

Communicationes N. 251

04/06/2014

INDEX:

- "Today's celebration is a tribute to the communities who made this restoration possible"
- Registration now open and instructions being sent for taking part in the "*History, Literature and Thought*" congress.
- The five martyrs of Persia
- Teresian exhibition

Chapel in the place where St Teresa was born

"Today's celebration is a tribute to the communities who made this restoration possible"

Avila-Spain, June 4, 2014 (Communicationes).- In the name of Fr General, the Vicar General of the Order, Fr Emilio José Martínez, took part in the reopening ceremony of the chapel in the house in Avila where St Teresa of Jesus was born. Fr Emilio emphasized that this celebration was a tribute to the communities who made this restoration possible.

In speaking of the restoration Fr Emilio highlighted that, "It was impressive how donations arrived from monasteries throughout the world to help this important work. On this day it is impossible not to mention the generosity of the Carmelite friars and nuns towards this project".

The Vicar General called specially to mind those communities who contributed even though they themselves were in need. "Some cases were particularly moving. We received donations of 20 Euros from some monasteries for whom even this amount was a great effort".

The chapel in the place where Saint Teresa was born has been restored as a result of an agreement between the Foundation for the Historic Patrimony of Castile and León and the Discalced Carmelite Order by means of the V Centenary Foundation.

The work took 10 months and the final cost was €200,000 which was financed equally by the two institutions. The restoration was comprehensive and took in the whole of the chapel, surfaces as well as furnishings.

The celebrations on the opening day began with a greeting from the Prior of the Discalced Carmelites in Avila, Fr David Jiménez Herrero. Afterwards Fr Emilio spoke in the name of the General, Saverio Cannistrà, mentioning the importance this chapel has for the whole Order.

Subsequently, Fr Daniel de Pablo Maroto, a Carmelite historian, gave a historical and artistic explanation of the chapel. After the explanation, the Gregorian choir of La Santa interpreted a dozen Teresian songs, including the anthem for the V centenary.

After a visit to the museum the day came finally to an end with the celebration of a concelebrated Eucharist at which presided Fr Emilio José Martínez, accompanied, among others, by the Provincial of Castile, Fr Miguel Márquez, and the Secretary General of the V Centenary, Fr Antonio González.

Teresian Congress

Registration now open and instructions being sent on how to take part in the “History, Literature and Thought” congress

Salamanca-Spain, May 24, 2014 (Communicationes).- The Pontifical University of Salamanca, in collaboration with the Discalced Carmelite Order, will hold a Teresian themed congress from 22nd to 24th October in the Salamanca headquarters of the University as part of the celebrations planned for the V centenary of the birth of Saint Teresa of Jesus.

“History, Literature and Thought” is the title of the international congress which has already opened registration and the sending of instructions to participate.

The Congress will present the figure of Santa Teresa to the society of the 21st century in an interdisciplinary way, placing the dialogue in history, literature and thought. Each day there will be space for three presentations, a panel discussion and possible papers.

For more information a web page has been set up www.congresotesiano.upsa.es, where it is already possible to register, get more information on the program or take part by presenting a paper.

Chronicles from the General Archives

The five martyrs of Persia

Rome-Italy, June 4, 2014 (Communicationes).- **Fr Óscar I. Aparicio** The work of an archivist is to catalogue in the best possible known manner the documents in the Archives. At times it happens we encounter almost current documents among those more ancient. Thus today I found in Section A, compartment 233/d (5) a piece of graph paper with writing in Biro and dated in all certainty to the beginning of the XX century (the rest of the documents are from the first half of the XVII century) the description of the first page of a printed document. The said document is not to be found in the archives, just this copy of the first page. Fr Antonio Fortes in his book *Las Misiones del Carmelo Teresiano, 1581-1799*, Rome, 1997, describes it in this way: “A short account of the martyrdom of five Persians. Rome, from the publishing house of Alessandro Zanetti, 1622”. It is a copy of the front page of the printed document which itself was not found in the compartment.

On investigating, I found that Fr Florencio of the Child Jesus notes on page 122, chapter XV in volume III of *In Persia*, where he deals with the martyrdom of five neophytes, that this story was written by Fr Prospero in two versions: one more extensive and the other shorter, which was the one printed in Rome in 1622 and which was translated into French and printed in Arras.

Fr Valentín Zubizarreta in his monograph on *Fr Próspero del Espíritu Santo (1583-1653)* transcribes for us all the reports written by Fr Prospero who had recovered Mount Carmel for the Order. This book was written in 2006 and printed in Rome.

In the Archives, in compartment 236, d, we have the photographed second edition (Rome, 1623) of the Narration of the Martyrdom of five Persian Neophytes.

This present report serves to make us aware of the existence of five Persians (Elías, Chaffadir, Alexander, Joseph and Ibrahim) who were converted to Christ and sealed their adherence to Him with their blood. It also reveals how complicated and arduous task it can be at times to catalogue....

Mexico

Teresian exhibition

Puebla-Mexico, June 4, 2014 (Communicaciones).- The *Freedom and Holiness* exhibition: *St Teresa and the feminine genius*, is made up of 40 objects, including paintings, sculpture, books and various objects from the 17th and 18th centuries from several collections, which are being displayed in the Regional museum of Puebla in Mexico, which is part of the National Institute of Anthropology.

The curator is the historian Jesús Joel Peña Espinosa who sets out to reflect on the role of Saint Teresa as “a women who forged her own destiny, exercised her liberty, raised her principles far beyond the transcendent and left a vast material and spiritual work which continues being recognized”.

The display opened on 22nd May in the hall of the temporary exhibitions complex and forms part of the celebrations for the V centenary of the birth of Saint Teresa.

One of the objectives for the curator of this exhibition, *Freedom and Holiness: St Teresa and the feminine genius*, is to show the validity of a woman of the 16th century in the society of the 21st century, through the values that they impute to her, such as "her passion for reading and writing, her leadership, her decision to teach and her conscious exercise of freedom”.

Since 1618, Teresa of Jesus has been patron of the city of Puebla and her presence has been remarkable and evident through the material culture accumulated for more than four centuries and the tradition that reached well into the 20th century that many women in Puebla families were named after her.