

# Communicationes N. 296

9/07/2015

## INDEX:

- The canonization of the parents of Saint Therese will take place on October 18 next.
- The 1875 unification
- 1<sup>st</sup> Congress of Discalced Carmelite Colleges
- Pope Francis at the Turin Carmel

## Canonization

### The canonization of the parents of Saint Therese will take place on October 18 next

**July 9, 2015 (Communicationes).**- In the Consistory Hall on 27<sup>th</sup> June, Pope Francis presided at the celebration of the “third hour” and the public consistory for the canonization of the married couple, Blesseds Luis Martín and Celie Guérin, the parents of Saint Therese of the Child Jesus.

The canonization of St Therese’s parents will take place on the coming 18<sup>th</sup> of October. As a result the canonization will be during the Synod of the Family which will take place at the Vatican from 4<sup>th</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> of October and on World Mission Day.

It is worth mentioning that, in October 2014 at the opening Mass of the extraordinary Synod on the Family, the Pope venerated the relics of the Martín husband and wife.

The canonization of St Therese’s parents was made possible by the miraculous cure attributed to their intercession: the unexplainable cure of a young girl from the Spanish diocese of Valencia.

## Chronicles from the General Archives

### The 1875 unification

**July 9, 2015 (Communicationes).**- Fr **Óscar I. Aparicio.**- On 12<sup>th</sup> February 1875, Pope Pius IX decreed the unification of all the Discalced Carmelites, who at that time were divided into three Congregations: the Spanish, the Italian and the Portuguese. They were to become one Order governed by the Constitutions of what was then called the Italian Congregation. This

document was called *Lectissimas Christi Turmas*, the first three words beginning this papal document.

This is one of the most important documents in the history of our Order. Division of the one Order into various congregations is not a common thing. Among the Discalced Carmelites it was brought about above all by the interference of the Spanish monarchy in the internal government of the Order. The Spanish monarch, first of all Philip II and then his successors, did not want an Order born on Spanish soil to exit from their Iberian possessions. The risk was felt that it could become “contaminated” by the protestant ideas which were then swarming throughout Europe. Once the Pope had met the Spanish Discalced Carmelites, he wanted to have them near him. With a few friars and only two monasteries, Genoa and La Scala in Rome, the Pope created the Italian Congregation of the Discalced Carmelites in 1600. The Portuguese Congregation was set up after the kingdom of Portugal gained its independence from the Spanish monarchy. After many ups and downs this third Congregation within the Order was established in 1773.

The union of the Congregations was due mainly to the fact that the Spanish Carmelites, after the Secularization of 1835-36, had become few and elderly. Also contributing was the fact that some of them, particularly Fr Maldonado, had a tenacious opposition towards union. The Italian friars were rather dismayed by the negative attitude of the few Spanish Discalced friars. It was Pope Pius IX who ordered the unification of both Congregations. After this date nothing is said of the Portuguese Congregation which disappeared through lack of vocations.

The word to describe this happening is more problematical. Some authors speak of *unification*, others of *fusion* and there are those who use the word *absorption*. Since the objective of the papal document was to unite all the Carmelites into just the one Order governed by the Italian Constitutions, a fact that really happened, there is a general consensus that at a juridical level one can speak of absorption. What is important is that since 1875 all the Discalced Carmelites have been united into the one Order. Also, with regards to documents, this had an important consequence: there exists just the one General Archives, that in Rome.

## Congress

### First Congress of the Discalced Carmelite Colleges

**July 9, 2015 (Communications).**- As part of the celebrations for the V centenary of the birth of Saint Teresa of Jesus, the five Discalced Carmelite educational centres in Spain celebrated in Avila from 29<sup>th</sup> June to 2<sup>nd</sup> July, an educational and pastoral congress with the theme “Now is the time to set out”.

The congress had as its objective to make known Teresian spirituality, to deepen understanding of the interior journey according to Saint Teresa and the spirituality of Carmel, to share experiences in educational innovation and calling all teachers in the five schools to strengthen ties of communion and fraternity according to the Institutional Educational Project, developed by ownership and management teams of the centers.

There were various conferences providing the framework of the congress: *“Teresa’s school, a school with heart”* by Carmen Pellicer, *“Teresa of Jesus, communicator and teacher”* by Salvador Ros, *“The Teresian style of educating”* by Fernando Donaire, *“We do not build towers without foundations, transmitting faith from life”* by Maria Ángeles López Romera, *“How to create a culture of personal spiritual development in our centres”* by Juan Manuel Alarcón and *“The compass to personal spiritual development”* by Joseph Otón. These provided the material for debate on the ways to personal spiritual development and Teresian spirituality.

The Communications of the Congress, prepared by the colleges’ educators themselves, helped in the exchange of good educational practices by way of educational and pastoral innovation.

Not missing during the congress were times for prayer and the Eucharist, as places for meeting with the God of Life, who invites us each day to be more authentic, faithful and committed. Present also were the Provincials of the Iberian Discalced Carmel, who encouraged and supported this initiative: Fr Miguel Márquez, Fr Juan Aristondo, Fr Pedro Tomás Navajas and Fr Agustí Borrell, the Vicar General of the Order.

One hundred and eighty educators took the opportunity to live three days at CITEs in Avila, in an historic encounter, since it was the first of this magnitude. It was a Congress that firmed the bases of the educational and pastoral renewal required to respond to the demands that present day society asks of the Catholic school.

## Turin

### Pope Francis at the Turin Carmel

**July 9, 2015 (Communications).**- On the 21<sup>st</sup> of June last, the community of Discalced Carmelite friars of St Teresa in Turin, of the Genovese Province, enjoyed a visit from Pope Francis, counting it as a grace from God.

Although the program of the visit to the city was very intense, there existed among the faithful and equally among the religious the hope that the Pope would visit the church where his grand parents were married and his father baptized.

On Friday, a call from the curia alerted the Provincial, Fr Giustino Zoppi, to keep his mobile phone on as the Vatican police wanted to contact him. At 6.30 in the evening, there turned up at the monastery those in charge of the Pope’s personal security and they explained to Fr Giustino that the visit would indeed happen on the following day at 7.30 in the evening, after the meeting with the youth.

On the arrival of the Holy Father, a small group carrying fond mementos with them, greeted Francis with enthusiasm. Afterwards the Pope took the opportunity to greet the community, beginning with Fr Giuseppe Caviglia, who had been secretary to Cardinal Ballestrero, then he continued on to greet Fathers Giulio, Stefano and Roberto.

In the church the Pope kissed the baptismal font and after a moment’s prayer he left a bouquet of flowers on the altar and another on the altar dedicated to Saint Therese. After

receiving a gift of a book on the Holy Land edited by Fr Girolamo Salvatico and leaving a written thought for the community, the Pope said goodbye to Fr Giustino, inviting the community to be transmitters of divine mercy.

It was a grace and a gift for our friars in Turin and the Genovese Province that spreads out to the whole Teresian Carmel.