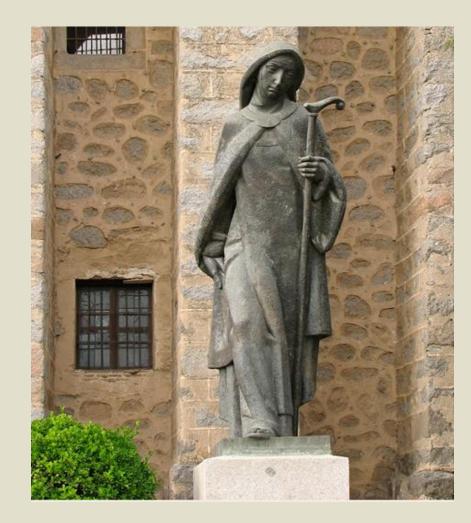
Episodes from the Life of St. Teresa of Avila



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



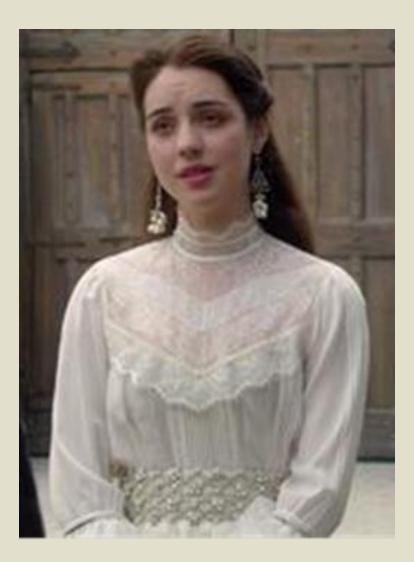
Avila vibrates with the festival of the imperial visit



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



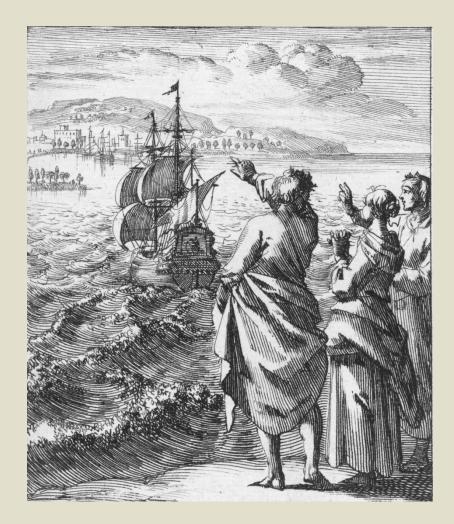
Teresa is going through an interior spiritual battle



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 III 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



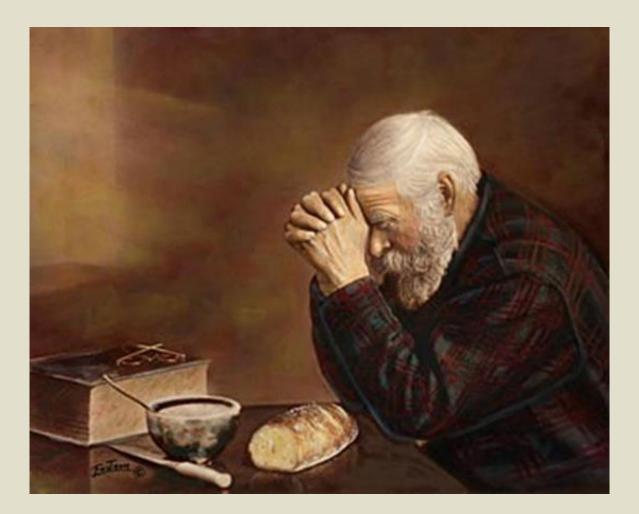
On the grounds of the Incarnation, there is an open grave Prepared for the body of Teresa



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 prat of spiritual development?