



GENERAL COUNCILS

Order of the Carmelites of Ancient Observance

Order of the Discalced Carmelites

Joint Commission for the maintenance of the Wadi es-Siah

Rome, 1st of September 2014

To:

PP. Provincials,

Other Superiors,

Mothers Federal,

Prioresses of the Monasteries,

Mothers General of the Affiliated Congregations,

Responsible for the TOC, for the OCDS and other Lay Carmelite groups.

Greetings from Rome!

Conscious of the common heritage and spirituality that we share, and as you may already know, our two Orders, O.Carm. and O.C.D., have been developing different joint projects over the past two decades, we would like to invite your participation in the work of conservation on Mount Carmel.

During our meeting in Rome last June, both the General Council of the Order of Carmelites and the Definitory General of the Discalced Carmelites decided to initiate fund raising in their respective communities in order to support the restoration and conservation of the ruins of the first Carmelite monastery at the Wadi es-Siah on Mount Carmel, Israel. Since the restoration done in the 1970's at the site there has been a gradual deterioration of the fabric and environs of this precious physical part of our ancient heritage. It now needs conservation work on the actual structure, protection of the site itself and especially access for pilgrims who climb Mount Carmel to pray and reflect at the place of our ancient hermits, near the well of the Prophet Elijah. This work is being undertaken in conjunction with the State authorities and the city of Haifa.

As part of the celebrations for the 8th centenary of St. Albert of Jerusalem, our Lawgiver; His Beatitude Fouad Twal, Patriarch of Jerusalem, will preside at the Eucharist on the 12th of October next here in Rome together with Fr. Fernando Millán Romeral, O.Carm., Prior General, and Fr. Saverio Cannistrà, O.C.D., Superior General.

We would like to invite all our parishes, shrines, spiritual centres, monasteries, convents, schools, as well as other institutions and houses associated with us, to join in this important celebration by organizing a collection for this restoration on that same Sunday, i.e., on the 12th of October 2014.

We would hope that this might also be an opportunity for us to appreciate our origins and strengthen the bonds that unite all the members of the great Carmelite family around the world.

You can find some information on Wadi es-Siah and the ruins of the first Carmelite monastery at www.wadi.info.

That our Mother of Mount Carmel, the "Lady of the place", might enlighten and guide us in this worthy project.

Yours in Carmel,



Fr. Fernando Millán Romeral, O.Carm.
Prior General



Fr. Saverio Cannistrà, O.C.D.
Superior General



For those wishing to participate by making a contribution to the project "WADI", please send your donation to our bank account:

Banca Popolare di Sondrio

IBAN number: IT58 R056 9603 2000 0000 3147 X53

BIC-SWIFT: POSOIT22

Indicating the project " Progetto WADI ".