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OCD COMMUNICATIONES



EGYPT: CANONICAL VISIT



From the 6th to the 16th of February, we had the joy of having Fr General - Fr. Miguel in our midst, as well as the Definitor for the Middle East, Father Christophe-Marie.

On February the 12th, we opened the celebrations for the 150th anniversary of the birth of Saint Therese of the Child Jesus. Fr. Makoul, our Delegate, presided over the celebration, while Fr. General gave a brief homily highlighting the doctrine of St. Therese. The love that all

Egyptians have for Saint Therese is a love of reciprocity. The basilica is a spiritual light for all Egypt. We, as Carmelites, are called to give a good welcome to the people, especially in the sacrament of confession and spiritual direction. The presence of the centre of the Order in our midst was a sign of communion and unity. We give thanks for this visit, which urges us to give an answer to the question: What kind of Discalced Carmelites do we want to be in Egypt today?



Meeting of the Conferences of the Superiors of French- and English-speaking Africa and Madagascar



From the 21st to the 30th of January 2023, the first joint meeting of the Conferences of OCD Superiors of French- and English-speaking Africa and Madagascar was held in Yaoundé. These conferences are an important element in the life of our Order in Africa, and take on different forms such as common formation before solemn profession. For the first time our two Conferences, representing 17 African countries, came together. We were able to discuss common projects, such as the organization of a Carmelite Congress for the whole of Africa in 2025, or collaboration in formation with student exchanges. Father General, Fr. Miguel Marquez Calle, was present with us during the last three days. We were also able to meet the Carmelite nuns of Etoudi-Yaoundé and members of the Cameroon Secular Order, as well as celebrate the 25th anniversary of our monastery in Nkolbisson, on the outskirts of Yaoundé.





Meeting of the Formators of Europe and the Middle East

From the 31st of January to the 2nd of February, more than thirty Formators met to discuss the revision of the *Ratio Institutionis*. They addressed issues related to the different phases of training and the elements to be reviewed in the *Ratio*. The first day was dedicated to dialogue and sharing of training experiences over the last three years (the COVID-19 pandemic having prevented meetings). Fr. Luca Balugani, psychologist, was invited this year. He dealt with the topic of affectivity and sexuality in consecrated life.



On the last day, a time of fraternal recreation, the participants visited the Grottaferrata Abbey and the Carmelite monastery of Monte Compatri, where the body of Father John of Jesus-Mary, OCD, is buried. The Eucharist was celebrated there precisely on the day in which the Church celebrates consecrated life. Our Father General, Father Miguel Marquez, was with us that day. After the Eucharistic celebration, the participants were given a conference presenting the Venerable John of Jesus-Mary: a promoter of the beatification of Saint Teresa of Avila, third Superior General of the Order (1611), a prolific author, Master of Novices and promoter of the missions in the Order. His incorrupt body is in the church of the Monte Compatri monastery. The presentation on the Venerable John was entrusted to his biographer, the OCDS Provincial President of Central Italy, Mrs. Laura Isotton, as well as Fr. Basilio Visca, OCD, author of several publications on John of Jesus-Mary.



THE SECULAR ORDER OF DISCALCED CARMELITES REBORN IN ISRAEL

About two years ago, a group of lay people from different cultures wondered about the possibility of founding a community of Secular Carmel at Stella Maris, on Mount Carmel, and began to organize themselves and inquire about the procedure to be followed for its foundation.

After a period of discernment, the admission ceremony of the candidates took place on January the 28th, in our Stella Maris church. They received the Bible, the Constitutions of Secular Carmel and received the scapular as a sign of the protection of the Virgin Mary of Mount Carmel and their formal entry into the period of formation. Over the next two years, they will study the spirituality and mission of the laity in Carmel and the Church.

Let us ask the Holy Spirit to guide these people whom He has called and to help them persevere so that they may find in the OCDS what their hearts so desire, namely, union with God and service to the Church.

