

CIBI CONTACT



News from the Carmelite Institute of Britain & Ireland - November 2011

www.cibi.ie

CARMELITE INSTITUTE COMES OF AGE

On 4th October 2011 The Carmelite Institute of Britain & Ireland (CIBI) celebrated two great achievements that mark a definite coming of age: the graduation of its first ten students to complete CIBI's *Diploma in Carmelite Studies*; and the announcement of a postgraduate study programme, starting in January 2012.



CIBI Graduations

Ten students who completed CIBI's *Diploma in Carmelite Studies* and two who completed its *Adult Education Diploma* graduated on 4th October at a conferral ceremony at The Milltown Institute in Dublin. The graduates (pictured) came from both Ireland and Britain, and included laity and religious of both the Ancient and Discalced Carmelite observances. Several CIBI tutors joined the graduands at a Graduation Eucharist. Among those presenting awards was the Archbishop of Dublin.

Most of the students who graduated plan to do further study with CIBI. Thanks to all those who have supported their studies!

CIBI Postgraduate Programmes

After the conferrals a reception was hosted at Avila, Dublin, by the Provincial of the Anglo-Irish Discalced Carmelite Province, Fr. James Noonan, O.C.D. During the reception CIBI's Director of Studies, Dr. Patrick Mullins, O.Carm., announced the launch of the Institute's postgraduate programmes, which will begin in January 2012. The programmes - a Postgraduate Certificate, a Postgraduate Diploma, and a Master of Arts (M.A.) degree - will be distance-learning courses accredited by York St John University in England, which has strong links with the Carmelite Order. Like CIBI's undergraduate courses, these new programmes will be delivered using the internet, with assessment papers emailed for correction, making them ideal for students worldwide. The *Masters in Carmelite Studies* will be a great resource for those wishing to develop a very high-level of understanding about different aspects of Carmelite life over the centuries, in the present, and into the future. A prospectus - as well as fuller details about CIBI's recent activities - can be found on the Institute's website: www.cibi.ie

Below: Members of the CIBI Executive Board with staff from York St John and external members of a programme validation panel that met in June.



For over 800 years the Carmelite Family - one of the great religious traditions of the Roman Catholic Church - has had a profound impact upon the Church and Society. The Carmelite Institute of Britain & Ireland (CIBI) offers university-accredited distance-learning programmes in the study of Carmel's spirituality and heritage.

Director of Studies Dr. Patrick Mullins, O.Carm.

Administrative Assistant Mr. Frank O'Neill

Administrative Office: Gort Muire Carmelite Centre, Ballinteer, Dublin 16, Ireland

Tel: +353 (0)1 298 7706 Fax: +353 (0)1 298 7714 Email: admin@cibi.ie www.cibi.ie

BOARS HILL GOLDEN JUBILEE

On 12th October 2011 the community of Discalced Carmelite friars at Boars Hill near Oxford celebrated the Golden Jubilee of the Priory's establishment. In 1961 the Discalced Carmelite friars purchased Chilswell House, former home of Poet Laureate Robert Bridges, to develop as a Priory. Today the community welcomes retreat groups in a recently-renovated building, and the site is the location of the Carmelite Book Service. Since its foundation the Priory has been a house of formation for novices and students in the Teresian Carmelite Order. To mark the fiftieth anniversary of the Discalced Carmelites' arrival at Boars Hill, the prior of the community, Fr. Vincent O'Hara, O.C.D., who serves on CIBI's Executive Board, made a presentation on the history of the Carmelite Family in Oxford during a celebration of Mass (the text of his homily is at www.carmelite.org.uk). Friars of the Carmelite Order first came to Oxford in the thirteenth century and became highly significant in the work of the city's world-famous university. *Ad multos annos!*

CLOSURE OF THE WASHINGTON THEOLOGICAL UNION

One of the leading theological institutions in North America with close connections to the Carmelite Order is to close. Washington Theological Union (WTU), a Catholic graduate school and seminary, announced on 27th June that it is closing at the end of the 2012-13 academic year. WTU has decided to shut its doors after 40 years, citing financial challenges, low enrolment and a decline in the number of religious vocations. The Carmelite Order has been particularly active in the work of WTU, which accredited the courses of the Carmelite Institute based in Washington, DC. Father John Welch, O.Carm., said "We will enter this final phase with dignity, a sense of accomplishment, and gratitude to God. Let this be a time to celebrate the Union's contribution to the Church, to honour the various constituencies that made it possible, and to reaffirm the Union's values, still much needed."

