



CASA GENERALIZIA CARMELITANI SCALZI  
Corso d'Italia, 38  
00198 Roma – Italia

## DEFINITORY LETTER (17)

+ 16<sup>th</sup> June 2013

Very dear Brothers and Sisters in Carmel:

PEACE

From 8<sup>th</sup> June to the 14<sup>th</sup>, all the General Definitors met in Rome for our 17<sup>th</sup> meeting as the Definitory General, at which presided our Father General, Saverio Cannistrà. We had the pleasure of the help that is always given to us by our Secretary and Vice-Secretary General, Frs Silvano Vescovi and Gino Pirolo.

We had to face a dense agenda, since there were many long-standing matters awaiting our attention, which we now want to share with you.

First of all, we reported on the visits we had made in this period: Fr General visited the Anglo-Irish Province, while Fr Emilio went to the Lombardy Province and the Commissariat of Central Italy, which comprises the former Provinces of Tuscany and Rome. Fr Albert Wach reported on his visit to Hungary, while Fr Marcos Jüchem told us about what happened in Mexico, where he had the opportunity to attend a Spirituality Congress in preparation for the 5<sup>th</sup> Teresian Centenary. Fr George Tambala spoke of his visits to the Delegations and Missions of Burundi-Rwanda, Tanzania and Cameroon, as well as to the Commissariat of Madagascar. Finally, Fr John Grennan reported on his visit to Malta.

Fr Augustin Mulloor visited the St John of the Cross International College and was able to give us a very positive report on the quality of formation, as well as the dedication and collaboration between the students with regards to their growth, both in our charism and intellectually.

In this meeting we introduced some changes in the formative community. We are thankful to those who gave their service to the Order in such an important duty during these year and we welcome the new teachers, asking the Lord to be their light in their work. The names of the new formators we will announce to you when the changes become definitive.

We would like to remind the Major and Local Superiors of the importance of caring for the record books that attest to our lives as Circumscriptions and as Communities.

Our own laws help us to keep in mind the Books which can never be lacking in any of our communities: e.g. it is necessary to have a Register for Masses, in which is carefully recorded the obligations and their fulfilment (cf. CIC 957-958; Norms 269), as well as another book for foundation

Masses (cf. Norms 273); it is also necessary to keep a book for the dead of the Order (cf. Norms 46§a) and another for the dead of the community (cf. *ib.*, §2), in which is sketched the life of the deceased friars, a copy of which should be sent to the Superior General. Also important are the books concerning the finances (cf. Norms 247) and in houses where there is a novitiate, there should be another book recording the names of the novices and the date when they began their novitiate (cf. Norms 81); as for professions, they must always be recorded as stipulated (see Norms 107) and kept in the archives.

Equally, our laws remind us that community meetings should be held frequently (cf. Norms 238) and that the acts of the Chapter be recorded (cf. Norms 242§a) and it is always a good idea that each community keep a Diary, in which is recorded the history and life of each community.

The care of Registers is not solely a duty imposed by legal dictate: to compile them carefully and preserve them properly in the archives is a service to the past, the present and the future, since they allow us to feel the pulse of our life, to leave a record of our life's journey for those who come after us – that they may be enlightening and helpful for them – and for remembering those who have given their life working for the good of the Order and the Church; their names collected in the books of the dead will not be forgotten, but will be pronounced in the prayers of their brothers each time they read these records.

In keeping with the directives given by the General Chapter, the Definitory – in particular Fr Saverio as Superior General and Grand Chancellor – are continuing their work in raising the quality of the Teresianum Faculty. We are working on the renewal of the professoral staff and, in dialogue with their Superiors, we hope to incorporate shortly some young blood into the teaching body.

In our days together, we also dealt with some matters of a financial nature. The generosity of our Discalced Carmelite sisters and the help given by some Provinces has allowed us to present a healthy balance sheet in this semester. And so we were able to give €52,500 in help to the friars studying for their Licentiate and Doctorate, also €217,724 to the Teresianum and we have been able to continue paying the installments of the CITeS debt. We also set aside €53,719 for helping needy monasteries of nuns as well as €20,438 for expenses connected with preparing for the 5<sup>th</sup> Teresian Centenary – among other expenses.

We remind Provinces who have not yet made their annual contribution to do so as soon as possible. Thanks to everyone for your help.

Besides dealing with some subjects concerning our presence in the Holy Land, we once again surveyed the progress of the *Stella Maris* Project, in dialogue with the Holy See. Unfortunately, the situation is stagnant and the solution seems quite difficult, because of the many demands made of us from one party or the other. Fr Attilio Ghisleri, as Bursar General, will visit Israel from 22<sup>nd</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup> June, in an attempt to find solutions to this situation and to continue with studying the plan for the restoration of Wadi Es Siah, which is going along at a good pace.

More important than the financial situation, if that is possible, is the question of personnel. We need religious who feel called to work in the Holy Land – the land of Jesus and birthplace of the order – to cultivate this call and let their Superiors know of their willingness, in such a way that, in dialogue with the Superior General, we will be able to increase this presence which is so significant for us and in such need of personnel.