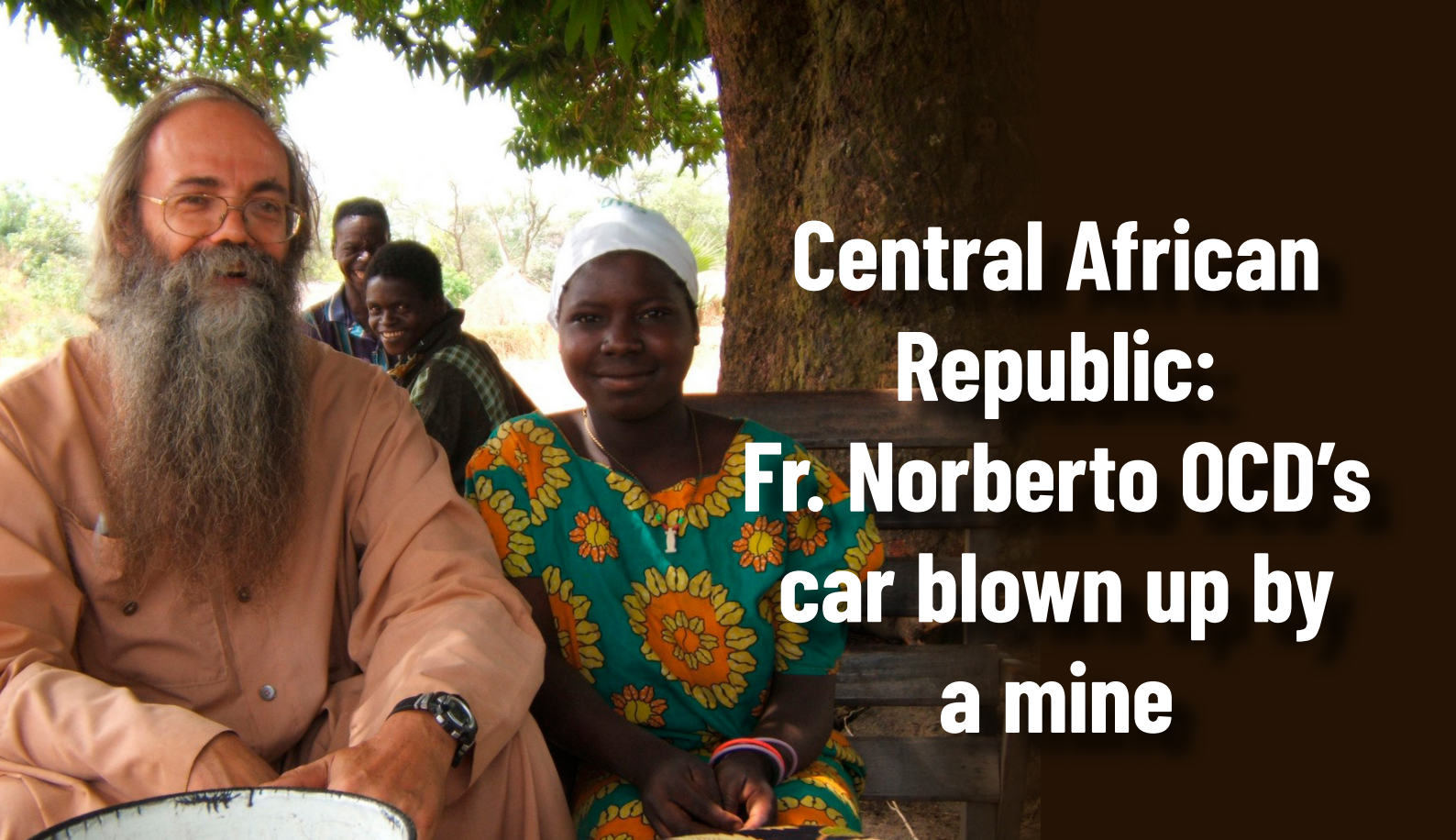


Lebanon: Interreligious Meeting

The Discalced Carmelites of Tripoli and the Monastery of St. Francis, the Pro Terra Sancta Association, the Religion and Security Council, the Life and Reconciliation Association, the Adyan Foundation, the Network of Religious Leaders of Tripoli and Northern Lebanon organized an interreligious meeting on the premises of the Saint Elijah School of the Carmelites. The title of the meeting was: «Interreligious dialogue and initiative of human brotherhood. Learning it and putting it into practice». The meeting was inspired by the document «Human Fraternity for Peace in the World and Living Together» signed by Pope Francis and the Grand Imam of Al-Azhar, Sheikh Ahmad Al-Tayyeb, on the occasion of the 800th anniversary of the meeting between St. Francis of Assisi and Sultan Al-Malik Al-Kamil. The meeting included testimonies from lay and religious leaders and meant to promote education for interreligious dialogue and peace, as well as sensitizing the younger generations to the principles and teachings of the document on «Human Fraternity».

In her speech, the director of the school, Mrs. Rita Salama Faisal, stressed the importance of this meeting and its impact on young people, highlighting that the Carmelites' St. Elijah school is a good example of coexistence and openness to others. She also called for the renewal of such an initiative.





Central African Republic: Fr. Norberto OCD's car blown up by a mine

Father Norberto Pozzi, 71, comes from the Ligurian Province. In 1980, he left for the Central African Republic, where he worked as a bricklayer-surveyor for 8 years in the Bozoum mission. After returning to Italy he became a Carmelite priest and in 1995 he returned to the Central African capital, Bangui, as a missionary, working with great strength and courage in the villages of the savannah.

On February 10, while he was on his way to the village of Bokpayan, 22 km from the Bozoum mission, he was injured in the explosion of a mine while traveling with five companions. As his car passed, the mine exploded exactly on the side where Father Norberto was driving. He was the most seriously injured:

both of his legs were fractured, but the explosion caused more damage to the left one. A motorcycle transported him to Bozoum Hospital where he underwent surgery to clean the wound and remove shrapnel. He was taken by helicopter to Bangui (Central Africa), then by a military flight to Kampala (Uganda), where he had to endure the amputation of his left foot. On February 21, he was sent urgently to Italy in the hope of stopping the necrosis developing in of his left leg.

Father Norberto, with his great desire to live and help others, wants to resume his mission and, if possible, return among his people in Central Africa.

We entrust him to your prayers.



Syria: Carmelite Sisters of Aleppo take in ten families after the earthquake

In Aleppo, after the recent earthquake on February the 6th, all the nuns were safe and sound. Fortunately their monastery was well built and did not suffer any structural damage. Eight nuns live in the monastery. Their house has always been open, even in the worst moments of the war. It welcomed everyone, both Muslims and Christians, and until a year and a half ago it sheltered a family with ten children who had lost everything during the war.

After the earthquake, the sisters welcomed 10 families into their monastery, so that now about fifty people live with them. Their prayer has been translated into concrete material help for those who suffer most, even if they too are in great difficulty: their monastery has not suffered serious damage, but like the rest of the population, the earthquake has left them without electricity and water, with temperatures below zero due to the harsh winter in the Aleppo region.



If you would like to help them you can send an offering here:

Made out to: Casa Generalizia dell'Ordine dei Padri Carmelitani Scalzi

Address: Corso d'Italia 38 – 00198 Roma, Italy

Bank: FINECO BANK

Address: Piazza Durante 11 – 20131 Milano, Italy

(For transfers, please, in the following currencies)
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SWIFT (BIC) Europe – SEPA area: FEBIITM1

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