also has served as a professor of pastoral ministry in the Institute of Spirituality of Santo Domingo. Father Miguel has directed many retreats and days of recollection, and has provided assistance to numerous prayer groups. He also has dedicated much time and effort to the spiritual direction and accompaniment of many people, including priests, religious, nuns, and laity.

Nb: the official photo of Father Miguel will be available soon.

Tuesday, 7th September 2021

The day was dedicated to the revision of our Norms, decided in the Extraordinary Definitory in Goa (2019). After having listened to the various Circumscriptions following the rereading of our Constitutions, and keeping account of our their own experiences, the General Definitory reviewed the Norms and proposed to this General Chapter to make some modifications/clarifications. Fr. Francisco Javier Mena presented and explained, one by one, the proposed changes, with the view of discussing them and then voting on them.



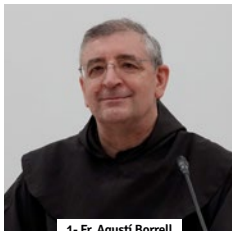
Wednesday, 8th September 2021

In the morning, we had the reports from the different working groups on the Norms.

This day was also marked by another important event: the election of the General Definitory, that is, the Council of Father General. The Chapter elected the entire Definitory:

1. **Fr. Augusti Borrell** (Spanish Province)
2. **Fr. Pius James D'Souza** (Karnataka-Goa Province)
3. **Fr. Philbert Namphande** (Malawi, Delegation of the Navarre Province)
4. **Fr. Robert Maria Pirastu** (Austrian Province)
5. **Fr. Christianus Surinono** (Delegation of Indonesia)
6. **Fr. Martin Martinez Larios** (Mexican Province)
7. **Fr. Christophe Marie Baudouin** (Paris Province)
8. **Fr. Jean Baptiste Pagabeleguem** (Burkina Faso, Delegation of the Spanish Province).

We entrust them to our prayers and ask our Lady of Mount Carmel to bless them and accompany them in this new step along the way.



1- Fr. Augusti Borrell



2- Fr. Pius James D'Souza



3- Fr. Philbert Namphande



4- Fr. Roberto Maria Pirastu



5- Fr. Christianus Surinono



6- Fr. Martin Martinez Larios



7- Fr. Christophe-Marie Baudouin



8- Fr. Jean-Baptiste Pagabeleguem

Thursday, 9th September 2021

Fr. Daniel Chowning, from the Washington Province, presented our *Ratio Institutionis*. As *Potissimum Institutionis* confirms #1: “The renewal of Religious Institutes depends principally on the formation of its members”. Fr. Daniel began by giving us a panoramic view of the context of the process for the redaction. Then he indicated three important points in which our Ratio is lacking: the absence of any referrals to the recent documents of the Church’s magisterium on consecrated life; the text is too theoretical and does not take into consideration concrete experience: the lack of references to the Teresian charism. In the end, he proposed to integrate four important elements in the future Ratio: formation of the formators; the challenge presented by social media and telecommunications; the protection of minors; the criteria of competence for ministry.



Friday, 10th September 2021



Fathers Francisco Javier Mena Lima, of the Caribbean Commissariat, and Fabio Silvestri, Provincial of Venice, presented the working method adopted for the revision of our Norms: the members of the commission, the reasons for integrating or not the observations put forward by the Chapter members. After these explanations the Commission for the revision of the Norms was given more time to complete its work. In the afternoon, the Capitulants voted on the proposed revised Norms, one by one.

Fr. Marco Chiesa, General Postulator, presented the work of Postulation: how it functions, the promotion of the Causes of the Saints of our Order. The Postulation office also covers the liturgy proper to our Order. He explained how our liturgical books are prepared in the various linguistic areas. Then, Fr. Christophe-Marie Baudouin,

Definitor, from the Paris Province, reminded us that on the 16th April 2021 the executive council of UNESCO approved the candidature of Therese of the Child Jesus for the biennial 2022/2023, in occasion of the 150th anniversary of her birth. Fr. Christophe-Marie invited the Chapter to honour this centenary. The Chapter assembly welcomed this invitation. How this is done will be decided later. Finally, Fr. Daniel Ehigie, from the Vicariate of Nigeria, presented the situation of the Order in Africa and its representation at the General Chapter and to the Extraordinary Definitory. He informed us of a request from our brothers in Africa to have one more representative (at the General Chapter). The Chapter will vote on this request at the end when it will vote on the various resolutions.

