

A TERESIAN CHRONOLOGY

- 1515 March 28, born in Avila.
April 4, baptized in the parish church of St. John the Baptist.
- 1522 Attempts to run away with her brother Rodrigo to the land of the Moors.
(Adrian VI of Utrecht is elected pope; Zwingli begins his reform in Zurich; Luther's translation of the New Testament into the German vernacular is published.)
- 1528 Doña Beatriz de Ahumada, Teresa's mother, dies.
- 1531 María de Cepeda, Teresa's older sister, marries and takes up residence in Castellanos de la Cañada. Teresa enters the convent school of Our Lady of Grace.
(Ulrich Zwingli dies. Francisco Pizarro begins the conquest of Peru.)
- 1532 In the autumn Teresa leaves the convent school because of an illness.
- 1533 Spends time convalescing at her uncle's home in Hortigosa and at her older sister's home in Castellanos de la Cañada.
- 1534 Her brother Hernando leaves for Peru.
(St. Ignatius and his companions make their vows at Montmartre in Paris. Pope Clement VII, elected in 1523, dies and is succeeded by Paul III.)
- 1535 Teresa's brother Rodrigo leaves for Rio de la Plata.
Nov. 2, Teresa leaves home and enters the monastery of the Incarnation.
(Henry VIII decrees the Act of Supremacy proclaiming himself as head of the Church of England.)
- 1536 Nov. 2, Teresa receives the religious habit at the Incarnation.

St. Teresa of Avila

- (Erasmus dies. John Calvin publishes *Institutes of the Christian Religion* and takes up the work begun by Zwingli in Switzerland.)
- 1537 Nov. 3, Teresa makes her religious profession of vows at the Incarnation.
- 1538 Because of illness she leaves the Incarnation so as to undergo treatment in Becedas. Stops at her uncle's in Hortigosa and her sister's in Castellanos de la Cañada. Reads Osuna's *The Third Spiritual Alphabet* given to her by her uncle.
- 1539 April, begins to undergo the treatments administered by the quack in Becedas.
July, returns seriously ill to her father's home in Avila. August, lapses into a coma of four days' duration. She is brought back to the Incarnation with a paralysis which lasts three years.
- 1540 Nov. 5, her brothers Lorenzo and Jerónimo leave for America in the expedition of Vaca de Castro.
(St. Ignatius of Loyola's constitutions for the Society of Jesus are approved by Paul III. In 1541, Valdivia establishes Santiago in Chile; Calvin begins to organize his church in Geneva, and John Knox his reform in Scotland.)
- 1542 Teresa feels cured through the intercession of St. Joseph. She gives up prayer out of a false sense of humility.
(Paul III publishes the bull convoking the Council of Trent; St. John of the Cross is born in Fontiveros.)
- 1543 Teresa cares for her sick father and assists him in his death (in December).
- 1544 Returns to the practice of prayer at the advice of the family confessor, Vicente Barron, O.P.
- 1546 Jan. 18, the battle of Iñaquito (Peru) in which four of Teresa's brothers fight.
Jan. 20, her brother Antonio dies from wounds suffered in battle.
Her brother Agustín leaves for America in the expedition of Pedro de la Gasca.
(Feb. 18, Martin Luther dies.)
- 1548 In the spring Teresa makes a pilgrimage to the shrine in Guadalupe for her brothers in America.

