



Rome, 13th May, 2011

Dear brothers and sisters of the
Teresian Carmel:

PEACE.

As you know, Fr General has appointed me, as a member of the Definitory, to take charge of coordinating and organizing the events for the coming Teresian Centenary in 2015, which will also include celebrations for the IV centenary of the beatification of St Teresa, which will occur in 2014.

With this in mind, the Definitory General created an international commission which has already begun working on the preparatory stages.

Amongst other things, an International Congress on the *Book of her Life* was celebrated in CITEs, Avila – the Acts have already been published; and this year, the second congress will be held from 29th August to 4th September on the *Way of Perfection*. As last year, it will be possible to take part in the proceedings via internet.

The Web page www.paravosnaci.com continues on in seven languages. It provides the opportunity to share news, reflections and formation material on St Teresa's writings, for the purpose of stimulating spiritual and intellectual preparation for the Centenary. As members of the Teresian family, we are

all invited to use the site, on which can also be found news of the different events taking place or being organized in the monasteries, convents, OCDS fraternities and other Carmelite groups.

Among the short and medium term plans, the Order is preparing at least three documentaries: one on Saint Teresa as a writer, another on the situation of present-day Carmel, and another on Teresian spirituality.

Work is going well on preparing a theatrical work on St Teresa, which we hope will have its premiere in Spain in 2012. Depending on how well this production goes, it could also be possible to produce it in other countries.

We are also working on a new translation into English and French of Teresa's writings, to be published in economical editions for use in disadvantaged regions and particularly in missionary areas.

The Centre of the Order hopes and has the desire to program, or help in coordinating four international congresses: for Central Europe, Asia, Africa and Latin America.

Among our objectives, in cooperation with the community of Discalced Carmelite friars in Avila, is to restore and tidy up the monastery church which, as you would know, forms part of the house where Saint Teresa was born. Particular attention will be paid to the chapel of her birth. In the V Centenary of her birth, it is difficult to imagine a tribute more worthy and enduring to Saint Teresa than to restore the place where she came to be.

It is natural that the celebration of the Centenary should be accompanied by

cultural activities. To organize these, each geographical area ought to set up a commission to promote these, and be in contact with the civil society and public authorities in order to stimulate this type of celebration. **I therefore request the various Conferences of Major Superiors, once they are set up after the provincial chapters, to constitute their own commissions for promoting this work and to tell the General House when they have done so, for the purpose of creating a network between them that would facilitate the steps to be taken for this purpose.**

I share with you that the Order is going to present to the Holy See three important petitions: that 2015 be declared a Holy Jubilee Year in the city of Avila; that the Holy Father visit Avila and some other cities in Spain on dates to be determined by the Holy See between 2014 and 2015; and that 2015 be officially declared *a Year of Prayer*. For the first petition we are coordinating with Avila Diocese, while for the second we are working with the Spanish Episcopal Conference and for the third, we are also working with them and the Discalced Carmelite Bishops.

Pray to the Lord that we can accomplish these objectives.

Finally, in view of these projects, I would like to ask your financial support. Already, some monasteries and Federations of Discalced Carmelite nuns have made generous donations towards the Centenary. Naturally, the various promoting commissions and the International Commission, ought to seek to ally themselves with public foundations and institutions that could help us to finance the Centenary events. But experience tells me that it is always the family that most

generously contributes towards getting such things off the ground and because of this I am turning to you.

In the web-page for the Centenary, www.paravosnaci.com, by clicking on the tab marked “donaciones”, you will find the details of the account, which I also copy here:

CONVENTO SANTA
TERESA – CARMELITAS
DESCALZOS
(CENTENARIO)
IBAN: ES 21
20940001060009138500
BIC: CECAESMM094

I thank you in advance for your generosity and also for your prayers. United in prayer, let us ask the Lord that all the preparatory events and activities celebrating the Teresian Centenary go well, so that by them the Lord will pour out abundant spiritual goods over the Order, the Church and the World.

I take the opportunity to wish you a very happy Easter.

Your brother in the Discalced Carmel, all for Mary:

P. Emilio J. Martínez González, ocd
Vicar General