

August 19, 2022

Message from Father General, Fr. Miguel Márquez Calle, OCD
“Standing with Nicaragua”

The Discalced Carmel supports and stands with the Church and the People of Nicaragua. Today we are all Nicaragua.

The Teresian Carmel wants to express its full solidarity with the Nicaraguan Church, which suffers for being faithful to the Gospel and for defending the dignity and freedom of every human being.

I would like to ask the whole Order to pray together, to be a “merciful and persevering resistance.” Spirituality and prayer in Carmel are always a source of truth and courage to be with the Church, with those who suffer and with the poor. In Nicaragua there is a parish, a monastery of Carmelites nuns and the Secular Carmelites. These presences, like so many others in Nicaragua, have the unique interest of living and proclaiming the Gospel with their life and with their concern for the dignity of every human being and their freedom, with prayer and gratuity. Together with the Discalced Carmelites friars, the Discalced nuns and the Secular Carmelites, we light our lamps asking for light, wisdom, humility and listening, for those who have the authority to serve in order to defend freedom and truth.

Dear Church of Nicaragua, with Teresa of Jesus and John of the Cross, with all the Carmelite Saints, we want to pray and ask for you the humble audacity and freshness of those who stand among the people to give life and to be sowers of seeds of fraternity and reconciliation. We embrace your pain and your distress. We pray insistently, without losing heart, without losing hope, so that in every town, in every country, in Nicaragua and in all Latin America, paths of peace, dialogue, respect, coexistence in diversity, faith and hope may always be found, and that the Gospel may continue to be a seed of peace in truth.

Please accept our fraternal greetings and our proximity in prayer and trust in the Word of Jesus: “I will be with you always, to the end.”

With much pain we have also received the news of the violent arrest of Bishop Rolando Álvarez Lagos, Bishop of the Diocese of Matagalpa, by the police. As Teresian Carmelites, “children of the Church,” we feel with great pain that the people of Nicaragua are deprived of another faithful servant of the Gospel. I invite you to pray for this bishop, defender of human dignity in the name of Christ, that his integrity may be respected and that he may be released immediately.

Miguel Márquez OCD
Father General