We also decided at this time the dates and place for celebrating the next EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL DEFINITORY: it will be FROM 26<sup>th</sup> AUGUST (ARRIVAL) TO 3<sup>rd</sup> SEPTEMBER (DEPARTURE) 2014, IN DAEJON (SOUTH KOREA).

Regarding missionary expansion in the Order, Fr Augustine Mulloor has made the initial meetings and taken steps for establishing two presences of the Teresian Carmel in Sri-Lanka and

Bangladesh. His work has allowed us to advance negotiations so that we can hope to begin both foundations shortly.

As well, we received a letter from the President of the Iberian Conference of Provincials seeking authorization from the Definitory for beginning the necessary steps to make a foundation in East Timor. With pleasure, the General Definitory gave its authorization and support to this decision of the Iberian Provincials.

Work continues ahead on the foundation in Albania and already groups of laity and religious are prepared to continue their missionary work in the north-east of the country.

Firm steps are being taken to change the General Delegation of the Congo into a Commissariat. For this purpose, there has been notable growth and improvement in caring for their Carmelite identity, as well as pastoral work and formation of vocations. To ensure greater financial autonomy, the Delegation has sought help to enlarge the “Theresianum” in Kinshasa in order to be able to improve the services offered there and so increase the income by its use. The first project amounts to \$325,000, which we will try to meet by seeking aid, although the delegation can afford a good part of the sum.

In this session we dealt with solving questions concerning the Secular Order, with reference to various circumscriptions. We would like to devote more time in our next meeting in order to be able to share with our Secular brothers and sister some insights concerning their vocation and mission.

Regarding the Discalced Carmelite Nuns, Fr General has held various meetings with European Associations and Fr Emilio will meet briefly with the Lombardy Association, to discuss important questions concerning the latest documents issued by CICLSAL. As well, Fr Saverio met with the Superiors General whose families integrate contemplative nuns in order to prepare a later meeting with the Secretary of the said Congregation and, possibly, with the Prefect of the Congregation.

We also discussed our monasteries in Arab countries. Of particular concern is the situation in Aleppo, where our sisters are facing a situation of war, although the latest news from them shows us they are well, despite the conditions surrounding them.

The preparatory work for the 5<sup>th</sup> Teresian centenary continues ahead and on the Web page of the Order, which we are in the process of renewing, you can find the selection of texts in Spanish, Italian, English and Portuguese (an edition of Brazilian texts), which we suggest for reading by the whole Order during next year. We hope to have them in other languages shortly.

We would also like to remind you of some important dates to keep in mind concerning celebrations for the centenary:

23<sup>rd</sup> April 2014: 4<sup>th</sup> Centenary of the Beatification of Saint Teresa.

21<sup>st</sup> September 2014: 4<sup>th</sup> Centenary of the death of Fr Jerónimo Gracián. For this purpose a commemorative day will be celebrated in Brussels and a plaque will be installed in the church of the Discalced Carmelite friars. As well, the O.Carm and OCD Generals will write a joint letter.

15<sup>th</sup> October 2014: Opening of the Teresian centenary.

28<sup>th</sup> March 2015: 5<sup>th</sup> Centenary of the birth of Saint Teresa of Jesus.

4<sup>th</sup> April 2015: 5<sup>th</sup> Centenary of the baptism of Saint Teresa of Jesus (which coincides with the Paschal Vigil)

2<sup>nd</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> May 2015: General Chapter in Avila.

15<sup>th</sup> October 2014: Closing of the 5<sup>th</sup> Teresian centenary.

Besides these dates, we remind you that in 2014 we celebrate the six hundred years since the birth of Br Lawrence of the Resurrection and on 28<sup>th</sup> May 2014, four hundred years since the death of the Venerable John of Jesus Mary.

The Madagascar Episcopal Conference, at the request of Mons. Fabien OCD, has asked the Holy See that the 2015 Synod of Bishops, to be celebrated during the centenary year, be devoted to the topic of Christian Prayer.

Concerning the renewal of the Order's Web Page, we recently received news from the technicians of the UN DANET Group (Salamanca, Spain), who are preparing the page in collaboration with the Secretary of Information, Mr Juan Borrego. In brief, we can now offer what is technically called a *beta version*, which has all the available functions, but is begun as a trial, so that its users can note its deficiencies as well as aspects which need improving. We are hoping for your collaboration.

Also being studied is the publication of an application for Smartphone and Tablets, which offers the Breviary in these formats in various languages, and which includes the proper of the Order, as well as writings of our Saints. We will keep you informed about its development.

We remind the Major Superiors, who have already been presented with the program for the Order's 1<sup>st</sup> Communication Congress, that it will be celebrated at CITEs in Avila from 17<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> September 2013. We remind all those who have not yet registered, that there is still time to do so.

Wishing you in advance a Happy Feast of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, we remain united in Christ, your brothers:

Fr Saverio Cannistrà, PreFr General

Fr Emilio J. Martínez

Fr Albert Wach

Fr Augustine Mulloor

Fr Robert Paul

Fr Marcos Juchem

Fr Peter Chung

Fr George Tambala

Fr John Grennan