

# Communicaciones n° 117

## 15-02-2009

### Contents:

- Meeting of the Presidents of the Associations
- The General Chapter
- Index of the Order's growth
- Our house in Jerusalem

### **A Meeting of the Presidents of the Associations and Federations Of our Discalced Carmelite Nuns**

The Holy See has given its approval and support for a meeting of the Presidents and First Councillors of the European Federations and Associations of our Carmelite Nuns, plus the Holy Land (cf. the letter from Cardinal Rodé, the Prefect of the Congregation, 30/7/2008). Fr. General convoked this meeting on August 5 last year. There are 20 Federations/Associations and so there will be 40 participants. The new International Centre dedicated to St. Teresa and St. John of the Cross (aka Cites), Avila, has been chosen as the location, from February 9 – 14. The programme the Order prepared had been submitted to the Holy See for approval.

The said programme consists of the following selected themes: 1) 'Restructuring our presences, criteria, ways of doing this. Help from outside the country, criteria', by Sr. Enrica Rosanna, under-secretary at the CIVCSVA. 2. The same speaker will address the following theme:

'Discernment of vocations, problems created by a lack of discernment. How to tackle the different problems'. 3) Fr. General, Luis Arostegui, 'Contemplative Life in the Teresian Carmel. Conditions for a contemplative life, the meaning of a contemplative vocation'. 4) Fr. Robert Paul, General Definitor, 'Modern means in relation to contemplative space and cloister. Discernment.' 5). Prof. Juan Goti, 'Artistic patrimony of cultural interest'. 6) Fr. Sebastian Pacilla, O:Cist., under-secretary to CIVCSVA, 'Government, need for change. Autonomy and Associations; autonomy and Fr. General; other solutions to government.'

The meeting will involve small and large group discussions and dialogue with the speakers. There will be simultaneous translation. The liturgy will be celebrated in different languages. It is presumed that the participants will have reflected already on the themes in their own contexts. The Avila meeting will be an opportunity to listen and to dialogue on the different perceptions of the selected themes. In this way it is hoped to find a united approach to the criteria for resolving similar problems in all the Federations/Associations in Europe and the Holy Land.

### **Approaching the General Chapter**

We would like to repeat the essential information. The next General Chapter, the 90th in the Order's history, will take place from April 17 to May 9, in our house ('Domus Mariae') in Fatima, Portugal. The document that will serve as our reflection for the next six years is entitled 'I was born for you...' (In the original spanish it is 'Para vos nací'); it was already worked on at the Extraordinary Definitory in Moramanga (Madagascar) last September. The talks at the beginning of the Chapter will be: 1) Garcia Baro, from Comillas university (Madrid), 'The Christian Message in the Modern World.' 2) Martin Velasco, from Comillas university, 'Carmelite Spirituality in Today's World.' 3) The Bishop of Fatima, 'What does the Church expect from Carmel?' 4) Jeremias Vechina ocd, 'Carmel in Portugal.'

Italy will be the most represented country (13 representatives), having six provinces and one commissariate, followed by India (12) with its five provinces and two commissariates, and then Spain will have an equal number with its six provinces.

The total number of people voting will be 106. There will also be secretaries, *periti*, translators: these will not be voting. The average age of those attending is 51; the youngest 31, the eldest 72.

### **Index of the Order's Growth**

It takes four to five months for the statistics from the provinces and regions of the Order to arrive at the Generalate. The statistics consist of the numbers of houses, novices, simply professed, solemnly professed, lay brothers, permanent deacons and priests on December 31 of each year. Due to the tardiness of the arrival of the statistics it is still not possible to present the statistical data of the Order for the year 2008. We can give details of the six provinces with the most novices in 2007:

1) Manjumel with 20 novices. 2) South Kerala with 16. 3) Malabar with 15. 4) Karnataka-Goa with 12. 5) Warsaw with 9. 6) Tamilnadu and Colombia with 8. On the same date (December 31, 2007) the six provinces with the greatest number of religious were: 1) Manjumel, with a total of 327. 2) Cracow with 219. 3) Malabar with 218. 4) Karnataka-Goa equally with 218. 5. Navare with 199. 6) Tamilnadu with 150. Looking at the overall picture it is clear that India is the country where there is greatest numeric growth in the Order.

### **Our House in Jerusalem**

We recently informed you about our residence in Jerusalem. Now we would like to add an historical note about our presence in Jerusalem. In 1934 the first house was bought. However, in 1939 it was sequestered by the british army and subsequently, in 1948, by the israeli when the State of Israel was created. In 1940 the Order bought another house in the suburbs of Katamon and, in 1946, it began to build a church on a piece of nearby land. However, everything was sold off in 1953 due to the exodus of christian families and the contribution that had to be given for the construction of the Teresianum, Rome.

At the end of the 1980's the Order had been looking to open a new house in Jerusalem as a centre for students to study the bible in the Holy Land. In 1992 an opportunity arose for the Carmelites to serve as chaplains in the 'Notre Dame Centre', which was then run by the Vatican. A separate place was provided for a small community. In 2005 the Congregation of the Legionaries of Christ assumed responsibility for the Centre. With this the need for our services as chaplains ceased. The community has since located itself in two different locations in the city.

As we said previously, the Definitory decided on December 17 2008, at its 183<sup>rd</sup> session, to temporarily withdraw the community from Jerusalem when the rental agreement runs out on June 30.

### **New Email Addresses in the Generalate**

We are repeating for your general information the details communicated previously. From the beginning of this year our *pch* server ceased for our emails. The new server is **gmail**. We would like to inform you of the following new addresses:

Fr. General:	<a href="mailto:ocdgen@gmail.com">ocdgen@gmail.com</a>
Vicar General:	<a href="mailto:ocdvic@gmail.com">ocdvic@gmail.com</a>
Secretary General:	<a href="mailto:ocdsgen@gmail.com">ocdsgen@gmail.com</a>
Procurator General:	<a href="mailto:ocdproc@gmail.com">ocdproc@gmail.com</a>
Bursar General:	<a href="mailto:ocdecogen@gmail.com">ocdecogen@gmail.com</a>
Postulator General:	<a href="mailto:ocdpost@gmail.com">ocdpost@gmail.com</a>
General Archivist:	<a href="mailto:ocdarch@gmail.com">ocdarch@gmail.com</a>
Secretary for Missions:	<a href="mailto:ocdmis@gmail.com">ocdmis@gmail.com</a>
Secretary for Nuns:	<a href="mailto:ocdmon@gmail.com">ocdmon@gmail.com</a>
Secretary for Statistics:	<a href="mailto:ocdstat@gmail.com">ocdstat@gmail.com</a>
Secretary for Information:	<a href="mailto:ocdinform@gmail.com">ocdinform@gmail.com</a>