RECENT CARMELITE PUBLICATIONS

A former President of the Carmelite Institute in Washington, DC, Fr. Steven Payne, O.C.D., has published a new book entitled *The Carmelite Tradition*. In this anthology of important Carmelite texts, Fr. Steen brings together representative voices to demonstrate the richness and depth of Carmelite Spirituality. The lives and writings presented in *The Carmelite Tradition* invite readers to stand with the holy men and women of Carmel and seek God in the hermitage of the heart. Information about Carmelite publications can be obtained from, among other places:

- The Carmelite Book Service, Oxford: www.carmelite.org.uk
- Saint Albert's Press, Faversham: www.carmelite.org/sap
- Veritas, Dublin: www.veritasbooksonline.com

CIBI WELCOMES NEW BOARD MEMBER

Following the Provincial Chapter of the British Province of Carmelites, Fr. Richard Copsey, O.Carm., is stepping down from the CIBI Executive Board. The Board extends its thanks to Richard, who will continue to contribute as a tutor. The Board welcomes in his place Fr. Antony Lester, O.Carm. Tony is Prior of the Carmelite friars in York and Catholic Chaplain at the University of York. He has recently started doctoral research into new expressions of Lay Carmel since the Second Vatican Council. As Prior Provincial of the British Province of Carmelites between 2002 and 2008, Tony was one of the founding Provincials of CIBI.

RETURNED TO THE FATHER'S HOUSE



Fr. Joachim Smet, O.Carm., one of the leading historians of the Carmelite Order, died on 4th October aged 95. Joachim was born in Chicago. He entered the Carmelite Order and made simple profession in 1935. Fascinated by history, he travelled to Rome to start writing a history of the Order.

Using the limited resources available, Joachim was able to approach early Carmelite historical sources and distinguish fact from pious preconception. Joachim worked quietly and diligently, developing skills and knowledge to become one of the key figures in a revival of Carmelite scholarship. He was a founding member of a small team of scholars working at Saint Albert's College in Rome, and the first editor of its journal *Carmelus*. He encouraged many young scholars. Joachim's election as Assistant General of the Order forced him to put his studies on hold, but in the 1970s his history of the Order began to appear in a series of volumes. Joachim's skill lay in his ability to analyse a complex situation and to condense the significant elements into a readable text. This, coupled with his innate sympathy with the historical characters involved, give his history a unique value. Among his best writings are the early chapters of volume 2, where he describes with great sensitivity and sympathy the series of events around St. Teresa and St. John of the Cross which led to the separation of the Order into two parts. Joachim will be remembered by many as a great friend, whose faith shone through all his actions. May he rest in peace and rise in glory.

CARMEL'S PRESENCE ONLINE

Carmelites are increasingly using the internet to share information and inspiration. The website of the British Province of Carmelites - www.carmelite.org - has a rapidly growing collection of videos relating to Carmelite life, including interviews with some of CIBI's recent graduates. In the summer of 2011 a new online resource - www.carmelstream.com - was launched by the various branches of the Carmelite Family in North America to present articles and videos about Carmel's rich spirituality.

GET TO KNOW THE ACADEMIC BOARD

Johan Bergström-Allen is a member of the Carmelite Third Order Secular (T.O.C.) who runs the Projects & Publications Office of the British Province of Carmelites. He has edited and written various books for Saint Albert's Press, most recently *Climbing the Mountain*, an introduction to the Carmelite way of life. Johan is particularly interested in initial and ongoing formation, and presenting the Carmelite charism in engaging and socially-relevant ways. He convenes Carmelite Spirituality Groups in Leeds, Manchester and York where he lives. Johan was one of the founding members of the CIBI Executive Board, and teaches modules at each of its various levels. A graduate of York and Oxford Universities, he is researching a Ph.D. in medieval Carmelite literature.

