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The Earthquake in Peru

During our European summer break from July to September, *Communicationes* published an extraordinary edition about the earthquake in Peru (15th August), telling of the consequences for our brothers and sisters in this Regional Vicariate of the Navarre Province. Replying to our appeal, various communities sent their contributions to help reconstruct the damage done by this seismic disaster.

(cfr. <http://www.ocd.pcn.net/news/peruEN.htm>
http://www.communicationes.org/file/PERU_EN.doc)

The Secretariat of the Missions in the General House arranged to send to Peru the donations received in reply to its appeal for solidarity. So far two Italian Provinces, a Federation and various monasteries of the Discalced Carmelite Nuns have replied. Other communities made direct contact. The Navarre Province, on which the Regional Vicariate of Peru depends, used its own channels to dispatch help. The solidarity shown by the Order to our brothers and sisters in this Andean country affected by such a strong seismic shock was both important and satisfactory.

Letter of our Major Superiors on the Carmelite Rule

On 16th July, Solemnity of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, the OCarm Prior General, Fr. Joseph Chalmers, and the OCD Superior General, Fr Luis Arostegui, jointly signed the letter commemorating the (approximate) eighth centenary of the Carmelite Rule. It is written to "all the various branches of our Family." It finishes by praising "the Lord for all the Saints, known and unknown" who have been sanctified over these 800 years "of allegiance to Jesus Christ", in the expressive phrase from our first body of laws.

Translated into various languages, the letter has already been sent to all the communities. To all the readers of COMMUNICATIONES we offer an alternative way to read it on the site:

<http://www.communicationes.org/file/800EN.doc>
<http://www.ocd.pcn.net/reg800EN.htm>

Fr Mario Caprioli dies in Rome 1928- 2007

On the evening of Saturday, 21st July, at a quarter past seven, Fr Mario Caprioli, of the Venice Province, died in San Camilo hospital in Rome. On the morning of 18th July, he fell backwards from one of the external staircases of the Teresianum. The cranial trauma caused a cerebral clot. After an emergency operation, he remained near death, unconscious and in a coma.

He was born on 20th February 1928 in Remedillo (Brescia). After studying the humanities from 1939 to 1944 in the Adro College, he made his first vows on 27th August, 1945. He was sent to the International College in Rome for his theological studies where he obtained his Licentiate in 1953 and his doctorate in 1955. His dissertation on "Prayer and virtues according to St Teresa of Jesus" was published in Castilian in two issues of "Revista de Espiritualidad (Madrid 1959, pp. 467-503; 1960,

pp. 39-50). He was professor of theology from 1954 to 1961 in the Venice College. From 1961 to 1963 he was prior of our monastery in Trent. In 1963 he came to Rome as Vice-Rector of the Teresianum (1963-1966), after which he spent the rest of his life as secretary to the Faculty and as professor. He was Rector from 1976 to 1979.

In his own field of theological research, he published various essays on priestly spirituality as well as numerous bibliographical catalogues. On 25th July, Fr General presided at his funeral Mass and gave the homily on this humble and willing Carmelite. In his words of appreciation and farewell, the Rector, Fr Virgilio Paschetto, placed emphasis on the pastoral aspect of the life of Fr Mario Caprioli, as a confessor to so many religious communities and as an assiduous preacher of retreats.

Iraq continues to be in the news

... not only in the international sphere. On a Carmelite level, in reading the news of the daily happenings and through an association of ideas and our fraternal solidarity, it is easy for us to think of our friars in Bagdad who live in the midst of bombs and explosions, with the continual and imminent risk of falling victim to a terrorist attack. Our four professed brothers do not have the possibility of studying in Bagdad. Because of this, they set out in July from their country to continue their formation in Beirut, Lebanon, and in Egypt at our Mehadi house in Cairo. However, the Egyptian authorities denied visas to our brothers because they were from Iraq. So the four of our brothers had to remain in Beirut (Lebanon). Two are studying in the Catholic University. The other two have been enrolled in a course for deeper study of the faith, a type of catechetical school.

Fr. Manuel Hernández remains in Spain. The Iraqi, Fr Thomas, is going to France this September, where he will remain for some time. In our Bagdad monastery, only the superior, Fr Ghadir, is to be found attending to details. There is also Mons. Jean Sleiman in his Latin cathedral. The reason for this dispersion is cruel, but realistic. If a terrorist attack should cause death, at least all will not be killed..... The decision reveals the permanent gravity of the situation (for how long?). In our contact with them, we have assured them that they are in the thoughts and prayers of the whole Order. In this situation of continual risk, of insecurity, of shortages, the cost of living is astronomically high.

New Congress on Mysticism

An international congress on "The experience of God today and Carmelite mysticism" will be held from 16th to 22nd September at Zidine, Bosnia-Herzegovina (Province of Croatia). This is a follow-up to the International Congress on Mysticism which was held from 3rd to 10th September, 2003, at Würzburg (Germany). In commenting on this congress and its central theme—Mysticism—the theologian, François-Marie Dermine, OP, wrote an article in the "Osservatore Romano" with the meaningful title "The return of a great absence". The new congress places mystical experience once more in the present-day theological debate, in an effort to reply to the challenges arising from various cultural and religious areas in today's thought. It attempts an answer to these questions: What does Teresian Carmelite mysticism have to say to the various Christian and religious experiences of today's world? Should past positions be maintained, or should there be an opening to what is new, attempting to interpret it and to offer adequate replies?

With no less than 32 conferences and debates, the congress will have the following sections: 1) Mystical experience, 2) The study of Mysticism, 3) Inter-religious dialogue, 4) Mysticism and culture, 5) Mysticism and health. Of course, titles of a Carmelite nature will emerge in the general topic. Those giving the lectures come from around the world.