Saturday, 11th September 2021

This day was one of the great moments of the Chapter: the General Chapter had an audience with Pope Francis. In the Sala Clementina (Vatican), our General, Fr. Miguel, spoke to him in his name and that of the entire Order, friars, nuns and seculars:

TEXT OF FATHER GENERAL'S ADDRESS DURING THE AUDIENCE WITH THE HOLY FATHER

Dear Holy Father Pope Francis:

It's a great joy for us to be able to greet you this Saturday morning.

Here you have the entire General Chapter of the Discalced Carmelites, sons of St. Teresa of Jesus, of St. John of the Cross, and so many Carmelite saints who are faithful sons and daughters of the Church, as we decidedly want to be as well.

We represent some 4,000 of our brothers from all over the world, and we also bring here our Discalced Carmelite nuns, the Secular Carmelites, and all the great big family of the Teresian Carmel. We come to ask for a blessing and a confirmation of our way, to enliven our dedication, and to be Carmel on the way forward. We would like to be the Carmelites that the Church and the world ask us to be.

The Carmelite saints knew how to live intensely in the present moment. They fell in love with God and let him be the protagonist of their lives: with fearless faith, courageous humility, fraternal joy, and daring trust. Teresa said: "the world is in flames" (Way 1:5), and she wanted to bring to bear what little she could: "the little that was in my power" (ibid.).

The essence of Carmel is "silent love" (John of the Cross, Letter 8), selfless dedication, and creative trust. You stated it, Holy Father, by quoting Edith Stein: "The greatest figures of prophecy and sanctity step forth out of the darkest night..." (Gaudete et Exultate 8). History's decisive persons do not appear in history books or newspapers. For this reason, we want to cultivate a contemplation that doesn't distance us from real life, but rather immerses us more deeply in it and brings us closer to the wounds of today's men and women so that we can heal them with the tenderness we have learned from our friendship with Jesus, which is prayer.

Carmel's finest chapters have been written in the most difficult moments: the Interior Castle of Saint Teresa; the Spiritual Canticle of Saint John of the Cross in the prison of Toledo, the offering to the merciful love of Saint Therese (to whom we know you are so devoted), the dedication of Edith Stein in the concentration camp, the passionate love of Teresa of the Andes and Maria Felicia of the Blessed Sacrament, Chiquitunga...

Holy Father, with my brothers and sisters I want to risk my life, not waiting for tomorrow, without fear of being wounded, like knights without pay, as Teresa said (Life 15, 11), helping Jesus to carry the cross, helping the Pope to carry the cross, by our obedience and service, without backing down, eager to know and love Jesus more and more to make him known and loved, as Therese of Lisieux used to say.

Mary is at the heart of a Carmelite's life. The scapular is the presence of Mary. We want to live stripped of ourselves and clothed in Mary. Under her white mantle, we put the life of the Pope, dear Holy Father. Next to her, Joseph, who is also very dear to us Carmelites. I take this opportunity to thank you very much, on behalf of my sisters and brothers, for the letter you wrote about St. Joseph, 'Patris Corde'. In the school of Teresa, we ask him to teach us to be fathers, to know how to be sons and brothers. We feel protected by Mary and Joseph, and that is our confidence.

And now, Holy Father, I allow myself, with Teresian audacity, to ask you an important question: What do you want from us? What does our dear Pope Francis desire from the Discalced Carmelites today?

On behalf of all my brothers and sisters, we thank you from the bottom of our hearts. Holy Father, at every moment you will not be without our prayers and affection. Thank you for receiving us.

