

N. 362

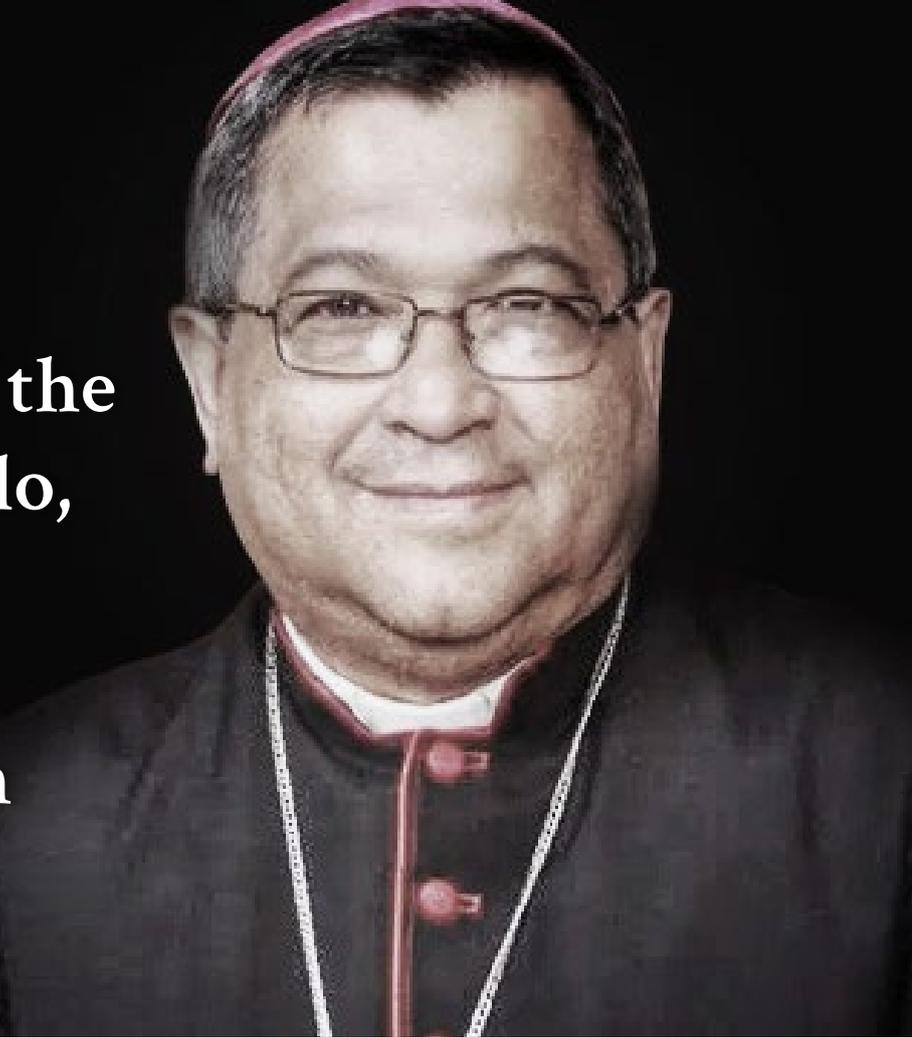
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COMMUNICATIONES



Cástor Oswaldo Azuaje Pérez, O.C.D., Bishop of the Diocese of Trujillo, Venezuela, died Friday morning 8 January 2021 in Valera (Trujillo)



Bishop Azuaje was born in Maracaibo on 19 October 1951 in a family of six brothers. He first learned about the Discalced Carmelite order in 1966 through the nuns at Mérida, in the Venezuelan Andes.

Discerning his vocation to the Teresian Carmel, Oswaldo Azuaje entered the novitiate program of the Province of Aragonia-Valenza, Spain at the Desert of las Palmas, in Castile. He professed his first vows as a Discalced Carmelite friar on 12 October 1968.

Three years of philosophy studies followed in Zaragoza, and then Azuaje pursued his theology studies with the Discalced Carmelites, completing first-year theology (1971–1972) at the historic Stella Maris seminary at Haifa, Israel and another three years (1972–1975) at the Teresianum in Rome.

