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Argentina - La Plata
SILVER JUBILEE OF FOUNDATION

The Priory of La Plata, Argentina, celebrates the 25th anniversary since its foundation. The Discalced Carmelite Friars arrived in 1979 at the request of the then Archbishop, Mgr. Antonio Jose Plaza. Today the Priory is a House of Prayer and Spirituality offering to the People of God, the richness of Christian and Carmelite Spirituality. Together with courses on Spirituality, there are others on the Bible, St John of the Cross. Teresian prayer groups attend meetings here and work in the specific apostolate of our Order. The House of Prayer has established a website: www.laplataocd.com.ar which offers the opportunity to recite the Liturgy of the Hours.

We give thanks to God and the Blessed Virgin for the tremendous blessings that we have received in these 25 years. Blessed be God!

CARMELITE INSTITUTE CONFERENCE
Chicago, 2 1-24 July 2004

The Carmelite Institute (CI), with its office in Washington, DC, was founded in 1993 by the five Carmelite and Discalced Carmelite provincials of the United States and Canada, with the encouragement of the Generalates of both Orders. It serves the needs of the entire Carmelite family—OCD and O.Carm., friars, nuns, affiliated religious, and laity—as well as all those interested in the study and practice of deeper spirituality.

The CI recently hosted a major conference on “Carmel as a Sign of Hope and Healing in Our Troubled World,” held 2 1-25 July 2004 at the Palmer House Hilton in downtown Chicago. Over 200 participants attended. Speakers reflected on the pressing issues of our time and the resources our great spiritual tradition offers in meeting these challenges. Featured presenters, and their topics, included:

— Frs. Joseph Chalmers, O.Carm. (Father General of the Carmelite Order): “Carmel and Hope: Inner Healing for Our Troubled Selves”
— Luis Aróstegui Gamboa, OCD (Father General of the Discalced Carmelite Order): “Carmel’s Spiritual and Practical Resources for Healing in the Developing World”
— Mgr Jean Sleiman, OCD (Latin archbishop of Baghdad): “Prophecy but Kenosis: The Meaning of Today’s Christian Presence in the Middle East”
Bishop Anders Arborelius, OCD (bishop of Stockholm): “The Church in the Carmelite Tradition: Sign of Hope and Healing in Our Individualistic World”

Dianne Bergant, CSA (Professor of Old Testament Studies, Catholic Theological Union, Chicago): “Give an Explanation for the Hope Within You’ (1 Peter 3:15)”


Quinn Conners, O.Carm. (licensed clinical psychologist and staff member, St. Luke Institute, Washington, DC): “Darkness in the Church: A Carmelite Response [to the Sexual Abuse Crisis]”


Charlotte Rogers, LPC (Brookland Pastoral Center, Washington, DC): “Spiritual Disaster Preparedness: Extending Our Roots to Weather Storms”

Robert Schreiter, CPPS (Bernardin Center Vatican Council II Chair in Theology, Catholic Theological Union, Chicago): “Pursuing the Contemplative Dimension in a Spirituality of Reconciliation”

Andrew Skotnicki, O.Carm. (associate professor of religious studies, Manhattan College): “Prisoners for Christ: Voluntary and Involuntary”

Community of Prayer and Service” by Carmelite panelists from around the world, as well as a piano recital by James Boyce, O.Carm., assistant professor of music at Fordham University in New York. The conference attracted major media attention in the United States, particularly because of the participation of the archbishop of Baghdad, Jean Sleiman, whose visit and lecture generated numerous television, radio, and newspaper stories. Francis Cardinal George, archbishop of Chicago, also came to greet the participants and introduce Mgr Sleiman.

At the conclusion of the conference, the two Generals (Luis Aróstegui Gamboa, OCD and Joseph Chalmers, O.Carm.) signed a document on behalf the conference participants, endorsing the eight United Nations “Millennium Development Goals”:

1. Eradicate Poverty and Hunger
2. Achieve Universal Primary Education
3. Promote Gender Equality and Empower Women
4. Reduce Child Mortality
5. Improve Maternal Health
6. Combat HIV/AIDS, Malaria, and Other Diseases
7. Ensure Environmental Sustainability
8. Develop a Global Partnership for Development

This document was subsequently presented to the United Nations by our Carmelite and Discalced Carmelite representatives on 9 September 2004. The Carmelite Institute hopes to make the proceedings of the conference available in videotape, audiocassette, and printed form. For further information, visit the CI website (www.carmeliteinstitute.org) or contact the Carmelite Institute, 1600 Webster Street, NE, Washington, DC 20017 (mail@carmeliteinstitute.org).
A STATUE OF SAINT TERESA OF AVILA
IN THE HOLY FAMILY CHURCH OF GAUDI, BARCELONA

The Holy Family Church (La Sagrada Familia) is like a 'modern cathedral' in Barcelona. It was designed by the great Catalan architect, Antonio Gaudi, and today attracts tourists from all over the world. The Church, which is still under construction, is a poem in stone which, Gaudi being inspired by the shapes he saw in nature, and it recalls the New Creation, from the Annunciation to the Ascension of the Lord.

The sublime towers, each a different height, recall the Apostles, the Blessed Virgin and Jesus Christ, whose tower is the highest and most central. The exterior evokes the mountains of Montserrat (close to Barcelona) and the interior, the Castle as described by St Teresa.