Fray Miguel Márquez de María

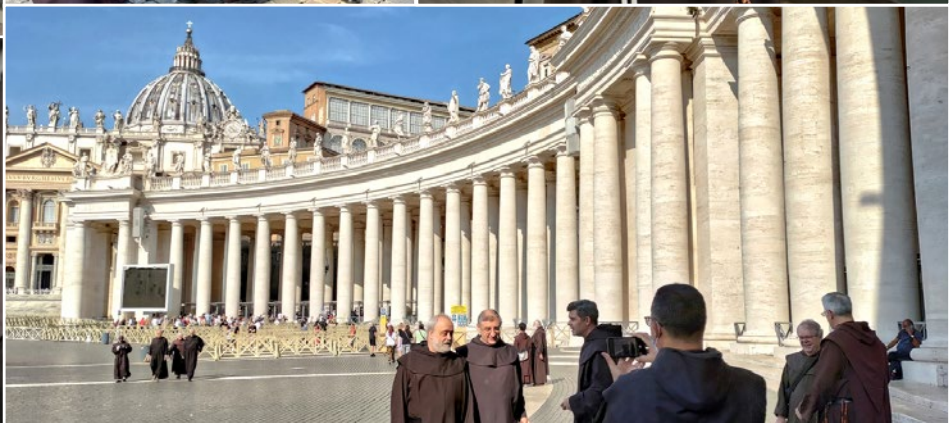


The words of the Pope resonated fully with those of our Fr. General. “Fidelity demands a steadfast commitment to the values of the Gospel and to one’s own charism, and the renunciation of that which prevents one from giving the best of oneself to the Lord and to others (...) Friendship with the Lord is, for Saint Teresa, living in communion with Him; it is not just praying, but making a prayer of life; it is walking - as your Rule says - “*in obsequio Iesu Christi*”, and doing so in joy. (...) Friendship with God ripens in silence, in recollection, in listening to the Word of God; it is a flame that must be nurtured and protected day by day.”

You can find the complete text here:

<https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/speeches/2021/september/documents/20210911-carmelitani-scalzi.html>

In the afternoon we had invited Fr. Vincenzo Mancusi, a Capuchin friar, to face up to with him the question of abuse. Fr. Mancusi has been, among other things, General Procurator of the Capuchins and has worked in the Congregation for the Institutes of Consecrated Life and the Societies of Apostolic Life. His talk included the physical, psychological and spiritual abuses of minors and vulnerable people. He presented us with the developments in canon law, he defined the terms used in the code of canon law and then he explained how to confront these matters when they arise.





Sunday, 12th September 2021

We welcomed Fr. Miceal O’Neill, O.Carm, the Prior General of the Carmelites. He shared with us his experience on some challenges for Carmelite life today. The expectations of the world to us are three: the witness of our lives, formation and community life. Fr. Miceal O’Neil underlined the importance of the community and its prophetic dimension for our times. The community, by its nature, is the place where the grace of God is manifested and unfolded. He went on to speak of three concepts: participation (in the sense that Vatican II asks of us), communication and discernment.

In the afternoon, we then experienced another time of grace: we listen to four of our non-clerical brothers. They came from: Nigeria, the Philippines, Croatia and Mexico. They shared with us the joy of their vocation as religious brothers. Here is a fragment: “Our vocation comes from the love of God who is a friend, Father, Brother, and who calls us to witness to Him and to the Kingdom through fraternity. We endeavour to respond with generosity and give ourselves totally to the gratuitous love of God, who has honoured us by calling us into his service as brothers in our religious family.” We all are fully *Brothers of the Blessed Virgin Mary of Mount Carmel*. This time spent with our brothers was a good experience of communion and of grace in our unique vocation to Carmel.