On 31 August 1974 Oswaldo Azuaje pronounced his solemn vows; he was ordained to the priesthood at the age of 24 on Christmas Day, 25 December 1975 in Mérida, the city that was the cradle of his Carmelite vocation.

Azuaje returned to Rome to complete his theological studies. He earned a doctorate in Moral Theology *summa cum laude* from the Alfonsianum Academy in Rome in 1978. Nearly 20 years later, he would return to academic study and earn a diploma in spiritual theology in 1994 following a year of study at the Universidad de la Mística, CITEs in Avila, Spain.

As is the case with every Discalced Carmelite prelate, many years of rich and fruitful ministry followed, first in Costa Rica:



- Formator-assistant to the Master of Novices and Master of Simple Professed (1978 and 1984), where he was the formator for another future Discalced Carmelite bishop, Silvio José Báez, O.C.D.
 - Professor at the Interdiocesan Seminary of Paso Ancho, San José, and at the Intercongregational Theological Institute of Central America ITAC (1978 and 1984).
 - Secretary of the Conference of Religious (CONCOR).
 - Director of the Senderos Theological Journal
- Azuaje then returned to Venezuela to serve with the Discalced Carmelite friars:
- Appointed formator of postulants and simple professed in 1984 at Barquisimeto
 - Professor at the Divina Pastora Seminary.

- President of the Venezuelan Conference of Men and Women Religious CONVER Section and Provincial Delegate of the Discalced Carmelites of Venezuela from 1987 to 1990.
- Provincial delegate and formator of the Discalced Carmelites in Caracas (1990 and 1993).
- Member of the Board of Directors of the Joint Secretariat of Men and Women Religious SECORVE in Caracas.
- Professor for one year at the Institute of Theology for Religious ITER in Caracas.
- Superior of the Discalced Carmelite Community in Mérida in 1993.
- General Delegate of the Discalced Carmelites of Venezuela (1996 to July 1999).
- Appointed Master of Novices in 1996.
- Professor at San Buenaventura Seminary in Mérida in 1993.
- Spiritual Director at the seminary from 1999.
- President of the Regional CONVER-Mérida from 1999 to 2003.
- Episcopal Vicar of Consecrated Life of the Archdiocese of Mérida, appointed by Monsignor Baltasar Porrás in 1998.
- Member of the Latin American Combined Commission of the Carmelite Orders from 1994 to 2003.
- Superior and formator in the Carmelite formation house at Barquisimeto.
- Between 2002 and 2003 he was part of the commission that participated in the writing of the document on Religious Life in the Venezuelan Plenary Council.
- That same year 2002 he became president of the Regional Delegation of CONVER- Barquisimeto; this commitment would last three years.
- In 2005, he was named General Delegate of the Discalced Carmelites of Venezuela.

It was on 30 June 2007 that the Vatican Press Office published in the *Osservatore Romano* and announced on Radio Vaticana the nomination of **Cástor Oswaldo Azuaje Pérez, O.C.D.** as Auxiliary Bishop of Maracaibo, Venezuela and Titular Bishop of Vertara.

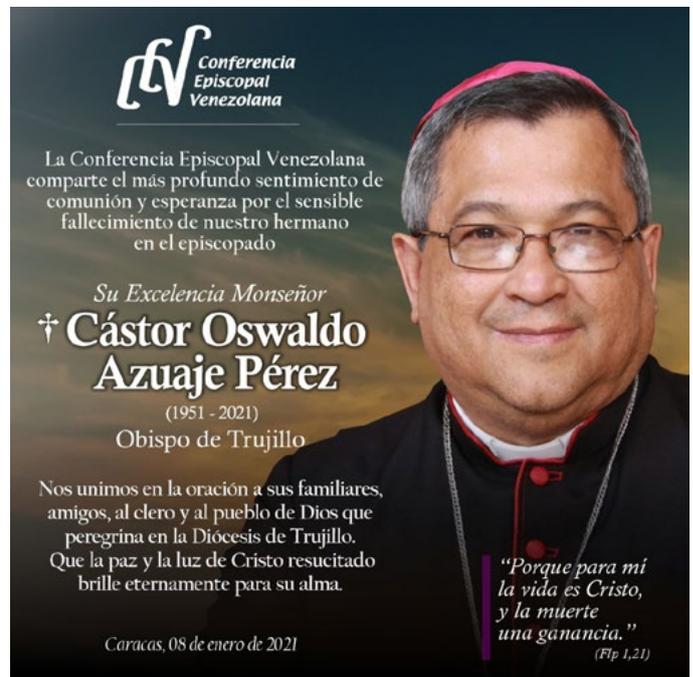
On his Episcopal coat of arms appears our familiar Carmelite symbol of the three stars with the motto from the Carmelite Rule: “To live a life of allegiance to Jesus Christ.”

