



# OCCD

## COMMUNICATIONES





# Ivory Coast: 10<sup>th</sup> Assembly of Federation of St. Therese of the Child Jesus

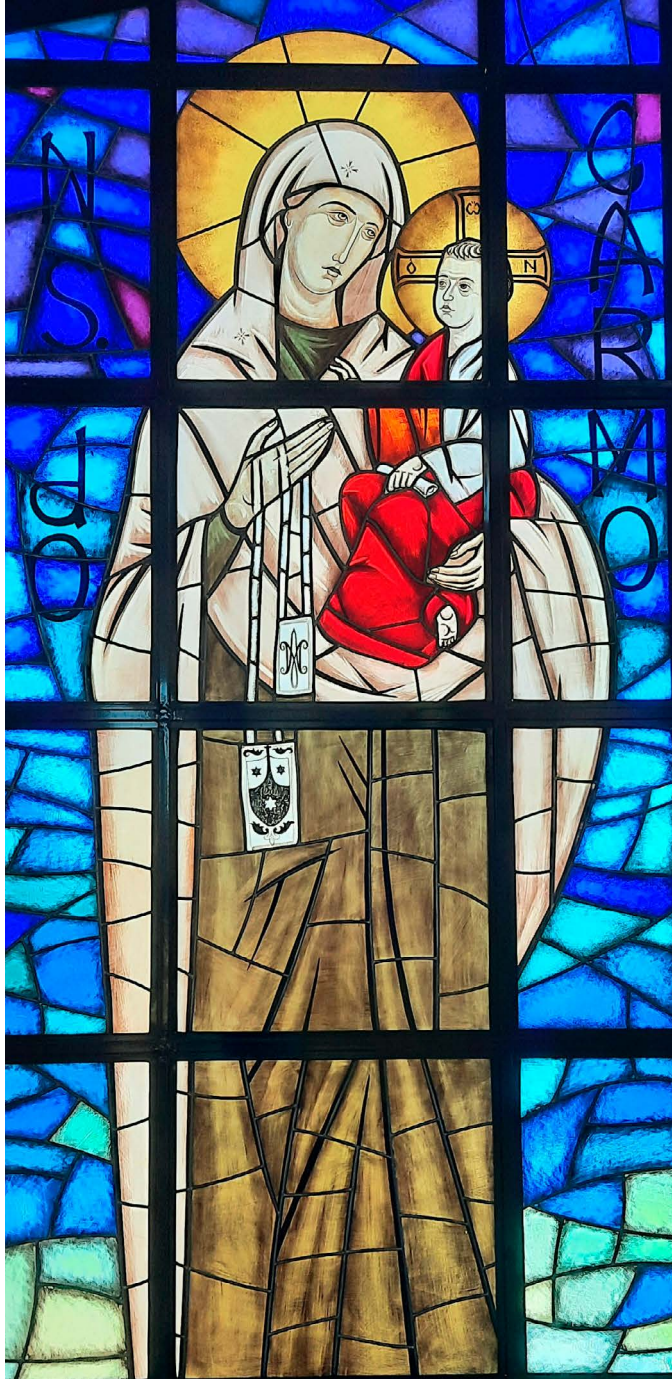


**F**rom 22 June to 11 July 2024, the eleven Monasteries of the Carmelites of French-speaking Africa - (Burundi, Cameroon, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Brazzaville Congo, the Ivory Coast and Ruanda) held their 10<sup>th</sup> Assembly at the Nazareth Centre in Divo in the Ivory Coast. Fr. Jerome NDAYE, the Federation Assistant, presided at the Assembly. The Presidents of the Federations of South West France and English-speaking Africa were our invited guests. The themes discussed were the Life of the Federation and of our Monasteries, Formation, the Centenary of St. Therese of Lisieux, the updating of our Constitutions

and our programme for the 2024-2027 triennium. Two sessions of formation were also included. On 4 July the Assembly elected a new President, Mother Mary Claver from the Cyangugu Monastery (Ruanda), and her Council. We shared in the immense joy of welcoming and sharing ideas with our Father General, Miguel Marquez, on 6 July. We also had a visit from Don Emile Kenignon, Secretary of the Episcopal Conference of the Ivory Coast, who shared some news about the local Church with us. We return now to our Communities, uplifted and encouraged by what we have learned and from our shared dialogues with Fr. General and among ourselves.







