

Message from Fr. Miguel Calle on the first anniversary of his election as Father General of the Discalced Carmelite Order (posted on Facebook, 9-5-22)

Greetings to all my brothers and sisters: the Discalced Carmelites friars, the Discalced Carmelites nuns, to all the OCDS, to all of you who are part of this big family,

Today is the anniversary of my election as General. One year exactly since I was elected. I just returned from a long journey to Venezuela, visiting our brothers and sisters. I have just returned to Rome. But I want to take advantage of this occasion of this first anniversary to rejoice with my brothers, with the whole community of the General House. I would like to thank you all for your closeness, your prayers, your presence, your support, your communion, in diversity, in freedom. I would like to express what we experience in the uniqueness of each circumscription. Of each community. Of each person. In one's own vocation. In the Charism that God has given to each one of us. I want to share a thought and a prayer. I am deeply grateful to God. My feeling is one of profound gratitude to God for this year. There is always the fear, the poverty, the feeling of fragility, the vulnerability with which such a service begins for someone who has never yet felt it. Or, perhaps, I have not felt that I was ready. However, there is the embrace of the brothers, the prayer, the sympathy, the closeness of so many people who feel it deeply. It renews me in my desire to be a father and to be at the service of the whole Order. There are so many experiences, so many moments shared in a special way: the visit to Ukraine and the visit to so many places such as Lebanon or just now, after landing this morning from Venezuela. There are so many situations, so many places, so many corners of the Order, where the brothers and sisters sacrifice themselves, where the great majority of the Order is doing a very precious service. We want to go on walking, we want to start again, always from good to better. This is my prayer, and this is my thanksgiving to God. I ask God from the bottom of my heart to continue to give us the grace and strength we need. May the Holy Spirit renew in us the desire to give ourselves to the end, to hold nothing back. We are not here for ourselves, but we are here to serve and to live the dream that St. Teresa of Jesus and St. John of the Cross lived in their own lives. Therefore, on this first year, this first anniversary, I thank you all heartily. I feel encouraged, embraced and supported by all of you. May God bless you all, and may we continue to walk, to begin and always go from good to better. May the Virgin Mary take us by the hand and may St. Joseph always protect us along with all the saints of Carmel. I feel that this is a time of hope and a time to begin life and to bless the new shoots that will undoubtedly spring forth in the midst of this wounded earth in this time of crisis. It is also a time of opportunities and a time for God to do his work through our poverty and through our gifts. Thank you from my heart, greetings and blessings to all of you. Sincerely. Thank you.