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Special International Teresian Meeting

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International Teresian Meeting

The International Teresian Meeting brought together one thousand pilgrims in Avila

Avila-Spain, August 14, 2015 (Communicationes).- The city of Avila received around one thousand pilgrims, from the five continents, who arrived in the city where St Teresa was born to participate in the International Teresian Meeting.

There were friars, nuns, religious from various congregations affiliated to the Order, Secular Carmel and diverse movements and groups of Carmel, as well as of Teresian spirituality. Groups from 20 countries arrived at Avila.

Moments of prayer and celebration gave the finishing touch to the occasion, which offered to the participants an experience of the present-day importance and universality of the Teresian charism, spread throughout the five continents and finding form in a variety of social situations and ecclesial realities.

This meeting served to reveal the universality of the Teresian charism and to establish a dialogue that allowed each religious family to draw close to the distinct realities in which the other congregations are immersed.

Every morning there was a time called “shared table” for dialoguing on the specific characteristics of the charism of each congregation and how they face the challenge of evangelization in their respective places of origin.

Taking part in the International Teresian Meeting were the Vicar General of the Order, Fr Agustí Borrell, Fr Daniel Chowning, Definitor General, the Iberian Provincial, Fr Miguel Márquez, the Provincial of Portugal, Fr Joaquim Teixeira and Generals of congregations affiliated to the Order.

Teresian Places

The Teresian places, central topic of the meeting

Avila-Spain, August 14, 2015 (Communicationes).- On each of the days of the Teresian International Meeting, the places associated with Teresa took place of importance. All the linguistic groups had the opportunity of visiting the principal Teresian places in Avila.

The pilgrims visited the La Santa church, built in the house where Teresa of Jesus was born, the Incarnation monastery and the monastery of St Joseph, the first monastery of the Discalced Carmelite reform.

In each one of the places, the pilgrims prayed for a while and received an historic-artistic explanation of the place.

As well, all the visits concluded with the celebration of the Eucharist in each one of these places.

Also, the participants of the International Teresian Meeting had the opportunity of visiting the Teresian places in Alba de Tormes, where St Teresa of Jesus died and her relics are venerated.

Music

Teresian music for drawing near to the message of Teresa of Jesus

Avila-Spain, August 14, 2015 (Communicationes).- The one thousand pilgrims of the International Teresian Meeting also had an encounter with music and dance. In fact, a festival of performing arts was celebrated in which took part 20 artists from 10 distinct nationalities, who performed the musical Para Vos Nací (For you was I born).

In this regard, the coordinator of musical activities for the V Centenary, Rogelio Cabado, pointed out that in the Meeting, groups from Brasil, China, India, Spain, the United States, Portugal, Nigeria, Japan and various countries of Latin America had taken part.

As Rogelio Cabado commented, "Music is of use in enabling us to draw close to Teresa. Her message is very much alive today and the proof of this is that she continues to inspire a multitude of artist everywhere in the world."

The common denominator for all the artists taking part was love for Teresa of Jesus and the conviction that her message is useful for the society of the XXI century.

On the other hand, music and dance played an important part in several of the workshops celebrated. For example, the group from Brasil directed a session on prayerful dance.

Finally, the musical "Para Vos Naci" was put on, in which more than 120 artists took part.

Fr Saverio

Message of Fr Saverio Cannistrà to those taking part in the International Teresian Meeting

Avila-Spain, August 14 (Communicationes).-

Very dear brothers and sisters of the Teresian Carmel,

I would like, briefly, to give you a very warm welcome to this meeting of the Teresian Carmelite family in Avila, in the centenary year of our Holy Mother Teresa. I would have liked so much to be with you here in person and to take part also in this grace-filled event, but obligations and various commitments hindered me. I am, however, with you during these days with my affection and my prayer.

In Avila, we feel welcomed by Teresa herself, who opens for us the doors and windows of her house, her monasteries, the churches where you go, the scenery you look upon, so that we, too, can share her experience as a woman, nun and mystic. My first desire for you is that you would meet with the person of Teresa, who would again allow you to be fascinated by her adventure. Here, everything speaks of her search for God, of her desire, of her thirst to "see God", of having a profound experience of her love and the liberty and peace that comes from relationship with Him alone: "God alone suffices: let nothing disturb you, nothing frighten you" I would like to be able to hear echoes of these words within your hearts while you visit these Teresian places, which witness to her sufferings and happiness, to dark nights and radiant light, to tiredness and sickness, but also to energetic impulses and courageous combat. Certainly, also, they will help you to listen to and to deepen in your experience the reflections and work groups prepared for this meeting.

There are two other ways which I encourage you to follow in these days, in parallel with the first. There are so many here coming from countries, cultures and histories quite distinct, but all are united to a common trunk, like leafy branches of a great tree. Now you can have a hands-on experience of what it means to be part of a large family extended throughout the world. All of you have before you an itinerary of fraternity, of closeness and reciprocal

enrichment. Every journey demands an effort. In this case there are the barriers of language, of timidity in presenting oneself to unknown people, the fact of having to “break the ice” and take the first step towards encounter with another.

But I am sure that the community climate, that will be created, will help you to communicate with one another as brothers and sisters, sons and daughters of the same Mother. Your fraternal communion will be the best gift you can make to you mother Teresa for her fifth centenary.

Finally, there is a personal itinerary that can never be lacking in a member of Teresa’s family: an itinerary of prayer, of silent encounter with the Friend who awaits us always, with the Teacher who desires to speak with us from within. How beautiful it would be, if for each one of you, these days could be a time for falling in love again with your own Carmelite vocation, a “charismatic recharge” giving you new enthusiasm, which changes the water of our fatigue and daily duties into the wine of joy and celebration!

Allow yourselves to be welcomed by Teresa, allow yourselves to be welcomed by so many brothers and sisters, allow yourselves to be welcomed by Jesus! Let the living water, flowing from this source of Avila, quench your thirst and transform aridity into fruitfulness, fatigue into enthusiasm, sadness into a joy that none can take away from you.

May God bless you all,

Fr Saverio Cannistrà ocd
Superior General