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An interview about Saint Teresa

Fr Tomás Álvarez: "Saint Teresa is a loud and clear prophet for modern times"

Rome-Italy, January 15, 2011 (Communicationes).- "Never has Saint Teresa been read with such topicality as today. Saint Teresa is God's witness, a loud and clear prophet for modern times", pointed out the Discalced Carmelite, Tomás Álvarez, in referring to present day reception of the work and message of Saint Teresa.

In an interview granted to the magazine "Teresa de Jesús", of which he has been an assiduous collaborator, the Teresian specialist acknowledged that the coming centenary of the birth of saint Teresa would have greater pastoral impact than the one in 1982, since the preparation has been more intense. "Within the Carmelite family, there has been a much closer drawing together around the Saint since the beginning of the continuous reading of Teresa's works, one after the other", expressed the prestigious Teresian expert.

The magazine "Teresa de Jesús", which presents a new image in this year of its three decades of life, afforded Father Tomás Álvarez the opportunity to discuss his life's work concerning the foundress of the Teresian Carmel. It is a work that goes back to 1938 when there came to hand the book of the Mansions, during the time of his noviciate.

In the interview, Fr Tomás referred to the declaration of Saint Teresa as a Doctor of the Church as "the greatest of the Teresian events", and stated that the great wealth we possess is to have Teresa's own hand-written books in which is discovered "the excitement the saint had in writing".

New monument in Montserrat

Closing of the bicentenary of the birth of Blessed Francis Palau

Lleida-Spain, December 30, 2011 (Communicationes).- The parish church of Aitona (Lleida), the city where blessed Francis Palau was born, yesterday hosted the closing ceremonies commemorating the II centenary of the birth of this Discalced Carmelite blessed.

A thanksgiving Mass put the finishing touch on the celebrations, which during this year commemorated our blessed Catalan Carmelite, who suffered from the enforced exlaustration of the XIX century. Concelebrating at the Eucharist were the bishops of Lleida and of Seu d'Urgell – Mons. Joan Piris and Mons. Joan-Enric Vives – as well as the Discalced Carmelite

Catalan Provincial, Fr Agustí Borrell, and a numerous group of Carmelites from various provinces, together with diocesan priests.

As well, on 27th December at Montserrat, there was the blessing and positioning of a new monolith dedicated to blessed Francis Palau. The former one, erected in 1989 shortly after his beatification, had deteriorated with time. Now it has been totally renewed and modernized, with a ceramic work prepared by the Montserrat Benedictine nuns, and replaced in its original position on the busy Sant Miquel road.

Assisting at the ceremony were the Superior General of the Teresian Carmelite Missionary Sisters, Sr Luisa Ortega; the Superior General of the Carmelite Missionary Sisters, Sr Cecilia Andrés, as well as the Provincial of Catalonia, Fr Agustí Borrell. Afterwards, a large group of representatives from both congregations, friars and sisters from the Teresian Carmel and other guests joined together in a small thanksgiving ceremony to God for the life and example of Fr Palau, who experienced on this mountain of Montserrat some of the spiritual graces that marked his life's journey.

Central Africa

Forty missionary years in the heart of Africa

Bouar-Central Africa, December 26, 2011 (Communicationes).- The Genoa Carmelite Province celebrated last month, December, the 40th anniversary of its missionary presence in the Republic of Central Africa.

On the 13th December, with this in mind, the St Elie monastery in Bouar hosted the celebration of a Plenary Council of the Provincial Delegation to which came the Provincial of Genoa, Fr Marzo Gazzoli, and other friars who arrived from Italy for the occasion.

Among the topics touched on and analysed by those assisting in the meeting was the Presentation on the State of the Order, given by Fr General, Saverio Cannistrà, in the Extraordinary Definitory held in September; the post-synodal exhortation *Africae Munus* in the questions dealing with formation; as well as the preparatory document for the Carmelite Congress for Africa, which will be celebrated in Nairobi from 6th to 10th of February.

On the following day, the feast of St John of the Cross, the anniversary was celebrated of the arrival of the Carmelite friars to Central Africa in the person of the first two missionaries from the Genovese Province: Fr Carlo and Fr Nicolò, as well as the founder and first Rector of the Yole Minor Seminary, Fr Domenico Rossi.

The celebrations concluded with a solemn Mass in the Bozoum parish at which presided the Bishop of Bouar, Mons. Armando Gianni. During the Mass, Br Cyriaque Jessy Soumbou was ordained priest.

Comprehensive Centre on St John of the Cross

All the publications concerning our saintly Carmelite will be gathered together

Fontiveros-Spain, December 24, 2011 (Communicationes).- A Comprehensive Centre, dedicated to Saint John of the Cross, will gather together all the publications about the Carmelite mystic which have been written in the various languages.

The Centre is located in the Avila neighborhood of Fontiveros, the place of the Saint's birth, and will have a guest house, a lecture hall for conferences and events, a library, cafeteria and museum.

The Centre is also trying to achieve another milestone, in obtaining recognition to be included in the Religious Tourism that the Castile and León City Council are setting up in the area, the principal theme being "The footsteps of Teresa". The Director of Culture for the Castile and León City Council spoke of this in the opening ceremony which took place in Fontiveros on the feast of Saint John of the Cross, on December 14th last.

"Praying with the mystics"

Receive a prayer in your Email

Portugal, December 24, 2011 (Communications).- "Praying with the mystics" is the name of a novel initiative started by the Discalced Carmelite Province of Portugal.

Since 14th December last, the feast of St John of the Cross, the web site of the Portugal Carmelites www.carmelitas.pt offers the possibility of receiving daily by Email a prayer or thought from the Carmelite mystics.

They will consist of a prayer of a holy Carmelite, or inspired by the prayerful thoughts of the saint or blessed in question, prayers that invite you to spontaneous prayers of praise, petition or thanksgiving and which try to help you create a prayerful and refreshing pause in the midst of hectic and exhausting days.

This is an initiative started through the collaboration of the whole Carmelite family of Portugal: the Discalced Carmelite Nuns, Secular Carmel, Discalced Carmelite Friars, the Carmelite Missionary Sisters and the Teresian Carmelite Missionary Sisters, together with other groups of Christians who know Carmelite spirituality and nourish themselves with it.

To receive "Praying with the mystics" daily, all you have to do is to go to the web page www.carmelitas.pt and enroll you.