Bishop Azuaje was ordained 31 August 2007 in the Church of San Tarcisio in Maracaibo. The principal consecrator was Ubaldo Ramón Santana Sequera, F.M.I., the Archbishop of Maracaibo. The principal co-consecrators were Baltazar Enrique Porrás Cardozo, the Archbishop of Mérida and Archbishop Giacinto Berloco, the Apostolic Nuncio to Venezuela.

On Holy Tuesday 3 April 2012, Pope Benedict XVI appointed Bishop Azuaje to serve as bishop of the diocese of Trujillo, Venezuela. He took possession of this diocesan see on 9 June 2012.

In the Venezuelan Episcopal Conference, Bishop Azuaje assumed various responsibilities. He was President of the Commission on Youth and University Ministry for two triennia. From January 2015 to January 2018 he was President of the Commission on Consecrated Life. He currently served as a member of the Liturgy Commission of the Venezuelan Episcopal Conference.

Bishop Azuaje was unafraid to exercise his prophetic



ministry as a Carmelite bishop, defending the rights of downtrodden Venezuelan citizens. In 2019 he deplored the power blackout ordered by the government of dictator Nicolás Maduro, telling the Catholic NGO Aid to the Church in Need about the solidarity of the people at that moment. They were “looking for the Lord in every brother who needs us. The days of the blackout were an opportunity to witness great examples of solidarity... in the sharing of food and drinking water, gasoline for the vehicles and many other examples of people sharing their sufferings and joys together.”

As he embarked on his episcopal ministry in 2007, he confided to our friars at the Discalced Carmelite General Curia:

“To leave the Order which has been my home — where I have lived and breathed — it isn’t easy. It’s hard for a sinner like myself, who has lived in the Carmelite Order as my “maternal home”, to leave the Teresian Carmel where I’ve received everything”.

From: “CarmeliteQuotes”

(<https://carmelitequotes.blog/>)

Centenary for the de “LA OBRA MÁXIMA”



Publication of La Obra Máxima began in January 1921 thanks to the missionary zeal of Ven. Fr. Juan Vicente Zengotita (1862-1943) who, after 17 fruitful years of pastoral duties in India, on his return to Spain, with Carmelite, missionary sensitivity, wanted to launch a publication which continues to be a point of reference in its field, not only for the Teresian Order of Carmel but also in the wider field of missions. La Obra Máxima (LOM) is a monthly publication bringing together news not only from some of the missionary ventures in the Order but seeks also to be a voice for small, Christian communities present in the most distant corners of the world, many of whom are suffering persecution or discrimination on account of their faith.

Always in keeping with the missionary intentions of the Pope, the missionary publication La Obra Máxima wants to continue with its work of making readers lovingly aware of the Carmelite missions and of the missions in the Church at large.

Thanks to this labour of sensitization throughout its history, LOM has been able to respond to many requests from different types of missionary endeavours within the Order.

It is the task of the whole of the Teresian Carmel to cherish these means of publication so that the missionary flame of our Order remains alight and so that people in need can find through our presence, God's consolation and fraternal help.

LOM also has an internet presence: <https://www.laobramaxima.es/www/portada.php> as well as in social media.





DEATH OF FR. REGINALD FOSTER

On 25th December, Fr. Reginald Thomas Foster, Discalced Carmelite of the Province of Washington, died in St. Anne's hospital in Milwaukee. He had been moved there eight days previously after testing positive for coronavirus and in addition to the care received in the hospital, his progress was monitored daily by Dr. Azcueta, the doctor in charge of health in the Province, since visits from religious were forbidden as he was in a ward designated for 'COVID'.

