

Communicationes N. 300

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Doctor Honoris Causa

Saint Teresa of Jesus awarded the degree *Doctor Honoris Causa* by the Catholic University of Avila

Avila-Spain, August 5, 2015 (Communicationes).- Saint Teresa of Jesus has been awarded the degree *Doctor Honoris Causa* by the Catholic university of Avila. This solemn tribute was backed by the rest of the Catholic universities taking part in the convocation of the "Saint Teresa of Jesus, Master of Life" inter-university congress celebrated from 1st to 3rd August in Avila.

The distinction of *Doctor Honoris Causa* is a honorific title granted, in this case by the Catholic university of Avila to Saint Teresa of Jesus, their patron saint, as part of the celebrations for the 5th centenary of her birth. The sponsor of the act who pronounced the *laudatio* was the Cardinal of Valencia, Antonio Cañizares Llovera.

The *reply* was given by the General of the Order, Fr Saverio Cannistrà. In his conference Fr Saverio point out that " a doctorate for Teresa is, finally, a tribute to the teacher of the ways of the Spirit, to the teacher of prayer. At the same time, it urges us to listen to her experience, acknowledging that the way she proposes is accessible to all: Teresa teaches us to pray, and what is more important, she stimulates us so that we pray, urges us to pray, forces us to recognize that prayer is an essential task, because it brings a myriad of goods for the believer and the Christian community".

European Youth Meeting

More than 5,500 young people gathering in Avila for the European youth meeting

Avila-Spain, August 5, 2015 (Communicationes).- More than 5,500 young people from throughout Europe (Spain, Italy, Portugal, Ireland, Poland, Malta), are arriving in Avila to take part in the European Youth Meeting which is to be celebrated in Avila as part of the celebrations for the 5th centenary of the birth of St Teresa of Jesus.

The meeting, organized by the Spanish Episcopal Conference in collaboration with the Avila diocese and the Discalced Carmelite Order, has chosen as its theme the Teresian phrase "Strong friends of God in difficult times".

The meeting will revolve around the figure of Saint Teresa of Jesus in order to make her known as a person and her importance in the life of the Church. Each day the youth will divide into groups to follow the three planned courses, which bear the names of the most significant works of the Saint.

The mornings will be devoted to catechesis and formation, directed by the more than 30 Spanish bishops who will be present in Avila. The evenings will be of a more playful and free nature, following the proposal "choose your own adventure". There will be a total of 15 activities to draw close to Saint Teresa and to live the faith while young.

At night the emphasis will be on music. Three musical festivals will provide the young people with the opportunity to enjoy contemporary Catholic artists.

Sanctuary

Inauguration of the "Our Lady of Mt Carmel" Marian sanctuary in the Buavu archdiocese, Congo

Bukavu-Congo, July 31, 2015 (Communicationes).- Only a few days ago, the Archbishop of Bukavu, His Grace, Mons. François-Xavier Maroy, blessed and inaugurated the Our Lady of Mt Carmel Marian sanctuary situated on Karhale hill, beside the Saint John of the Cross monastery of the Discalced Carmelite friars. Assisting at this event were a good number of religious, male and female, from the city of Bukavu and its surrounds.

Before the final blessing, Fr Roger Tshimanga, the Delegate General of the Discalced Carmelites in the Congo, found appropriate words to thank the pastor of the local Church for this sign of confidence in confiding the sanctuary to the Discalced Carmelites. At the end of his speech he took the opportunity of officially presenting Fr Christian Muta as the rector of the sanctuary.

In his homily, Mons. Maroy, the Archbishop of Bukavu, reminded all of the fundamental pillars of priestly ministry: to proclaim the Gospel, to be a pastor of God's people and to celebrate the liturgy with dignity.

Holy Land

Teresian meeting on Mount Carmel

Haifa-Israel, August 5 2015 (Communicationes).- Discalced Carmelite nuns, Mount Carmel. – On 25th July 2015, feast of St James, the apostle, there was held a Teresian meeting at our Mt Carmel monastery in Haifa, Israel. As part of the celebrations for the 5th centenary of the birth of our Holy Mother, St Teresa of Jesus and the Year for Consecrated Life, we invited the religious of Galilee, male and female, for an afternoon of reflection on Teresa. We set ourselves to listen, letting ourselves be questioned by her in order to shed light on our life as consecrated persons, as well as sharing this wealth in a fraternal manner.

Present with us for the occasion was Fr Maximiliano Herráiz, ocd, who gave us two conferences: “Prayer, the path of friendship” and “Journey to the interior of ourselves in order to grow in interpersonal relationship”.

After fraternal sharing between all the religious, including our Carmelite sisters from Jerusalem and Bethlehem, the afternoon concluded with sung Vespers in various languages and an exhibition of books on Teresian spirituality.

We want to give thanks to the Lord, giver of all that is good, and entrust to Him this tiny seed planted by us today.

“Hine, ma tov! (Ps 133:1) How good it is to be united as brothers...” sums up what we were able to experience and it is the grace we ask for our Holy Land: the peaceful coexistence of all those who pray here. . .