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Fr Saverio presides at the Eucharist opening the Teresianum academic year

Fr General announces the opening of preparations for the V Centenary of the birth of Saint Teresa

Rome, 15th October 2009 (Communicationes).- Fr Saverio Cannistrà, Superior General of the Discalced Carmelites, announced the opening of preparations for the V Centenary of the birth of Saint Teresa of Jesus, which will be celebrated in 2015.

The announcement was made during the celebration of the Eucharist in honour of Saint Teresa of Jesus, which took place in the "Teresianum" Pontifical Faculty of Theology in Rome, to celebrate the feast of the Holy foundress and to inaugurate the academic year.

Fr General recorded that, "from today, we Discalced Carmelite friars and nuns, individually and in community, undertake the task of devoting a little of our time and attention each day to reading the writings of Teresa." It is a commitment that is "moderate, hidden yet essential" that will have the whole Order reading the works of Saint Teresa until 2014, "not simply to derive from her historical and doctrinal facts," emphasised Fr Saverion, but "to enter into communication with her, to get to know the person who is talking to us, and to know ourselves."

During the homily, the Superior General referred to the fascination Teresa had for the Gospel about the Samaritan woman, in which Teresa contemplates herself as a "thirsting woman", tired by her journey towards God. It is a journey which Teresa invites us to follow to meet "the risen crucified One, in every page and in every line of her writings."

Fr General presided at the celebration, accompanied by the General Definitors, Emilio J. Martínez, Agustine Mulloor and Robert Paul; the President of the Teresianum Faculty, Aniano Álvarez; the prior of the permanent community, Zacarías Igirukwayo, the prior of the International College, Charles Serrao, and the prior of the specialisation community, Nicolás García. Also present were more than one hundred priests, students, and religious from various congregations.

**During an audience, Pope Benedict XVI proposes Saint Teresa as a model for youth.
The Bishop of Avila invites the Pope to visit the city for the V Centenary of the birth of Saint Teresa**

Avila, 15th October, 2009 (Communicationes).- Mons. Jesús García Burillo, Bishop of Avila manifested his desire to invite Pope Benedict XVI to visit Avila in 2015 for the celebration of the V Centenary of the Birth of Saint Teresa of Jesus.

The Bishop revealed the news during the Eucharistic celebration in honour of Saint Teresa which took place in the Cathedral of Avila on the day in which the city celebrates its patroness.

After communion, the Bishop read the communication in which he extended to all institutions and the whole people of Avila his invitation to take an active part in preparing the commemorative functions for the V Centenary of the birth of Teresa of Jesus, which will take place during 2014 and 2015. He emphasised that the Bishopric of Avila and the Order of Discalced Carmelites were already involved in the preparations.

The Bishop will send Pope Benedict XVI an invitation to visit the city of Saint Teresa during the V Centenary of her birth, "as did his predecessor, John Paul II in 1982 for the closing of the IV centenary of the death of the Saint." Despite knowing the difficulty that the Pontiff will have in making this visit, the Bishop stated that a formal invitation will be issued seeking the inestimable grace of his presence amongst us."

The Bishop also announced that he intended to ask the Holy See to declare a Jubilee Year for the years 2014 and 2015, as a time in which the Catholic Church will concede special spiritual graces to the faithful for the anniversary of the birth of this Doctor of the Church.

Benedict XVI proposes Saint Teresa as a model

Pope Benedict XVI presented Saint Teresa as a model for "the youth, the sick and the newly married" during the public audience on 14th October, first Vespers of the Feast of the first woman doctor of the Church.

"May this great saint— said the Pontiff— give witness to you, my dear young people, that authentic love cannot be separated from the truth. May she help you, my dear sick people, to understand that Christ's cross is a mystery of love which redeems human suffering. And to you my dear people, who are recently married, may she be a model of fidelity to God, who entrusts a special mission to each one." These words were directed to an Italian speaking group.

Made up of friars from 23 circumscriptions of the Order and 18 separate countries
Fr General visits the “Seminarium Missionum” specialisation community in Rome

Rome, 11th October, 2009 (Communicationes).- Fr General, Saverio Cannistrà, accompanied by Augustine Mullor, the Definitor General in charge of the academic Institutions of the Teresianum, visited the “Seminarium Missionum” specialisation community in the evening of 11th October.

During the visit, Fr Saverio shared in praying Vespers and afterward held a simple meeting with the community in which expressed the purpose of this community, based on the importance of deepening our knowledge of the various disciplines of knowledge without forgetting the fundamental dimensions of the Carmelite vocation. He also emphasised the hope that the Order has placed in each one of those who had been send to study there.

Fr General used the occasion to present the plan for the whole Order to prepare itself for the V Centenary of the birth of St Teresa of Jesus, inviting all to maintain a serious and persevering connection with the writings of the Holy Mother and to let themselves be questioned by her.

At the moment, the specialisation community is made up of 28 priest students and two in charge: Fr Nicolás García, from the province of Mexico and Fr Alejandro Salazar, from the province of Colombia. In all, a total of 30 members belonging to 23 Circumscriptions of the Order and 18 different countries.

It will offer systematic formation in the pastoral use of Spirituality
The Carmelite Friars in Ecuador inaugurate a Spirituality Institute in Quito

Rome, 10th October, 2009 (Communicationes).- “The missionary spirituality of Saint Therese of the Child Jesus” was the title of the spirituality week with which the Discalced Carmelites of Ecuador inaugurated the Spirituality Institute of Quito.

Around 90 people, including religious, laity, members of Secular Carmel and postulants in formation, took part in the celebration of the Spirituality Week from 6th to 9th October. Among those present was the Definitor General for Latin America—Fr Marcos Juchen, and the Provincial of Burgos—Fr Pedro Tomás Navajas.

Aimed at all who are engaged in pastoral work, religious men and women and the laity, the Saint Teresa of the Child Institute will offer to the Church and Consecrated Life in Ecuador a systematic formation in the pastoral use of spirituality.

The complete course, lasting three years, is divided into four areas of study with the following topics: fundamental spirituality, systematic spirituality, biblical spirituality, the liturgy and spiritual life, lay spirituality, married spirituality, consecrated life and priestly spirituality, history of spirituality, current trends in spirituality, psychopedagogy and spiritual life, Saint Teresa of Jesus, Saint John of the Cross, Saint Therese.

Proposed by the Institute of Spirituality at Distance of the Provinces of Spain and Portugal, this training plan already has 20 students this October and hopes to begin a new group in January.

The method of study will be through personal tutorials and by Email with Carmelite friars of the Delegation and specialist lay professors.