# Brazil: Meeting of CICLA SOUTH Superiors

**F**rom 22 to 26 July a meeting of the Major Superiors of CICLA SOUTH was held in the Monastery of St. Teresa in Curitiba (Brazil). The following Circumscriptions were represented: the Province of Brazil South; the Vicariate of Uruguay-Bolivia-Paraguay; the General Delegation of Argentina and the Commissariat of Chile. The meeting discussed the proposal of the General Definitory relating to the geographical presence of the Order, with the precise suggestion that our region might become a single Province. We had a very cordial fraternal meeting with a serious discussion on the current realities of our Circumscriptions. It commenced with an examination of our statistical data and the opinions of the brethren. In a concluding document we included all this data, divided under the two headings of “advantages” and “disadvantages” of a possible unification. We proceeded to discuss the question of initial Formation. This was seen as a priority and we sought to formulate a programme with the assistance of existing systems in CICLA. Finally, we mentioned some gospel and charismatic reasons for embracing a shared pathway. Our final document offers an ample reflection on the reality and the urgent needs of the Church today, in a way that might encourage our brothers to become actively involved in this present historical moment and to respond with gospel courage to the needs of our time. The Superiors present were in agreement that they would continue in a process of concretizing the proposal of the General Definitory.





# Burundi: Consecration of the Sanctuary of Our Lady of Mount Carmel



**A** number of very important events for Carmel and the Church in Burundi took place on 20 July 2024. On this same day the Sanctuary of Our Lady of Mount Carmel was consecrated; the Carmelite Parish of Mary, Mother of the Apostles, celebrated its Golden Jubilee; and 12 Deacons and 10 Priests were ordained for the Diocese of Rutana. The Archbishop of Gitega, Mons. Bonaventure Nahimana, consecrated the new Sanctuary in the presence of thousands of pilgrims coming from the whole country.

In this region of the south-east of Burundi, devotion to the Scapular is deeply imbedded in the life of the church. In actual fact, half of the territory of the present diocese of Rutana was a mission entrusted to the Discalced Carmelites, arriving from Poland to Burundi in 1971.

The Sanctuary of Our Lady of Mount Carmel is the result of the persevering prayer of pilgrims who made their way to this village on the first Fridays and Satur-



days of every month. During the years of civil war in Burundi, the faithful built up their resistance and for years there was a refugee camp beside the Carmelite parish and the hospital of the Carmelite nuns of the Infant Jesus. It was particularly these war refugees who became the first apostles of this special place. When they left the camp, they retained their nostalgia for Musongati and continue to return there, no longer as refugees, but now as devout and grateful pilgrims.





# SECOND NOVICIATE IN BRAZIL

The Community of Curitiba, with its Centre of Formation and Parish, hosted our Second Noviciate from 15 July until 15 August.

During the courses of formation on varied themes and excursions in the city of Curitiba, we were introduced to Cesar of St. Joseph and Yeison of St. Teresa of the Andes from the Colombian Province, Luis of St. Teresita from the Delegation of Ecuador. Lucas of the Holy Spirit from South Brazil and Ezequiel of Jesus-Mary-Joseph from the Argentinian Delegation. Learning to see Carmel as a large family helped us to understand that “the tiny seed that is in us” is becoming “the foundation for those who come after us”.

We were certainly spiritually enriched by our sharing in the different ways of living the same Teresian charism. We extend our gratitude and appreciation to the Province and Community that hosted us, with all the affection that is so typical of Brazilian people.

## BRAZIL: EDITH STEIN INSTITUTE OF FORMATION AND CARMELITE PRAYER RETREAT

From 11 to 21 July, the Carmelite Secular Order of the Province of St. Joseph, South-east Brazil, organized a new Cycle of Formation under the auspices of the Edith Stein Institute, in conjunction with a Retreat on Carmelite Prayer. The respective themes were: “Carmel, a living font of prayer” and “The Pathway of Carmelite Prayer”. Meetings were held at the Centre of Carmelite Spirituality of St. Roque, in the State of Sao Paulo.

Both the Formation Session and the Retreat were focused on prayer. This was in correspondence with the invitation of Pope Francis to

make the year 2024 a great “symphony of prayer”, to rediscover the desire to stand in the presence of the Lord, to listen to and adore Him.

The conferences were given by the following Discalced Carmelite Friars: Patricio Sciadini, Alzinir Debastiani, Iludson and Henrique Siqueira, members of OCDS, Deacon Carlos Almeida and Signora Gilcivania Pinheiro.

For ten days, more than sixty people were immersed in the writings of St. Teresa of Jesus, St. John of the Cross and other Carmelite saints. They also spent time in prayer, silence, mutual sharing and fraternal communion.





# CANADA: INAUGURATION OF MOUNT CARMEL SPIRITUAL CENTRE IN EDMONTON



**T**he Solemnity of Our Lady of Mount Carmel has become a day to remember for the second foundation of Carmelites in English-speaking Canada, at Edmonton.

