

Communicationes N. 141

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Theme: "Caritas in Veritate"

Teresianum's 51st Spirituality Week

Rome, 16 February 2010 (Communicationes).- This year (21-25 February) the Pontifical Theological Faculty of the Teresianum celebrates its 51st Spirituality Week. Pope Benedict XVI's recent Encyclical "Charity in Truth", "Development needs Christians" provides the theme for the week's presentations. The Encyclical, with its careful analysis of the causes of the present economic crisis, has aroused world-wide interest, far beyond the confines of the Catholic Church.

The Governor of the Bank of Italy, Antonio Fazio, will open the Spirituality Week proceedings with a paper on "The Encyclical 'Charity in Truth' in our present social-economic context". Later on that evening a group of the Faculty Professors will analyse the repercussion of the Pope's message from different viewpoints. On Thursday 25, the Vicar General of the Order, Fr. Emilio J. Martiñez, will conclude the week's presentations with a paper entitled: "Change man's heart in order to give a heart to the world. Reflections in the light of number 21 of Charity in Truth".

The Spirituality Week is a project of the Institute of Spirituality of the Teresianum Faculty. At the beginning of each Lent for the past 50 years, this event treated important themes in the field of Christian Spirituality. This year's 51st anniversary provides part of the celebrations of the 75th anniversary of the Teresianum Faculty itself.

Pope may sign decree for beatification before Easter

Beatification of ven. Juan de Palafox y Mendoza

Rome, 8 February 2010 (Communicationes).- The Postulator General of the Order, Fr. Ildefonso Moriones, informs us that the Ordinary Congregation of Cardinals and Bishops dealing with the Cause of Juan de Palafox y Mendoza has approved the miracle attributed to the intercession of the Venerable Bishop. This approval clears the way for his Beatification. Fr. Ildefonso, Postulator for the Cause, has been told that Pope Benedict will sign the Decree for

Beatification before Easter. A date and venue for the Beatification of Bishop Juan, who had close historical links with our Order, will then be promulgated.

Pope Benedict declared Juan de Palafox 'Venerable' on 17 January 2009 when his "heroic Christian virtues" were recognised by the Congregation for the Causes of Saints.

The Miracle

The miracle approved by the Vatican was the cure of Fr. Lucas Fernández de Pinedo, a 66 year old priest from the ex-diocese of Osma (Spain) where Bishop Juan was buried.

Fr. Lucas suffered from probable tuberculosis (incurable at that time). and his doctors had given up all hope of recovery. Fr. Moriones writes that "the priest had made his will, received the last Sacraments and bade farewell to his parishioners, when his nephew (also a priest) brought him a relic of Palafox". The invalid received the relic, entrusted himself to the intercession of Palafox and went quietly to sleep, which had been an impossibility for many weeks. His illness disappeared instantly and, in the space of four hours, he was restored to perfect health.

Juan de Palafox y Mendoza

He was born on 24 June 1600 in the village of Fitero (Navarre, Spain). His intelligence and good sense of government had been noticed at an early age by the Marquis of Ariza. The Count-Duke of Olivares recommended him to Madrid where he was employed in the fiscal offices of the War Council and Council for the Indies.

His sister's Lucrezia's illness and the death of two colleagues in 1628 marked a radical change in Palafox's life. He began to frequent the Sacraments and to pray seriously. All this led to his eventual ordination to the priesthood in 1629.

He was consecrated Bishop in 1639 and was transferred from Madrid to Mexico as Titular Bishop of Puebla and Viceroy of New Spain. Neither work nor difficulties were lacking in his new offices but he quickly gained the esteem and affection of his clergy and faithful. He became an outstanding defender of the rights of the native Indians. One of his major pastoral achievements was to consolidate the different missions in his jurisdiction into a well organised diocese.

He returned to Spain later as Bishop of Osma. He lived a life of notable austerity, paying particular attention to the poor and sick throughout his diocese. He died peacefully on 1 October 1659, bequeathing to his loved ones only the bare necessities of life that he owned. The Diocesan Chapter, following the directives in his will, organised a pauper's funeral for him "as witness to the poverty in which he died".

