

3rd Foundation: Valladolid.

(Ch.10)

The Book of her Foundations

by Teresa of Avila

Deals with the foundation of the house in Valladolid. Its title is The Conception of Our Lady of Mount Carmel.

A distinguished young gentleman said he would willingly give me a house he owned with a large garden with a vineyard. He was determined to give this valuable property away immediately. I accepted his offer though not too sure if I would found the monastery on this property as it was outside the town. It seemed that once we owned the house, we could move to the town. Since he offered it so willingly, I didn't want to refuse his good deed or hinder his devotion.

2. Within two months, this same young man contracted an illness that took away his speech thus making it difficult for him to make a confession. He however made many signs to ask the Lord's pardon. He died shortly afterward.

The Lord let me know that the young man would remain in purgatory until the first Mass was said in the monastery, but that he had received much mercy for the service rendered to the Blessed Mother in giving the house to be a monastery to her order.

At the thought of his suffering in purgatory, I put aside my plans to found a monastery in Toledo to pursue the foundation in Valladolid.

3. I was held up a number of days due to visits at both St. Joseph's in Avila and St. Joseph's in Medina del Campo.

In prayer one day, the Lord told me to hurry up as the man's soul was suffering much. Though I had no money, I entered Valladolid on the feast of St. Lawrence. I have to say too, that at seeing the house I was quite dismayed and knew it would be foolish to have the nuns stay there. The site was beautiful because of the garden, but since it was near a river, the nuns would certainly become sick.

4. Even though tired, I wanted to go to Mass. It was then that I realized how far the house was from the town. Though stressed, I said nothing to my companions. I did however

have some faith, though weak, that the Lord would provide a remedy.

I arranged for workmen to come to attend to some necessary things such as a wall for recollection. The priest with us, Julian de Avila, had been seeking to obtain a license from the bishop before Sunday. But permission was granted to say Mass for us in the place where the church would be.

5. When the priest arrived with the Blessed Sacrament where we were to receive Communion, and I approached to receive, the young man appeared, his face so joyful... He thanked me for all I had done for him to be able to leave purgatory and go to heaven....

Our Lord is pleased with any service rendered to His Mother, and great is His mercy ... He repays our lowly deeds with eternal life and glory. He makes them great while they are in fact of little value.

6. We took possession of this monastery on the feast day of our Lady's Assumption, August 15, 1568. We could only stay there a short while as we all got sick.

Dona Maria de Mendoza, the sister of the bishop of Avila, a very Christian and charitable woman, showed us much charity. She saw that we couldn't remain in that house without much hardship and that the site was far from where we could receive alms. She suggested we simply give her the house and that she would buy us another one. And this she did. The one she gave us was worth more, and in addition, she has given all that is necessary up till now ...

7. We moved there on the feast of St. Blaise in a large procession and with great devotion on the part of the people. The Lord grants many favors in that house.

He has brought souls whose sanctity will cause His name to be praised. In fact, a very young girl entered there and showed what the world is by despising it. Let me speak of her here so that those who have a great love of the world will be put to shame.

8. In this place, Dona Maria de Acuna was married to the governor of Castile. When he died, she was left, while still quite young with a son and two daughters.

She began to live so holy a life and rear her children in such virtue, that the Lord desired them for Himself.

One of her daughters became a nun immediately. The other lived an edifying life

with her mother. The son felt, at a very early age, a call to the priesthood. His mother was delighted with his vocation and prayed ardently for him.

In sum, when the Lord wants a soul for Himself, creatures can do little to prevent it. Though relatives tried to prevent him following God's call, he ended up entering the Society of Jesus. His mother confided to the confessor that never had she experienced such joy in her heart as the day her son made his profession.

9. What a great favor you grant those children whose parents love them so much as to want them to possess the riches that offer a blessed life that has no end.

It is a pity that the world is so unfortunate that parents do not remember that the things of this world will come to an end and so little importance should be given to it. Such parents want to sustain their own vanities at a cost to their children, and boldly take souls from God that He wants for Himself. These souls lose a great good, freedom from the tiresomeness of the world and its laws.

Allow parents to see, o God, the type of love they should have for their children so they don't do their children harm and are then complained about before God in that final judgment where the value of each thing will be understood.

10. Don Antonio de Padilla, the son of Dona Maria de Acuna, at the age of seventeen was mercifully drawn from the world by God. Hence, the estates went to the oldest daughter, Dona Luisa de Padilla.

Don Antonia had suffered much from his relatives ... Whoever knows how much value those of the world place on their having an heir to their properties will understand.

11. What Lord did you leave the world? What could we inherit from you? What did you possess but trials and sufferings, and dishonors? You had but a wooden beam on which to swallow the painfully difficult drink of death.

In sum, it does not fit those of us who want to be your true children, and hold on to their inheritance just to flee suffering.

Your heraldry consists of five wounds. Courage then my daughters, this must be our badge if we are to inherit His kingdom.

Not with rest, favors, honors, riches will that which He bought with so much blood, be gained.

Open your eyes for the love of God; behold the true knights of Jesus Christ did not follow the road you follow. Do you think there will be a new road for you? Do not believe it as these young persons just showed us.

12. At times, I have had the chance to speak with Don Antonio whose only wish would have been to have many more possessions in order to be able to leave them all behind. Blessed the young man and the young girl who merited much from God by trampling on the world at an age when most are overpowered by it.

13. The estates were left to the older sister, who like her brother, did not place any importance on them. How many trials, torments, and litigations many would undergo to inherit this wealth. She suffered much to renounce it; to be free she renounced it in favor of her sister who was about ten years old.

To perpetuate this family name, her relatives arranged to have her marry her uncle, her father's brother. A dispensation from the Supreme Pontiff was obtained and the two were engaged.

14. The Lord did not desire that the daughter of such a mother and siblings be left deceived.

When she began to enjoy the worldly clothes and finery, the Lord began to give her light. Once at early evening, after having spent the day with her fiancé, who she loved deeply, she became sad to see the day ends and realized all the days would end. She came to abhor the joy that perishable things had once given her. She was not able to hide her sadness from her fiancé, nor did she know how to tell him, nor could she though he was questioning her.

15. She had to go on an unavoidable journey and felt very sad at having to leave her love. But soon, the Lord showed her the cause of her affliction; it was simply that her soul was inclined toward that which would have no end.

She grasped how her brother and sister had chosen the safer path, leaving her surrounded by the world's dangers. She was exhausted feeling there was no remedy to her dilemma. Torn between the love she had for her fiancé

and the lack of apparent remedy, she suffered much distress.

16. The Lord wanted her for Himself. Gradually, He removed the love she had for her fiancé and increased her desire to give up everything. She came to desire only to be saved. She realized that in the midst of the things of the world she would forget to seek what is eternal. This is the wisdom which God infused in her at such a young age, to seek how to gain that which is without end. Fortunate soul that so early in life freed itself from the blindness in which so many old people die.

Once she saw her will was free, she resolved to occupy it completely in God. Until that time she had remained silent but now began speaking of this to her sister. Her sister thought it to be a childish fantasy and suggested ways she could be married and saved. The young girl responded by asking her sister why she had given up marriage. As time passed, her desire kept increasing. She had not spoken to her mother of these matters, but it was perhaps the mother who through her prayers was causing this battle in her daughter. AMEN