At 10.45, around 1.150 persons gathered at the entrance of the Chapel together with Mons. Richard Smith, the Archbishop of Edmonton, Mons. Gary Franken, Bishop of St. Paul and more than 40 priests and numerous Carmelites. The Provincial of the Karnataka-Goa Province, Father Silvestre D'Souza, cut the tape

and opened the doors of the new Spiritual Centre. The Archbishop then welcomed all the visitors and they entered the new Chapel for the solemn blessing.

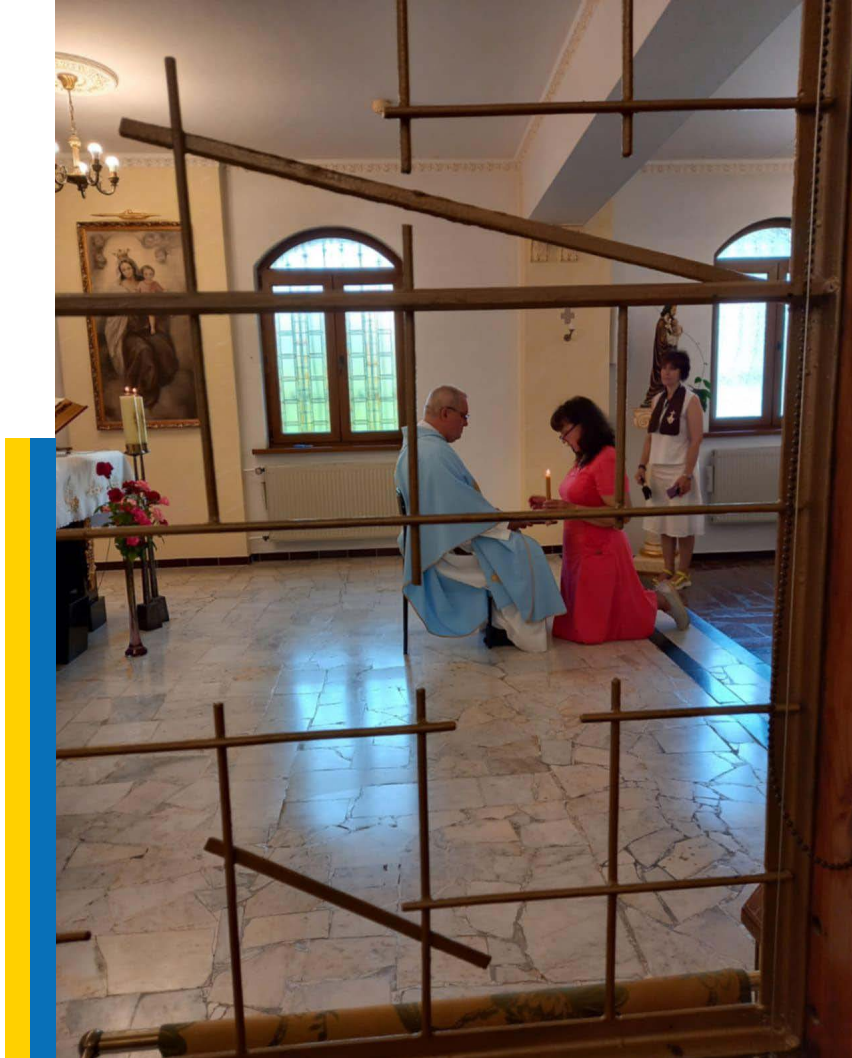
After the celebration of the Eucharist, a sumptuous dinner had been organised under a marquee and in the Great Hall of the Spiritual Centre. All the guests expressed their profound gratitude and sincere congratulations to the OCD Carmelites of the Karnataka-Goa Province for this memorable inauguration ceremony of the Spiritual Centre and Monastery.





# UKRAINE: OCDS PROMISES

**T**he OCDS Community of the Guardian Angels in Kiev shared in a very joyful celebration on Saturday 27 July. Mrs. Ludmila of the Holy Spirit made her promises in the presence of the Community's assistant, Fr. Jana Dudeck OCD. The Eucharistic ceremony took place in the monastery of our Carmelite Nuns and this provided the blessed opportunity for members of all three branches of our Order to be in attendance. Despite many difficulties and the on-going war, members of the OCDS Community managed to gather in the Monastery to celebrate this important event together. The fact that all three branches of the Order were represented as well, underlined their unity and mutual support. Such gatherings help us to imitate our Mother Mary and our Carmelite Saints and encourage us to pray for each other and for the whole world with greater devotion.







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