

Communicaciones N° 16

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Latest book from Fr Camilo Maccise

F R I A R S

Rome

A MEETING OF THE TWO GENERAL COUNCILS OCD - O.CARM.

A meeting of the two Councils took place on the 18th December at our Casa Generalizia, all the Definitors from both Orders were present.

The meeting began with a moment of prayer. Fr Luis Arostegui thanked Frs. Joseph Chalmers O.Carm and Carlos Mesters O.Carm for their presence and contribution at our last General Chapter. He spoke of the importance of working together where possible and of promoting mutual fraternity.

Each one present then briefly introduced himself. Afterwards, the O.Carm Prior General, Fr Joseph Chalmers introduced the topics for discussion:

1. Joint Commission for Latin America

Fr. Carlos Mesters informed us of the history of this Commission, which has so far met nine times in the form of meetings-conferences, with its goal of spreading scriptural, theological, pastoral and spiritual reflections on Carmelite themes and experiences, all within the context of today's world, so that we may grow in communion as a Carmelite family, with all our differences and plurality, in serving the People of God in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Fr Nicolas Garcia OCD told us about the last meeting of the Commission which took place in Santiago, Chile (*see below*).

2. A Carmelite Dictionary

Fr Luigi Borriello O.C.D. and Fr Emanuele Boaga O.Carm have been entrusted with the presentation of this Dictionary. Fr Luigi explained to the two Councils the path they have followed until now for the drafting of the words, the criteria in choosing them, the common ground, the translations, the diffusion etc.

It was agreed to write a joint letter to all the Provincials, Nuns, Secular Order Fraternities and to the Affiliated Institutes, asking them how many copies they will order, with a 30% discount. The two Secretary Generals were asked to take responsibility for this.

Once the bookings have come in we shall know how many dictionaries to print. The English speaking Definitors will be meeting with the various Circumscriptions to decide where to print the Dictionary in English. The Italian edition will be ready by the end of 2004. The Spanish will be published by Monte Carmelo Publishers, Burgos.

3. The Celebrations for the 800th Anniversary of the Rule in 2007

Some suggestions were made as to how this might be done :-

- The possibility of having a seminar with specialists
- The need to present our Rule to the Laity in suitable way
- The need to expound the spirituality of the Rule to those in formation. The two members of the Council responsible for Formation, together with Frs Luigi Gaetani O.C.D. and Carlos Mesters O.Carm were given the task of preparing appropriate texts.

4. Mariological Association

Fr Joe Chalmers explained how this Association was established after the Mariological Seminar in June 2001, in Sassone, Italy, what its scope is, the wording of the first draft Statutes, which for now serve as guidelines.

5. Marian Liturgical Commission

We spoke about contacting the four OCD - O.Carm members of this joint Commission whose task it is to deepen our reflection on those passages linking Mary and Carmel.

6. Proposals of the Seminar on Psychology and Spirituality

We were informed that the proposals are currently being printed in the Czech Republic.

7. Carmelite Liturgy and Office in English

Fr William Harry O.Carm presented the Joint Carmelite Calendar in English.

The next meeting of the two General Councils will take place on the 24th May 2004 at the O.Carm Generalate.

Latin America

MEETING OF THE JOINT OCD - O.CARM COMMISSION

Los Andes, Chile, 21-26 September 2003

The meeting began on 21st Sept., at the Shrine of Teresa Jesus of the Andes Retreat Centre. There were sixteen participants: two General Definitors and fourteen others: Friars, Sisters and Laity of the two Orders. We were made very welcome by the Carmelite Friars and the Carmelite Missionary Sisters. The atmosphere was fraternal, prayerful and joyful throughout the reunion. The Carmelite Friars and Sisters who run the Shrine and the Retreat Centre made us feel at home. We were able to visit the Carmelite Nuns of Los Andes and

enjoy the beauty of the Los Andes mountains.

We agreed to ask that the General Councils arrange these meetings every three years rather than every year and the next meeting or conference should be in Mexico, 2006. The theme: *The Carmelite Rule, A Proposal for Life* as part of the preparation for the 8th centenary of the Rule in 2007. The Council of the Joint Commission formed two teams to this end: one to prepare, carry out and promote the Centenary and the other to reflect and animate.