- 1549 Three of Teresa's brothers, Lorenzo, Jerónimo, and Agustín, fight in the battle of Xaquixaguana on the side of Pedro de la Gasca against Pizarro.
(Paul III dies Nov. 20 and is succeeded by Julius III Feb. 7, 1550.)
- 1553 Teresa's younger sister, Doña Juana de Ahumada marries Don Juan de Ovalle in Alba de Tormes.
- 1554 In Lent, Teresa experiences a profound conversion before a statue of the wounded Christ.
Begins to consult with a Jesuit confessor, Diego de Cetina.
- 1555 Juan de Prádanos, S.J., becomes her confessor.
(Julius III dies in March and is succeeded by Marcellus II who dies in May and is succeeded by Paul IV. The Treaty of Augsburg allows rulers of the German states to decide what religion should be professed in their territories.)
- 1556 May, Teresa receives the grace of spiritual betrothal.
Baltasar Alvarez, S.J., becomes Teresa's director.
(Charles V resigns the kingdoms of both Spain and the Spanish overseas empire in favor of his son Philip II. St. Ignatius of Loyola dies in Rome.)
- 1557 Teresa consults with St. Francis Borgia, S.J., who passes through Avila.
Her beloved brother Rodrigo crosses the Andes and dies in battle in Chile.
- 1559 The intellectual visions of Christ begin.
(Paul IV dies in Rome and is succeeded by Pius IV. The Inquisitor Fernando Valdés publishes for Spain an index of forbidden books.)
- 1560 Beginning of the imaginative visions of the risen Christ. She is ordered to mock the visions by showing the fig.
Receives the grace of the wounding of the heart while staying at the house of Doña Guiomar de Ulloa.
St. Peter of Alcántara arrives in Avila and assures Teresa, and others, that her spiritual favors are the work of God.
The frightening vision of hell.
Discussions about a new foundation begin.

- Teresa writes the first extant account of her spiritual life for Pedro Ibáñez, O.P.
- 1561 Aug. 12, St. Clare promises to help her.
End of August, Teresa brings her little nephew Gonzalo back to life.
Christmas, ordered to go to Toledo to stay with Doña Luisa de la Cerda, the widow of Arias Pardo.
- 1562 January to June, resides in Toledo; meets García de Toledo, O.P.
March, meets María de Jesús and learns about the practice of poverty in the primitive rule.
June, finishes her first redaction of the *Life*. Returns from Toledo to Avila.
July, finds in Avila the apostolic rescript for the foundation of St. Joseph's dated Feb. 7.
Aug. 24, foundation of the new monastery of St. Joseph. Four novices receive the habit. Teresa is called back to the Incarnation.
Aug. 29, the city initiates a lawsuit against the monastery.
Oct. 19, St. Peter of Alcántara dies.
December, Teresa moves to St. Joseph's with permission of the provincial and takes four nuns from the Incarnation with her. Changes her name to Teresa of Jesus.
(The wars of religion begin in France between the Huguenots and Catholics.)
- 1563 Teresa is named prioress of St. Joseph's succeeding Ana de San Juan (Dávila) who returns to the Incarnation.
She writes the *Constitutions* for St. Joseph's which are approved by the bishop of Avila, Don Alvaro de Mendoza, and by Pius IV in 1565.
(The Council of Trent closes December 4.)
- 1564 May 21, John Baptist Rossi (Rubeo) is elected prior general of the Carmelite Order.
Oct. 21, the first profession, of four nuns, at St. Joseph's.
(John Calvin and Michelangelo Buonarroti die; Galileo Galilei and William Shakespeare are born.)

- 1565 January, Teresa's brother Hernando dies in Colombia.
July 17, the bull of Pius IV confirms the practice of poverty of the new monastery and its submission to the bishop.
- 1566 Teresa finishes the first redaction of *The Way of Perfection* and, probably, the second; she also writes her *Meditations on the Song of Songs*.
The visit of Alonso Maldonado, the Franciscan missionary in Mexico, to St. Joseph's.
(Pius V is elected in January to succeed Pius IV who died the previous month.)
- 1567 Feb. 18, the prior general Rubeo comes to Avila for his visitation.
April 27, Rubeo authorizes Teresa to found other monasteries.
May 16, in another patent letter the general clarifies that his permission excludes Andalusia.
Aug. 15, the first foundation is made in Medina del Campo.
Aug. 16, Rubeo gives permission for two foundations of Teresian friars provided they are not made in Andalusia.
Teresa meets St. John of the Cross in Medina and convinces him to join her in her work.
- 1568 January, leaves Medina for Alcalá to visit the new monastery of María de Jesús.
March, goes to Toledo and there agrees to make a foundation in Malagón.
April, makes the foundation in Malagón.
May 19, leaves Malagón for Valladolid, stopping in Toledo, Escalona, Avila, Duruelo, and Medina.
Aug. 15, the foundation in Valladolid.
In Valladolid, Teresa teaches St. John of the Cross about her way of life. He afterward sets out to prepare the house at Duruelo for the first foundation of friars, which is made November 28.
Oct. 31, Teresa receives a letter from St. John of Avila giving approval to what she wrote in her *Life*.
(The Moorish revolt in Granada.)

