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Father Zdenko Križić, ocd, Bishop of Gospic-Senj (Croatia)

Pope Francis has appointed our brother, Zdenko Križić, as Bishop of Gospic-Senj (Croatia). Until the present, he served as rector of the Teresianum permanent community.

Father Zdenko was born on February 2, 1953, in Johovac (Bosnia-Herzegovina), in the heart of a Catholic family of Croatian origin.

He made his simple profession when he was 17 years old, on July 27, 1970, studied philosophy in Florence, and theology in the Teresianum. He made his solemn profession on July 16, 1976, in Zagreb, where he was also ordained on June 26, 1977.

He received his licentiate in theology from the Teresianum. His thesis was an analysis of biblical men and women in the work of Saint Teresa.

Father Zdenko has carried out various offices associated to the presence of our Order in Croatia: He was first counsellor of the Commissariat and prefect of the minor seminary. Once the province was created, he was provincial superior for six years and after that, Vicar as well as novice master.

His availability has not been limited to his province and the friars. During the period 2003 to 2009, when Father Luis Aróstegui was Superior General, Father Zdenko was Vicar General. He has accompanied our Discalced Carmelite nuns as advisor of the Croatian Federation and attended to various monasteries outside of his country. He has been rector of the Teresianum permanent community since 2012.

The episcopal see of the diocese of Gospic-Senj is the city of Gospic, and it is suffragan of the diocese of Fiume. It has about 65,000 baptized. It was established on May 25, 2000, by Pope Saint John Paul II and extends from the southern part of the region of Karlovac to the northern part of the regions of Lika and Senj in Croatia. It is also part of the diocese of the city of Zavalje in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

The region is economically poor, with 52 priests (nine of whom are religious) and 13 women religious.

Our Father General has written a letter to Father Zdenko from Usole, Siberia (Russia), where he is visiting nuns and friars of the Province of Warsaw. The letter, written in Italian, can be seen on our Italian-language website.

We transcribe here only one paragraph: "As is always the case when a brother is called to an office of this nature, my sentiments, and I think that of all your brothers and sisters, are of happiness for our disposition to serve the Church wherever she requests, but also nostalgia because you will no longer be able to live your bond with our family quite as intensely.

"Thank you very much, dear Father Zdenko, for all the good you have done within your family. May the Lord, through the intercession of Mother Teresa, Saint Joseph, and the Virgin Mary of Mount Carmel, pour His Spirit over you, such that He will always be your light and guide on the path of this new mission."

Approval of miracles

On 4th March last, the news bulletin of the Holy See carried the news that, having received Cardinal Angelo Amato, Prefect of the Congregation for the Causes of the Saints, Pope Francis authorized the promulgation of the decrees of approval of the miracles attributed to the intercession of Blessed Elizabeth of the Trinity and the Servant of God, Marie-Eugene of the Child Jesus.



The miracle attributed to the intercession of Blessed Elizabeth of the Trinity occurred in April 2002 in Flavignerot (Dijon), during a pilgrimage that Maria Paula Stevens made there, together with two close friends, in order to say goodbye to her beloved Elizabeth and to seek the grace of a Christian death, and to give witness to the infinite love of God. Since 1997, she had suffered from Sjorgen's syndrome, which had left her, first of all, an invalid and then brought her to death's door. She could no longer take solid food or move herself without the help of others, as well as being left with other sufferings. The cure from her symptoms was surprisingly and unexpectedly immediate, as well as being lasting.

For Fr Marie-Eugene, the miracle, which thankfully will enable him to be beatified, occurred on 27th October 1986: shortly after being born, a tiny boy had to undergo an operation for cystic hygroma in the neck and, three days afterwards, had to have an emergency operation for an unexpected hemorrhage. A fistula in the lymphatic duct caused a significant loss of lymph, with consequent metabolic, infectious and nutritional problems which seriously jeopardized his life. The sudden and mysterious disappearance of the drainage tube from his wound marked the beginning of a rapid improvement in the situation of the child, who could then be fed normally and discharged from hospital, without further complications.

Thanks be to God!



Meeting of the Discalced Carmelite Youth

In the previous celebration of the World Youth Day in 2011 and 2013, held in Avila and Rio de Janeiro respectively, the youth of the Teresian Carmel held a meeting beforehand to prepare themselves, as a family, for the following days.

This year, our friars of the OCD Province of Krakow are inviting us to reunite in the Czerna monastery on 27th July, around the persons of Mary, Mother of the Scapular, and Saint Raphael Kalinowski, together with Fr General, Saverio Cannistrà, who has written a letter to the Carmelite youth inviting them to take part in the meeting, which will prepare them to welcome Pope Francis to Krakow.

It is important for all of those desiring to take part, as a group or individually, to enroll themselves by using the form which can be found on the Web page prepared for our brothers and sisters: <http://karmel2016.com/>, set out in eight languages.



Jubilees at Vilvoorde Carmel

On 28 February 2016, as Holy Mother Church celebrates the Year of Mercy, Vilvoorde Carmel, the oldest-still existing community of Carmelite nuns in the world, also celebrated two jubilees (a): 50 years anniversary of their transition from the Ancient Observance (OCarm.) to the Teresian Carmel (OCD) in 1966 and 10 years anniversary of the elevation of the monastery church (Troostkerk) into a basilica (Troostbasilica) on 7 May 2006 by Pope John Paul II.

The joyful celebration, attended by around 250 people, was presided over by our archbishop-emeritus, H.E. Godfried Cardinal Danneels, DD. He was also the main celebrant in 2006. Concelebrating with him were Abbot Erik De Sutter, OPraem., Fr. Roeland Van Meersche, OCD Provincial of Flanders, and the community's present and past chaplains, confessors and permanent deacon. After the Cardinal's homily the Sisters renewed their profession of vows. The occasion was graced by the presence of the City Mayor of Vilvoorde with one of his council members. A special choir from a distant city, Dendermonde, filled the basilica with their melodies and gave a solemn to the celebration. Some Sisters from other Carmels, including the president of the Flemish Federation, joined the community on that grace-filled day.

After the Pontifical Mass the guests were treated to a simple Vilvoorde Carmel was the last Carmel founded by Blessed John Soreth in 1469, a year before he died. It may be recalled that he was the general of the Order, who started the female branch of the Order in the lowlands. The earlier foundations : Guelders (1452), Nieuwkerk en Dinant (both in 1455) and Liege (1457), Haarlem en Huy (1466), Namur (1467) * no longer exist thus Vilvoorde gets the distinction as the "oldest, still-existing community of Carmelite nuns in the world" with its unbroken history from 1469 up to the present. Now the community is composed of 8 Belgian and 5 Filipina Sisters, who rejuvenated the

community with their presence since 2003.

The Troostbasilica is a Marian pilgrimage site, having it in an ancient miraculous image of Our Lady of Consolation ("Troost" in Dutch) dating back to the 13th century, originally owned by St Elizabeth of Hungary. It qualified as a basilica for historical, spiritual, cultural and architectural reasons. The basilica is a protected monument and won the "1ste Prijs Monumentenzorg 2007 van de Vlaams-Brabant Provincie". To read more about the rich and interesting history of Vilvoorde Carmel visit the website: www.dentroost.be