THE ORDINARY GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MAJOR RELIGIOUS SUPERIORS OF LATIN AMERICA (CICLA) Sucumbios, Ecuador, 17-22 November 2003

Fr Nicolas Garcia, the Definitor General for Latin America, took part in the Ordinary General Assembly of the Major Religious Superiors, at Sucumbios, Ecuador. Present were: six Provincials, three Vicar-Provincials and seven Delegates.

Mons. Gonzalo Lopez, the Carmelite Bishop and the Delegate for Ecuador, Fr Jesus Arroyo, welcomed the group in the Church of San Miguel of Sucumbios, the place chosen by CICLA for the meeting so as to commemorate with our Brothers the 75th anniversary of this Church and the Carmelite presence in Ecuador. The celebrations, conducted in a spirit of faith, were very beautiful, full of joy, music, singing and dancing, flowers and souvenirs.

The main points of the Assembly were:

- The programme of activities from CICLA for 2003-2009. Including pastoral visits, general assemblies, regional meetings, congresses, courses, meetings with those responsible for formation, with those being formed, with parishes, with Friars and Nuns...
- To write a message encouraging all those involved in possible rebuilding programmes.
- To revise the Statutes and prepare a new redaction (that was approved by the General Definitory on the 17th December 03).
- To take up the suggestion made by Fr. Felix Malax to hold the 9th CICLA Congress on Spirituality in Los Andes, Chile, 25th October to 1st November 2004.

THE DEATH OF FR. MIGUEL ANGEL OF ST. JOSEPH, Father General 1967 - 1973

Fr Miguel Angel of St. Joseph (Miguel Batiz Bilbao) was taken to the Lord on the 23rd December 2003. He had been General of the Order during the sexennium 1967-1973. Born 1.11.1916 in Marquina (Vizcaya, Spain), professed 6.12.1932 in Larrea and ordained 31.8.1941. He taught theology in his Navarre Province, later going to Rome where he studied Canon Law, and in 1954 was sent to Alwaye Seminary in India (Kerala), where he was both professor and Rector until he was elected General at the Special Chapter of 1967. He led the Order during the difficult Post-Vatican II years. Afterwards he was appointed Rector of the Damasceno College in Rome and Consulter for the Oriental Congregation. He returned to his Province in 1993, where he continued to exercise his priestly ministry, particularly confessional, for as long as his strength allowed, in our Priory in Vitoria.

NOMINATIONS TO THE TERESIANUM (Rome)

The General Definitory, at its meeting of the 4th December, nominated the following to the Teresianum:-

- Fr. IVAN CLIFFORD PINTO, of the Karnataka-Goa Province as Bursar of the Faculty and Administrator of their Publications *for one year*.
- Fr. ARTURO BELTAN, of the Aragon-Valencia Province as Librarian.
- Fr. LUIS JORGE GONZALEZ, of the Mexican Province, as Ordinary Professor.

FIRST DANISH CARMELITE

Communicationes rejoices in the news that the seed of Carmelite vocations has taken root in Denmark. Our first Danish Carmelite, David, a former diocesan Priest from Denmark, received the habit of the Order on the 8th December 2003.

The good news was sent to us by Fr. Anders Arborelius, OCD Bishop of Stockholm, Sweden.

N U N S

NEW COUNCIL FOR THE ANDALUSIAN ASSOCIATION

At the General Assembly of the Andalusian Association, 22 - 26 November 2003, the following were elected to the Council:-

President:	Sr. Mercedes María from Sanlúcar la Mayor
1 st Councillor:	Sr. Belén from Málaga
2 nd Councillor:	Sr. María Aurora from Granada
3 rd Councillor:	Sr. María Concepción from Úbeda
4 th Councillor:	Sr. María Dolores from Cádiz

We congratulate these Sisters and wish them well in their work.

ANOTHER MONASTERY JOINS THE 'REGINA PACIS' ASSOCIATION, IN ITALY

With the Decree No. 4973/2003 of the Congregation for the Institutes of Consecrated Life and the Societies of Apostolic Life, the 10th December 2003, the Monastery of Discalced Carmelite Nuns, of Enna (Sicily), was joined to the "Regina Pacis" Association of Discalced Carmelite Nuns in Italy.