- 1569 February, leaves Valladolid; passes through Medina, visits the new friars in Duruelo, and stops in Avila.
 March 24, arrives in Toledo.
 May 14, the foundation in Toledo.
 May 30, leaves Toledo for Pastrana; stops in Madrid for eight days at *Las Descalzas Reales* (discalced Franciscan nuns for members of the nobility); meets Ambrosio Mariano.
 June 23, foundation of the nuns in Pastrana.
 July 13, foundation of the friars in Pastrana.
 Writes her *Soliloquies*.
 Aug. 26, two apostolic visitators for the Carmelite order are appointed: Pedro Fernández, O.P., and Francisco Vargas, O.P.
- 1570 July 10, Teresa attends the profession in Pastrana of Ambrosio Mariano de San Benito and Juan de la Miseria.
 Nov. 1, the foundation in Salamanca.
 (Pius V excommunicates Queen Elizabeth I of England.)
- 1571 Jan. 25, foundation in Alba de Tormes.
 Oct. 14, Teresa takes possession of the office of prioress at the Incarnation.
 (Defeat of the Turkish Armada at Lepanto.)
- 1572 Arranges to have St. John of the Cross as chaplain and confessor to the nuns at the Incarnation. Jerónimo Gracián enters novitiate.
 Writes her *Response to a Spiritual Challenge*.
 Nov. 18, receives the grace of spiritual marriage.
 (Pius V dies and is succeeded by Gregory XIII; St. Bartholomew's eve, the massacre of the Huguenots; Nicolás Ormaneto arrives in Spain as nuncio.)
- 1573 Aug. 25, Teresa begins writing her *Foundations*.
- 1574 March, the journey from Alba to Segovia with St. John of the Cross for the foundation in Segovia on March 19.
 April 6-7, the nuns abandon the foundation in Pastrana by order of Teresa and are received in Segovia.
 Oct. 6, finishes her term as prioress at the Incarnation.

- 1575 Feb. 24, foundation in Beas.
April-May, first meetings with Gracián.
May 18, leaves Beas for Seville.
May 24, in the church of St. Ann in Ecija makes a vow to obey Gracián.
May 29, foundation in Seville.
Aug. 12, her brother Don Lorenzo returns from America.
December, she is denounced to the Inquisition of Seville.
Receives orders from the chapter held in Piacenza to retire to one of her monasteries in Castile.
- 1576 Jan. 1, the foundation in Caravaca made by Ana de San Alberto at Teresa's orders.
Writes accounts of her spiritual life for Rodrigo Alvarez, S.J., who is consultant to the Inquisition in Seville.
May 28, leaves Seville with her brother and his family and stops for some days in Almodovar del Campo and Malagón.
June 23, arrives in Toledo.
August, writes *On Making the Visitation*.
- 1577 Feb. 6, writes the *Satirical Critique*.
June 2, begins to write *The Interior Castle*.
June 18, the nuncio, Ormaneto, dies.
July, she goes to Avila.
Aug. 29, the new nuncio, Segá, arrives in Madrid.
Nov. 29, Teresa concludes *The Interior Castle*.
Dec. 3, St. John of the Cross is taken prisoner, and the following day Teresa writes a letter to the king pleading for help and justice on the saint's behalf.
Dec. 24, she falls down the stairs at St. Joseph's and breaks her left arm, which is never set properly and leaves her incapacitated.
- 1578 July 23, Segá issues a counterbrief taking away Gracián's faculties as apostolic visitator.
Aug. 9, the royal council forbids the disalced to obey Segá.
Aug. 17-18, St. John of the Cross escapes from his prison in Toledo.

