

October 15, 2021

Good Morning All,

1. Today's Readings: [Memorial of Saint Teresa of Jesus, Virgin and Doctor of the Church | USCCB](#)

2. The RE Corner with Jan Heithaus: A favorite saint of many (including me), St Teresa of Avila had a great desire to be a saint from childhood. She and her brother heard that Catholics were being martyred in a foreign country so they left home with the hope of going there to become one, only to be brought home by their uncle. Her desire for God was rewarded by a deep spiritual life and mystical revelations that have enriched the Church. Pope Gregory XV canonized her in 1622 together with SS. Ignatius of Loyola, Francis Xavier, Isidore, and Philip Neri. Pope Paul VI, on September 27, 1970, officially declared the Carmelite nun to be the first woman Doctor of the Church.

3. Quotes of the Day: Wise words from St. Teresa of Avila

~ "I do not remember that I ever asked him [St. Joseph] at any time for anything which he did not obtain for me. It fills me with amazement when I consider the numberless graces which God has granted me through the intercession of this blessed saint and the perils, both of body and soul, from which he has delivered me."

~ "Christ does not force our will, He takes only what we give him. But he does not give himself entirely until he sees that we yield ourselves entirely to him."

~ "When you have received Holy Communion, close your bodily eyes so that you may open the eyes of your soul. Then look upon Jesus in the centre of your heart."

~ "Christ has no body now, but yours.
No hands, no feet on earth, but yours.
Yours are the eyes through which Christ looks compassion into the world.
Yours are the feet with which Christ walks to do good.
Yours are the hands with which Christ blesses the world."

St. Teresa of Avila, Pray for Us!

St. Joseph, Pray for Us!

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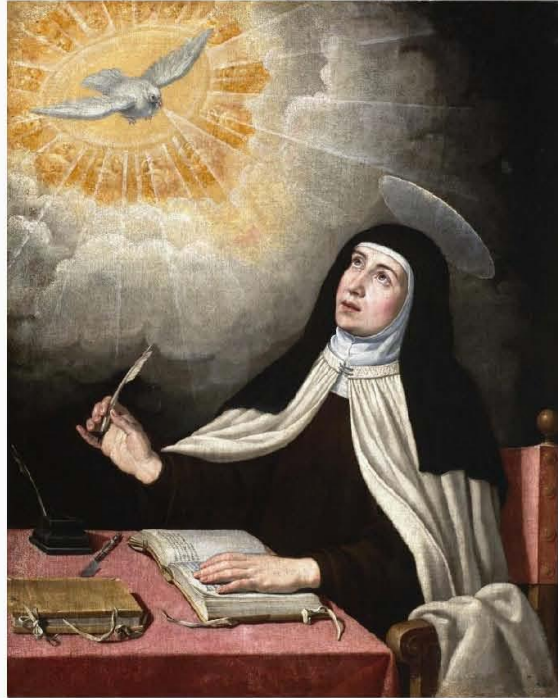
Linda McCormick
St. Joseph Catholic Church & School
1200 Cornelia Road
Anderson, SC 29621

Phone: (864) 225-5341, ext. 102

Fax: (864) 225-6432

The Life of St. Teresa of Jesus

Mystic | Teacher of Prayer | Doctor of the Church



St. Teresa of Jesus was born on March 28, 1515, in Avila, Spain. Her mother died when she was 14, and she entered the Carmelite Monastery in Avila in 1535. Her life as a Carmelite, though far removed from the mainstream of modern culture, still speaks powerfully to us today.

Teresa longed for a deeper relationship with God, but due to the laxity of convent life in those days, she struggled to reconcile her desire to live for God with other relationships that kept her from devoting herself completely to Him.

Repeatedly, Teresa asked God to help her, seemingly to no avail. It was not until 1554 that she experienced the conversion that would mark the rest of her life. Coming upon a statue of the wounded Christ, Teresa was suddenly and intensely moved by what Christ had suffered for her and was overwhelmed by her own lack

of gratitude for His sufferings. In tears, she begged the Lord to strengthen her desire to belong to Him, and resolved not to move from there until her prayer was granted. At that moment, Teresa felt a growing strength within her.

Teresa's conversion, which actually occurred over a period of four years, set her on a new pathway that led her to an intimate experience of God, a God she came to perceive as a beloved Friend. In prayer, God poured out His love on His daughter, who had become a willing and open vessel as she surrendered totally to her Lord and King.

Teresa's indomitable love for God made her determined to give her all, willing to overcome any obstacle to do what God asked of her. Convinced that God wanted it, she set about reforming the Carmelite order, establishing convents throughout Spain where religious would live according to the original spirit of Carmel.

The special gifts she received from God in prayer were often misunderstood by others—her writings even came under the scrutiny of the Inquisition—and Teresa suffered much. At times she would try to suppress the ecstasies that accompanied God's intimate presence, even questioning herself if they had come from God. Yet God continued to lead her into the innermost dwellings of her heart, where she beheld the awesome beauty of her King.

Fortunately for us, Teresa's superiors ordered her to document the remarkable events of her life and her original works still exist today. The Book of Her Life, The Way of Perfection, The Interior Castle, and The Foundations are her main works, detailing her remarkable pathway to God. It is through these profoundly human yet mystical writings that we experience Teresa's spirit that inspires us to enter into an ever deeper relationship with God.

Teresa died in 1582 at the age of 67. In 1622 she was canonized, and in 1970 Pope Paul VI declared her a Doctor of the Church, the first woman ever to be so recognized.

Source: teresiansisters.org