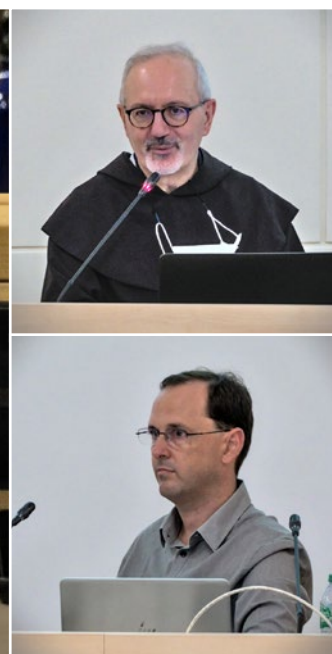
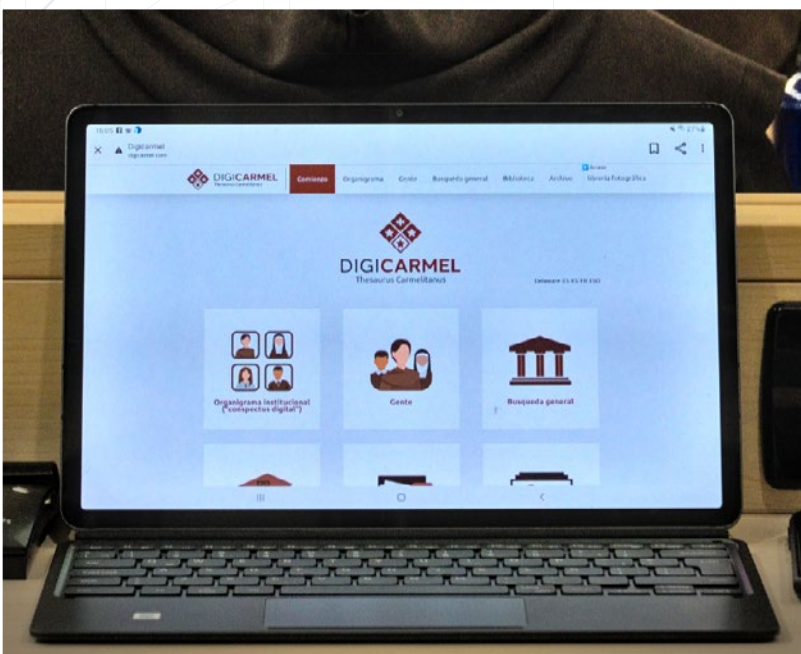


Monday, 13th September 2021

Father Francisco Javier Mena presented the role of the Regional Conference of Provincials. Covid-19 and all its consequences have shown us the importance of this Conference. It is a structure of communion that encourages collaboration among the Circumscriptions. The words of Pope Francis in his apostolic letter to all consecrated men and women (21.11.2014) clarifies the goal : *“No one builds the future by isolating themselves, nor with their own strength, but by recognizing in truth of a communion that always opens itself to meeting others, to dialogue, to listening, and to the reciprocal help and which protects us from the sickness of self reliance”* (# 3). In the afternoon, Fr. Angelo Lanfranchi, the General Archivist, and Mr. Axel Alt presented the ‘Digicarmel’ project. It is a database created for the management of information, modern or historic. The nucleus of Digicarmel is found in the *Conspectus*, and in the *Acta Ordinis* and in various historical publications. The objective of this is to preserve and offer, in a collaborative way, information on the history of our Order, of our Communities, of our Religious and of the various expressions of our charism in the world.



DIGICARMEL
Thesaurus Carmelitanus





Tuesday, 14th September 2021



The day was entirely dedicated to working on the Final Document of the Chapter and on the message of the General Chapter. All the texts are available on our website:

• **Message of the 92nd General Chapter:**

<https://www.carmelitaniscalzi.com/en/documents/general-chapters/message-of-the-92nd-general-chapter-of-the-order-of-the-discalced-carmelites/>

• **Concluding Document 92nd General Chapter:**

https://www.carmelitaniscalzi.com/en/documents/general-chapters/2021_concluding-document-92nd-general-chapter-of-the-order-of-discalced-carmelites/





CAPITOLO GENERALE 2021 | CARMELITANI SCALZI

We conclude with the words of our Mother Saint Theresa of Avila:

*“Lord of the world, my true Spouse! (You can say this to Him) Are You so in need, my Lord and my Love, that You would want to receive such poor company as mine, for I see by Your expression that You have been consoled by me? Well then, how is it Lord that the angels leave You and that even Your Father doesn’t console You? If it’s true, Lord, that You want to endure everything for me, what is this that I suffer for You? Of what am I complaining? I am already ashamed, since I have seen You in such a condition. I desire to suffer, Lord, all the trials that come to me and esteem them as a great good enabling me to imitate You in something. **Let us walk together, Lord.** Wherever You go, I will go” (CV 26,6).*





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