St. Teresa of Avila

Oct. 9, the Teresian friars hold a chapter at Almodóvar, against Teresa's better judgment, and elect Antonio de Jesús superior.

Oct. 16, Segá annuls the chapter's decisions and places the Teresian friars and nuns under the authority of the provincials of the observant Carmelites.

Nov. 4, the prior general, Rubeo, dies.

(Don John of Austria dies and is succeeded by Alexander Farnese in the government of the Low Countries.)

1579 April 1, Segá and his counsellors deprive the provincials of authority over the Teresian friars and nuns and appoint Angel de Salazar as vicar general.

June, Teresa begins traveling once more: Medina, Valladolid, Salamanca, Alba, Avila, Toledo.

Nov. 24, arrives in Malagón and engages in speeding up the construction work on the new monastery.

Dec. 8, the nuns move to the new monastery, the only one constructed from its foundations according to Teresa's specifications.

(The Union of Utrecht forms the alliance of northern provinces of the Netherlands and makes protestantism the state religion.)

1580 February, the foundation in Villanueva de la Jara.

March, Teresa leaves Villanueva de la Jara and journeys to Toledo where she becomes seriously ill.

June, leaves Toledo for Segovia, passing through Madrid. Gracián and Diego de Yanguas, O.P., examine and "correct" *The Interior Castle* in the parlor of Segovia in the presence of Teresa.

June 22, the papal brief *Pia consideratione* allows the Teresian friars and nuns to form a separate province.

June 26, Teresa's brother Don Lorenzo dies.

Aug. 8, she arrives in Valladolid and becomes seriously ill.

Dec. 28, leaves Valladolid for Palencia and makes the foundation there the following day.

(King Henry of Portugal dies leaving no successor to the throne. Philip II to assert his rights to the crown orders the Duke of Alba to invade Portugal.)

- 1581 March 3, opening of the chapter at Alcalá in view of which Teresa wrote letters to Gracián concerning legislation of the nuns.
March 4, Gracián is elected provincial.
June 30, the foundation in Soria.
Sept. 10, María de Cristo renounces her office of prioress in Avila, and Teresa is elected.
Nov. 28, St. John of the Cross arrives in Avila with the desire to persuade Teresa to come to Granada for a foundation there, but she declines.
(Philip II is recognized as king of Portugal. Legazpi and Urdaneta found the city of Manila.)
- 1582 Jan. 2, Teresa leaves Avila for the last time on the way to the new foundation in Burgos.
Jan. 20, the foundation in Granada is made by St. John of the Cross and Ana de Jesús.
April 19, the foundation in Burgos is finally achieved.
July 26, she leaves Burgos.
Aug. 2, stops off in Palencia.
Aug. 25, arrives in Valladolid.
Sept. 15, leaves Valladolid and arrives in Medina.
Sept. 19, leaves Medina and, at the order of Antonio de Jesús, goes to Alba de Tormes.
Sept. 20, reaches Alba de Tormes at six in the evening.
Sept. 29, goes to bed seriously ill never to get up again; announces that her death is at hand.
Oct. 3, receives the sacraments of reconciliation and of the sick.
Oct. 4, at nine in the evening dies "a daughter of the Church" at the age of sixty-seven.
The Gregorian Calendar was introduced that year so that the day following Teresa's death became October 15.
- 1614 April 24, she is beatified by Paul V.
- 1622 March 12, she is canonized by Gregory XV along with Saints Isidore, Ignatius Loyola, Francis Xavier, and Philip Neri.
- 1970 Sept. 27, she is declared a Doctor of the Church by Paul VI, and becomes the first woman saint to be so recognized.