



General Animator
Teresian Carmelite Missionaries
Via Vincenzo Monti, 31-B
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Reg. N° 40/2021

Dear Sisters, dear Lay Persons,

with great joy I approach each one of you in these days of preparation for the Feast Day of our Father Founder.

This year, after having passed the most difficult months of pandemic, this celebration has a new flavor of certain normality, and this allows us to live this day not only in communion of hearts but in real presence, with people we love, with those with whom we share life and mission.

Another important peculiarity that frames this year's festivity is the celebration of Provincial Chapters; occasion to look deeply at ourselves according to the charismatic features left in legacy by our Founder (Cf. Const. 116.119). Although it is some sisters chosen to participate as capitulars (Cf. Dir. 94) and some lay persons those who will form this assembly in determined moments (Cf. Dir. 13), it is all of us Teresian Carmelite Missionaries and the whole charismatic family who enters in a process of revision and redirection. I ask Lord that, at the example of Francisco Palau, we would be able to discover where and how we shall be (Cf. Letter 63, 4) in this context so peculiar in which we live.

Together with these two characteristics proper of this year, I would like to add one more, with special importance, that is the 150th anniversary of the Passover of our Founder that we will celebrate, if God wills, 20th of March next year. We want, from November 7 of 2021, liturgical feast, until the date of his death, to have some initiatives that might help us to deepen in the life and experience of this great apostle and, at the same time, to give to know his person. Apart from the activities proposed by the general team on spirituality, I invite you that on communitarian and provincial level you propose realization of some project or activity that would help to achieve this double objective of deepening and divulgation.

The first thing that we want to offer, in punctual manner, is a novena of preparation for his Feast. Hopefully you can do it in community, family, in different ambiances of shared mission, inviting other persons to unite in prayer during these days before the celebration.

Apart from that, on November 7 at 12:30 (time in Italy) we will transmit the celebration of the Eucharist with occasion of the liturgical feast of Blessed Francisco

Palau. This year, we count with the presence of Fr. Miguel Márquez, the general prepositus of the Order of Discalced Carmelites.

In this frame, as we already announced, we have edited the commentary of the Word for this year, with some features of our Founder and our spirituality.

These are the first initiatives that we would like to share with you; we hope that in this time we will be able to achieve many more and more wide. I hope that living them, all the sisters and lay persons, in communion and, when possible, at the same time, will make us feel more family and will help us to strengthen bonds and to feel every day more brothers and sisters, more family, more available to live the same ideal of our Founder.

I ask Lord to help us to give witness of what we have seen and heard of Francisco Palau, and also of so many sisters and lay persons who have followed his footsteps, same as we have, and have made a real journey of fidelity and sanctity. For this, I invite you to turn your gaze and hearts to their lives, their writings, their narrations, because “in order to not get lost, we need to inhale the truth of the good stories: stories that construct, not destroy; stories that help to reencounter roots and strength to continue journeying together, because in every great narration our own is at stake. While we read the Holy Scripture, the stories of the saints, and also these texts that knew how to read the soul of a man and to make its beauty shine, the Holy Spirit is free to write in our heart renewing in us the memory of the saints in the eyes of God” (Message of the Pope Francis for 54th World Day of Social Communications).

This way, uniting the feast of our Founder with his Passover puts us in dynamic of searching, contemplation, courage, and risk, even giving our own life. Let us remember why he died; he has a reason to die, “attending the victims of epidemic”, as a culmen a life full of risk and sacrifice. He himself tells us this story: “I went to Calasanz and accompanied there Maria and Roseta to help the victims of the epidemic of typhus, with sister Juana” (Letter 168, 1) and not only once, for we know that he returned there..., the last trip before his Passover. Who has a reason to die, has a reason to live, and Fr. Palau showed during his lifetime that the only reason that made him live surrendered without taking risks into account, was the passion of love for the Church: “I offer myself to Her anew, I live and I shall live for Her, I live and I shall die for Her” (MR 1, 29). He couldn't remain calm before the necessities of the brethren, no matter what type they might be. The fear of failure or critics, the fear of being persecuted or even contaminated, didn't paralyzed him. In him the words of Jesus: “who loses his life, finds it” (Lk 17:33) became reality. Although during his lifetime apparently the things didn't go well, he had the certainty of fulfilling God's will and that sustained him (Cf. Letter 44, 7).

Let us learn from him to live detached from everything that is not God and His will and let us spend and give out our life at the service of the neighbor, at example of this great man to whom we are lucky to call Father.

Happy Feast Day to each one of you in particular, to each community and your families.

Asunción, Paraguay, 28 october 2021



Marcela Jaque Ibarra
General Secretary



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