There were no signs of pulmonary complications and he only had pharyngitis, together with a slight cough, so that it was hoped that he would overcome the illness. However, on Christmas Eve, he quickly took a grave turn for the worse, dying shortly after at precisely 12:34 AM.

Fr. Reginald, famous as a world expert in Latin language and literature, was born in Milwaukee on 14th November 1939, into a modest family of plumbers, of whom he was always very proud. From 1970 until his retirement in 2009, he worked in the Secretariat of the Vatican State, collaborating on texts and documents specifically in Latin. For 30

years, he was a professor at the Gregorian University and, furthermore, gave innumerable Latin courses and seminars in which he imparted his knowledge of the language and his revolutionary pedagogy, always tailored to the students, earning him their sincere affection. During his stay in Rome, he organised a programme for the study of the Latin language and knowledge of the city called *Aestiva Romae Latinitas*, totally free.

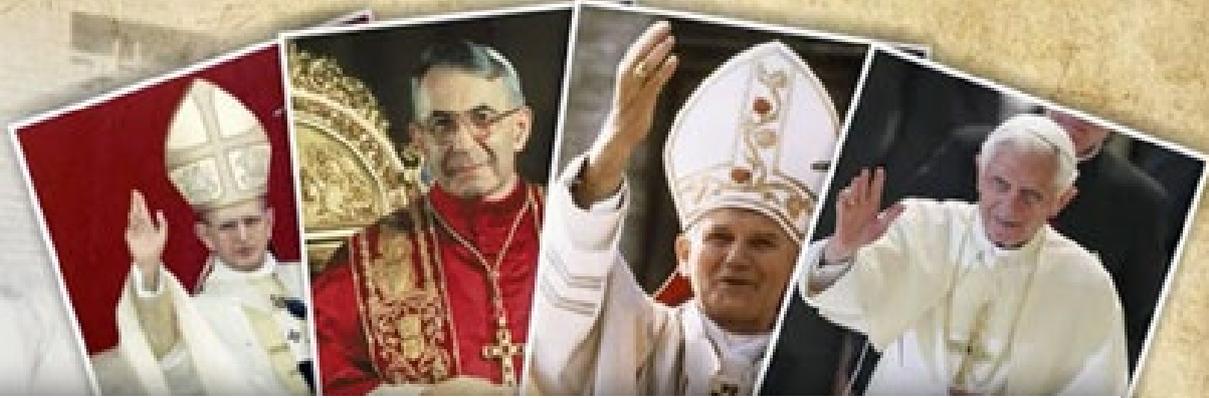
His classes were always very well attended and he continued to teach almost until his death.

In collaboration with Daniel Patricius McCarthy, he published a Latin teaching manual in 2016 (The Catholic University of America Press): *Ossa Latinitatis Sola Ad Mentem Reginaldi Rationuemque (The Mere Bones of Latin According to the Thought and System of Reginald)*. It demonstrated his method of teaching, which not only sought to teach reading authentic Latin texts, but also to help the student write and speak the language.

In 2010, he received an honorary doctorate from the University of Notre Dame, in Indiana.

May Fr. Reginaldo Thomas Foster, OCD, rest in the peace of the Lord.





SEGRETERIA DI STATO

PRIMA SEZIONE - AFFARI GENERALI

Dal Vaticano, 26 dicembre 2020

N. 517.428

Reverendo Padre,

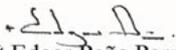
Mi pregio di trasmetterle il testo del telegramma che il Santo Padre Francesco ha voluto inviare per il decesso di Rev.do P. Reginald FOSTER, O.C.D., già Ufficiale di questa Segreteria di Stato:

SVMMVS PONTIFEX FRANCISCVS NVNTIVM ACCEPIT PATREM REGINALDVM FOSTER O.C.D. DE HOC MVNDO DEMIGRASSE AD PATRIS DOMVM TRANSITVRVM QVI COMPLVRES ANNOS IN SECRETARIA STATVS EXEGIT QVIQVE INNVNERA DOCUMENTA PONTIFICIA LATINAE LINGVAE FVLGORE COLLVSTRAVIT QVAM ETIAM COPIOSE FREQVENTIBVS DISCIPLIS AC LARGITER ASSIDVVS TRADIDIT IPSEQVE PRECATVR VT MERITIS CVMVLATVS A DOMINO AD CONFERTAM MENSVRAM RECIPIAT MERCEDEM.

