

Episodes from the Life of St. Teresa of Avila



Session Two

To the Carmelite Monastery of the Incarnation



May of 1534: Avila Celebrates



The Visit of Charles V

The Holy Roman Emperor, King of Spain



Avila vibrates with the festival of the imperial visit



**Teresa de Ahumada is 19 years old;
she takes part in popular festivities**



Teresa is going through an interior spiritual battle



Autumn of 1535

her companion in childhood games
her brother Rodrigo leaves for America



**All that she holds dear
seems to be taken from her**



Juana Juarez became a Carmelite Nun Teresa visits her friend at the Incarnation



Mr. Alonso stands between Teresa and the convent



November 2 1535

Teresa leaves secretly and walks to the Convent of the Incarnation



Teresa prepares to receive the habit



November 2, 1536
Teresa wears the White Cape of Carmel



1538: Teresa is Gravely Ill Leaves the Convent for Treatment



Her father takes her to a folk healer, who lives in a small village in the mountains traveling through winter storms



**The folk healer won't start the treatment until
the cold weather has passed**



**April 1539 The treatment begins
daily purges; mysterious potions
medications from herbs and roots**



**Teresa gets worse
Her heart problems persist
her lungs are damaged**



1539 Return to Avila

Teresa, not healed, is at her father's house



**On the grounds of the Incarnation,
there is an open grave
Prepared for the body of Teresa**



**Teresa is 24 years old
In a coma for four days
She is given up for dead**



**A last cry of hope:
"This daughter isn't to be buried!"**



Teresa entrusts her sickness to St. Joseph



**The pains and exhaustion have gone
She spends hours in the parlor
A young nobleman of Avila visits often**



December, 1544, Mr. Alonso dies
"Everything comes to an end
one thing remains: having served Our Lord"



**Teresa is at her father's bedside
Prayers of petition and of tears accompany his
soul's passing to eternity**



For Reflection and Discussion

What were some events and people during this stage of her life that opened Teresa's soul to her vocation, and strengthened her resolve?

What events and people in your life have led you to a deeper experience of prayer? Did any of these events follow a time of sadness or suffering? Is suffering an essential part of spiritual development?