FIRST STEPS TOWARDS THE AMALGAMATION OF TWO FEDERATIONS IN FRANCE

With the Decree No. FM 22, C-1/2003, the 10th Dec 2003 by the Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life, the President of the Federation of the Discalced Carmelite Monasteries of Paris, Sr. Alix-Anne de Nanteuil, has obtained permission to convene an Extraordinary Federal Assembly in order to study together the possibility of amalgamating the two Federations of northern France, i.e., the Federation of Paris (26 Monasteries) and Lisieux (18 Monasteries).

OUR SAINTS

NEW BLESSED DISCALCED CARMELITE MOTHER MARIA CANDIDA OF THE EUCHARIST

The Beatification of Mother MARIA CANDIDA OF THE EUCHARIST (1884-1949), Discalced Carmelite Nun from Sicily (Italy) will take place in St Peter's, Rome, on the 21st March 2004. She died in the odour of sanctity on the 12th June 1949. Her Process began in 1956. The miracle, which was approved for her Beatification, took place a few hours after her death: a fellow Sister, who had acted as her nurse for many years, asked Mother Candida to intercede for her, and was cured instantly of an incurable sore that had troubled her for more than twenty years.

She entered the Carmel of Ragusa (Sicily) in 1920. With her enthusiasm and example she helped to build up the Community. She made a new foundation in Syracuse, and helped to bring about the return of the Friars to the island of Sicily in 1946.

The deeply eucharistic dimension to her spirituality was expressed in these words by the new Blessed: "I ask my Jesus to post me as a guard at all the tabernacles of the world until the end of time".

NEW O.C.D. VENERABLE

In the presence of the Holy Father John Paul II, the *Decree on the Heroic Virtues of Fr. BENIGNO OF ST TERESA OF THE INFANT JESUS* (Angelo Calvi, 1909-1937) was published on the 20th December 2003. He entered Carmel after working in a secular career. He was ordained, made Parish Priest and Assistant Director of Novices at Concesa, Milan. He observed the Rule and was very active in pastoral ministry. He was particularly responsible for the Sacrament of Reconciliation, for the "Catholic Action" Movement, and Religious Vocations. He loved the Discalced Carmelite Province of Lombardy and gave himself totally in its service. He died a holy death. (*Osservatore Romano*, 21.12.2003. p 5).

FR. BERNARDINO LIETO, O.C.D. A Man Full of Compassion

On the 15th November 2003, the city of Bari (Italy), publically recognized the pastoral contribution of Fr. Bernardino Lieto, who for more than forty years ministered to the sick of that city, and is dearly missed by them. A bronze bust of Fr Bernardino, the work of Prof. Mario Colonna, was unveiled at the entrance to the main cemetery, in the presence of the Mayor of Bari and other Officials, Fr Mario Picherri, Parish Priest of our Parish in the city, as well as the Religious Community and a group of the Faithful.

Fr Bernardino Lieto, was born 20th February 1913, died 21st July 1990. He worked tirelessly for the people of Bari as Chaplain at the cemetery, Diocesan Exorcist, Confessor and Spiritual Director, still today he is remembered with affection.

He was a Carmelite who lived his religious consecration to the full giving himself for others. With his passionate love for God he went out to share the pain of his neighbour, in particular those suffering the loss of a dear one, and those in spiritual anxiety. This pastoral man touched the hearts of so many people who had come to know him and appreciated what he did, his constant availability and simplicity, his care of the poor and the warm welcome he gave to all, at any time.

May this memorial, thirteen years after the death of this exemplary religious, enlighten our own paths to lead us to what is essential. The city of Bari does not want to be known only for the bad things but rather for the good things that are done by so many of its citizens. There

is here, in fact, a history that is good, that can sustain our people. The Church of Bari-Bitonto offers this humble peaceful Friar, a discreet sign of the presence of God, as a witness to so many other Religious and Priests. He was to all the People of God that knew him and appreciated him a sign of hope and compassion.

NEW BOOK

A new book by Fr. Camilo Maccise has been published by *Monte Carmelo*, Burgos, Spain. It is entitled *Escucha Israel_ Perfil orante de los libros Bíblicos (Listen O Israel! A Prayerful View of the Books of the Bible)* . The Bible tells us that we must speak with God and listen to Him in this life. Here God speaks to us as He did to the People of God in ancient times. The Bible is, without doubt the richest in experiences of prayer. It is fundamentally a story of the encounter between God and humankind.