PETRUS S.R.E. CARD. PAROLIN
SECRETARIUS STATUS

Profitto volentieri della circostanza per confermarmi con sensi di religiosa stima

della Paternità Vostra Reverendissima
dev.mo


✱ Edgar Peña Parra
Sostituto

Reverendo Padre
P. Saverio CANNISTRÀ, O.C.D.
Preposito Generale
Corso d'Italia, 38
00198 ROMA

A YEAR DEDICATED TO *St. Joseph*

At the time that the Apostolic Letter, *Patris Corde*, was published on the occasion of the 150th anniversary of the proclamation of St. Joseph as Patron of the Universal Church, Pope Francis announced the start of a year dedicated to St. Joseph, with the intention that, in these difficult times for mankind, we might know how to turn our attention to “ordinary” people who, though far from the limelight, exercise patience and offer hope every day. In this, they resemble Saint Joseph, “the man who goes unnoticed, a daily, discreet and hidden presence,” who nonetheless played “an incomparable role in the history of salvation”.

Joseph, who loved Jesus with a father’s love, is the tender, obedient and accepting servant; a courageous and hard-working father, who, in the shadows, works without seeking the limelight.

For the Teresian Carmel, the year dedicated to St. Joseph is one of special joy, which gives us the opportunity to deepen this dimension of our charisma, just as St. Teresa of Jesus and other prominent figures in the Order, such as Fr. Jerónimo Gracián of the Mother of God, affirmed.

In fact, the same day that the Holy Father’s Apostolic Letter was published, the Superiors of the Carmelite and Discalced Carmelite Orders published a joint letter to the Carmelite Orders entitled: *St. Joseph, Patron of Carmel, A Letter from the Prior General, O.Carm. and Superior General, O.C.D. to the Carmelite Family on the occasion of the 150th anniversary of the proclamation of St. Joseph as Patron of the Universal Church.*





News from Carmel in Malaysia

With great joy, we are sending the news which has reached us of our brothers and sisters in this Asian country. Despite the difficulties imposed due to the pandemic and keeping the security measures indicated by the authorities, the communities of friars, nuns and seculars in Malaysia celebrated a three-fold festival on the occasion of the Feast day of St. John of the Cross, 14th December, just gone.

In addition to the Saint's Feast day, the 90th anniversary of the foundation of the Convent of Our Lady of Mount Carmel and St. Thérèse of the Child Jesus (1930-2020) was celebrated and the 60th anniversary of the presence of missionaries with Mother Consuelo de Jesús, who left Spain at the age of 32 to go to the Convent in Kota Kinabalu (then Jesselton) on 12th April, 1960. She was superior of the community for more than 30 years and at the age of 93 still enjoys very good health.

The ceremony was presided over by the Archbishop, Mons. John Wong, accompanied by the community chaplain, Fr Mattheus Luta, Fr. Cosme Lee, Fr David Sham and 30 members of the Carmelite family. Mons.

Wong addressed some touching words to Mother Consuelo, whose vocation he interpreted in the light of the Prophet Isaiah, encouraging her to continue with her sisters, on the luminous dark journey suggested by St. John of the Cross so as to be, like him, witnesses to the love of God, through the redemptive incarnation in Christ, always at the service of the local and universal Church. He ended his exhortation thanking the presence and gift of the Carmelite sisters, who have seven sisters in formation at the present time.

After celebration of Mass, the president of the OCDS, sister Celestine Jinu, invited everyone to a fraternal agape outside the Chapel. The birthday cake in honour of the occasion was distributed by Mons. Wong, on behalf of the Carmelite community, which had made it. This news was reported in the local media as can be seen:

<http://www.heraldmalaysia.com/news/the-carmelite-community-celebrates-triple-joys-on-feast-of-st-john-of-the-cross/57099/1>

Our gratitude to Mrs. Catherine Wan and her newspaper for the news and the accompanying photo.



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