



17th October, 2010

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NEW PARISH PRIEST FOR TA' XBIEX

Fr Augustine (Wistin) Vella ocd will be installed as the new parish priest of Ta' Xbiex by Archbishop Paul Cremona, on Tuesday 23rd November, 2010, during the celebration of Mass which starts at 6.00 p.m.

Born in Mellieha, Fr Augustine Vella joined the Teresian Carmelites at St Teresa's in Cospicua as aspirant in his mid-teens. Educated locally, in the UK and in Italy he was ordained a priest in 1975. He eventually served as formation master in Malta and Taiwan; local superior at Cospicua, Tas-Silg and Taiwan; and chaplain in an elderly home. He is currently a religious counsellor in secondary State schools and is also the editor of Carmelite vocational and spirituality publications.

The parish church of Ta' Xbiex and the Teresian Carmelite monastery are both dedicated to St John of the Cross. The first stone of the church was blessed in 1954 by the Teresian Carmelite Bishop Teofano Stella, then the first Vicar Apostolic in Kuwait. Once completed, four years later, the church was blessed by Archbishop Michael Gonzi who also elevated it as parish church in 1969. Today the Parish of St John of the Cross embraces around 700 families.