On the 16th October the entire Teresian Carmelite Family from Catalonia-Balearic Islands celebrated the blessing of the statue of St Teresa, almost three metres high, and paid for by the contribution of many. Present were Discalced Friars and Nuns, Carmelite Missionary Sisters, Carmelite Teresians of St Joseph, The Company of St Teresa of Jesus, the Teresian Institute, all with their respective major superiors, as well as The Secular Order and the laity representing the local Christian communities. More than fifty people were in the crypt to celebrate the Eucharist and to witness the blessing of the statue. The people of Catalan and the Balearic Region returned home to vibrate with the spirit of St Teresa.

SIXTH MEETING THE TERESIAN CARMELITE FAMILY OF CATALONIA AND THE BALEARIC ISLES

In the month of October the Catalanian-Balearic Teresian Carmelite Family celebrated its annual meeting with the typical Carmelite fraternity, recreation and prayer.

This year coincided with the blessing of the statue of St Teresa in the church of the Holy Family, Barcelona. After the liturgical celebration we gathered at a local college to continue the festivities.

Fr Thomas Alvarez, our best known Teresian scholar, spoke at the end. Three hundred people filled the room while he invited us to try and get inside the mind of St. Teresa. His talk was entitled: Saint Teresa of Jesus and Modern Criticism. With the final singing of the 'Salve', the well-wishes of all those who took part, and a group photo for prosperity, we said our goodbyes and look forward to meeting next year.

"THE HEIRS OF SAINT TERESA"

A Symposium Sponsored by the Institute of Carmelite Studies (co-sponsored by Fr John Sullivan OCD), the Carmelitana Collection of Whitefriars Hall, and Georgetown University’s Department of Spanish and Portuguese, was held on Saturday, October 16, 2004 at Georgetown University, Washington, D.C.

The papers in this interdisciplinary symposium investigate the lives and contributions of individuals within the Carmelite reform who, after St. Teresa of Ávila’s death in 1582, worked to propagate and defend her legacy, including Ana de San Bartolomé, Ana de Jesús, María de San José, Ana de San Agustín, and Jerónimo Gracián de la Madre de Dios. A further focus is the reception of the Teresian heritage in early modern Europe, as mediated by these Discalced Carmelites and by Teresa’s published writings.
Spain - Pamplona
III CONGRESS OF THE IBERIAN OCDS
30 September – 3 October, 2004

There were 97 participants in the Third Congress of the Iberian OCDS, including Father Aloysius Deeney, OCD, General Delegate to the Secular Order. The participants were from the Provinces of Spain and Portugal. The Congress took place at the retreat house of the Handmaids of Christ the King, in the city of Pamplona.

The themes of the Congress were directed by the General Delegate and dealt with the 7 chapters of the Constitutions of the OCDS. The Delegate urged the members of the Iberian OCDS to consider themselves “re-founders” of the Secular Order in Spain and Portugal. Other topics were presented by Pilar Mijares of the Province of Andalusia and Father Jeremias C. Vechina of Portugal.

Study groups were organized to consider practical questions of how to encourage the growth and development of the OCDS in Spain and Portugal. The groups were composed of a mixture of members from different Provinces, and the priest-assistants who were present formed their own group.

The following points were settled as practical conclusions:

- Form a Provincial Council and Provincial Statutes in each Province
- Strengthen the formation program and the apostolate in each community
  - Accent the work of the Formation personnel as “accompaniment” of those who are in the process of joining the OCDS.
- Evaluate the role and function of the Spiritual Assistants

The liturgical celebrations and other activities were well prepared by the hosts, the OCDS community of Pamplona and the National Board of the OCDS.

Italy - Genova
EDITH STEIN EXHIBITION


It was organized by Fr. Antonio Sangalli OCD and Bruno Biotti, and consisted of forty pieces, divided into four sections, containing photographic records and exclusive writings of Edith Stein, the great seeker of truth. The exhibition covered the life of Edith Stein according to themes, including her life as a Jew, philosopher, atheist, convert to Catholicism, Carmelite nun, who died a martyr in Auschwitz. After her canonization Pope John Paul II declared her to be co-patroness of Europe.

The exhibition, which will last until November 7, is presented in the Diocesan Museum and has the official backing of the Archdiocese of Genova, and in this way being part of the celebrations for this city which this year has been chosen as the European capital of culture.

The Edith Stein Association in Italy had at the same time organized a meeting on the 30th October, to examine the most important aspects of her personality, seen from a philosophical viewpoint and covering her life and community and her mysticism. Of particular importance was an examination of her moral and religious witness which can constitute an example for generations to come.
NEW BOOKS OCD


This book is a response to a basic question: Why do so many scientists mistrust the religious experience of Teresa of Jesus? The writer responds by presenting and analyzing the mystical experience of Teresa; for him it something empirical that can be proven, that was lived and verified; open to scientific and philosophical analysis; and also appealing to the modern reader.


This book guides to assimilate Christian faith and spiritual doctrine, challenging both formators and formee. It offers tips for selection of the candidates and for formation during the periods of initial and on-going formation. A good manual for formation work.


Edizioni OCD, Roma-Morena, 2004:
La Passione. Based on the film by Mel Gibson. Photography from the film “The Passion”. 144 p. 29 cm.

DOBNER, CRISTIANA [OCD], La rugiada di Dio. Majam di Ges Crocifisso. 48 p. 29 cm.


Traccia per un programma di formazione dei membri dell’OCDS. Edited by the Italian Interprovincial Centre, OCD. 2004. 55

FRATRES DEFUNCTOS (15.10.2004) http://www.ocd.pcn.net/defunti/Fr_Def2.htm
MONIALES DEFUNCTÆ (15.10.2004) http://www.ocd.pcn.net/defunti/n_def7.htm