

## TRANSLATOR'S FOREWORD

«The most beautiful pages of the story of a Religious Order are, undoubtedly, those that trace the spiritual aspects of the saints who have illustrated it.» So begins the preface to «Saints of Carmel» in Italian, by the Rev. Valentino Macca, O. C. D. Then the Reverend collaborator goes on to uphold the contemplative-apostolic ideal of Carmel as glorified in the Order's saints. Later he praises the initiative of the Rev. Louis M. Saggi, O. Carm., in publishing the lives of Carmel's «saints,» viz., those canonized and beatified and those whose cult has been officially recognized. All together, they are twice the number of those listed in the «Proper» /calendar/ of the Order (see pp. 9-10) and include: Elias, the prophet, as the inspiration of Carmelite life; Eliseus, for the same reason, though in a minor key; and Albert of Jerusalem, as the legislator of the Order.

Father Saggi, in turn, subtitles his introduction «Carmelite Hagiography» and offers a very scholarly study on the results of modern historical method. To the translator, writing rather for the larger public which embraces also those more interested in the inspiration the saints can give, it has seemed well to restrict his task to the lives, likewise scholarly, of the «saints» mentioned. He has also left aside Fr. Saggi's historical study of «St. Mary of Mount Carmel»; for him, among other reasons, Mary is above the saints, in a different category, so to speak, and so remains outside the aim of this book. The translator underlines, moreover, that these entries are encyclopedic in scope, and therefore they will not give all the inspiration that the general reader might expect. However, there is strength in numbers, and the results will be accumulative even here. Our fervent thanks to the Carmelite Institute and to all who helped with the original Italian edition!

On his part, the translator wishes to thank heartily all who have helped with the present volume and, first of all, the Rev. Redemptus Valabek, O. Carm., who not only consented to be censor, but also assisted most generously as reviser and consultant. Indeed, his name ought perhaps be added to the names of those responsible for this edition; any deficiencies, however, remain the responsibility of the translator. Warm thanks, furthermore, to the Most Rev. Falco Thuis, Prior General of the Carmelites, to the Very Rev. Serapion Seiger, Commissary for Portugal, for their kindly encouragement; to Mrs. Joseph Aceto, for her careful proofreading; and to many others, for their gracious support!

In the arrangement of the entries in the present version, a strict alphabetical order according to the first names is the one followed. Also, a chronological list, according to the dates of death, has been added (see pp. 11-12). The Douay text has been generally used, as being more available; however, in conforming to modern usage, the Books of Kings have been listed as I and II instead of III and IV. The virgules substitute for brackets or mark the interpolations of the translator, who, though introducing some minor changes, has generally stayed close to the letter and to the mind of the original authors.

May God bless all who have helped in the realization of this volume!