By María Cruz Pérez García ocd

Profile of sister María de san José

Rome, 8 February 2010 (Communicationes).- María de San José firmly believed that the daughters of St. Teresa, who could observe her virtues from close quarters, knew her far better than those who met her only occasionally or heard about her at second hand. This prompted her decision to write about Teresa for the benefit of her own sisters and those who

were to come afterwards. One of these successors is the author of the present study – Sr. María Cruz from the Carmel of Calahorra. She has felt for a long time that someone should chronicle the life of María de San José as the latter had done for St. Teresa. Just as María de San José looked on Teresa as the Mother Foundress, María Cruz sees the subject of her book as the first link in the chain leading us back to St. Teresa. This insight provides the key to a full appreciation of this 374 page profile, edited by *Monte Carmelo* and sponsored by *Fundación Carmelo*.

María Cruz, making careful use of her primary sources, especially the writings of the protagonists themselves and *Monumenta Historica Carmeli Teresiani*, produces the best profile to date of Sr. María de San José. She does this, we might say, by presenting us with a kind of “family portrait” where Teresa, John of the Cross, Jerome Gracián, Anne of Jesus, Nicholaás Doria and many other members of the Order enrich her tapestry.

Krakow 1991

Carmelite Institute of Spirituality affiliated with Teresianum

Krakow, 5 February 2010 (Communicationes).- On 11th January 2010, Fr. General, Grand Chancellor of the Pontifical Theological Faculty of the Teresianum, formally approved the affiliation of the Carmelite Institute of Spirituality (KID, Krakow) with the Institute of Spirituality of the Teresianum.

The foundation of KID in Krakow dates back to 1991. Among its main activities on offer are:- a two-year course in Fundamental Spirituality treating basic concepts of Christian Spirituality, with specialization in some particular themes; the organization of a series of lectures on Theological Formation and Consecrated Life; and a Centre for Spiritual and Psychological Counselling and Formation. The Institute also presents special “Days of Spirituality” with lectures on topical themes.

At an editorial level the Institute publishes “*Religious Formation*”; “*Living Carmel*” and “*The Spiritual Journey*”. It also collaborates with John Paul II Pontifical University of Krakow.

Photographic exposition of convent’s history

Carmelite presence in Matanzas for over a century

Matanzas, 2 February 2010 (Communicationes).- On the 31st January, the community of Discalced Carmelite Friars in Matanzas (Cuba) celebrated the 116th anniversary of their monastery’s foundation. It was an emotional occasion of thanksgiving where the numerous religious who had lived in the community at different times since 1894 were remembered.

Huge numbers of the faithful from the city and from surrounding areas thronged the Carmelite church from morning till evening and shared in the different events of the day. A celebration in honour of the Infant Jesus of Prague, which had been discontinued from 1965, was particularly moving. Hundreds of children took part, accompanied by their catechists and family members.

A special attraction was an exposition of photographs of past activities, processions and deceased friars, providing a ‘living’ history of Carmelites in Cuba. Some of the older people regard the photos of some of these friars as authentic relics.

Carmelites in Matanzas

On 20th January 1894, the Bishop of Havana gave permission to the Provincial of Old Castile for a foundation in Matanzas. Eleven days later a church dedicated to the Virgin of Carmel was opened.

Fr. Narciso of St. Joseph was the first superior of the new community which passed to the jurisdiction of the Aragon-Valencia province two years later. In 1906 it again became part of the Province of Old Castile.

Diocesan Recognition of its Religious

The Diocese of Matanzas has offered a heartfelt vote of recognition to all the Religious Orders who have served in the Diocese over the past 100 years. On 30th January, an official ceremony, integrated into the three-year preparation for the 1st Centenary of the Matanzas diocese, marked the occasion. All the religious of the diocese were present, with the clergy, Bishop Manuel Hilario de Céspedes and His Excellency, Nuncio Angelo Beccio. A brief account of the Religious Orders and their contributions to the Diocese was presented at the conclusion of the Eucharistic celebration. The Bishop then gave a commemorative parchment to representatives of each of the Orders and Congregations.