

TERESIAN CHRONOLOGY

Main persons in the life of St. Teresa of Avila

Teresa de Cepeda y Ahumad: also known as Teresa de Jesus or St. Teresa of Avila.

Alonso (Sanchez) de Cepeda: her father, son of a Toledan Jewish convert.

Maria (married to Martin Guzman): her elder half-sister.

Juana: (married to Juan de Ovalle): her younger sister.

Lorenzo: a brother who made his fortune in the New World.

Teresita: Lorenzo's daughter.

Duke and Duchess of Alba: friends and patrons of St. Teresa.

Alvaro de Mendoza: Bishop of Avila, and firm friend and supporter of St Teresa.

Ana de San Bartolome' (Garcia): lay-sister and nurse-companion to St Teresa in her later years.

Angel de Salazar: Carmelite Provincial, ambiguous in his attitude towards the Reform.

Antonio de Jesus: one of the first Carmelite friars to join the Reform, in which he became a leading figure.

Baltasar Alvarez: St. Teresa's Jesuit confessor in Avila.

Baltasar de Jesus (Nieto): turbulent Carmelite friar.

Catalina de Cardona: eccentric hermit and foundress respected by the Reform.

Domingo Banez: Dominican theologian and supporter of St Teresa.

Princess of Eboli: wife of the King's favourite Ruy Gomez, at first a patron and later an opponent of St. Teresa.

Filippo Sega: papal nuncio hostile to the Reform.

Francisco de Salcedo: a devout layman of Avila and friend of St. Teresa, also known as the Caballero santo.

Gaspar Daza: a priest of Avila, at first a critic and later a friend of St. Teresa.

Gaspar de Quiroga: Cardinal Archbishop of Toledo and Grand Inquisitor.

Giovanni Battista Rossi (or Rubeo): General of the Carmelite Order, supporter and later critic of the Reform.

Guiomar de Ulloa: friend and collaborator of St. Teresa in the early days of the Reform.

Isabel de Santo Domingo (Ortega): prioress at Pastrana, noted for her tact and firmness during the difficulties with the Princess of Eboli.

Jeronimo Garcian: close friend of St. Teresa and a leading figure in the Carmelite Reform.

St. John of Avila: 'Apostle of Andalusia', noted for his 'discernment of spirits'.

St. John of the Cross: poet and mystic, the first friar to join the Carmelite Reform, and St. Teresa's chaplain and confessor at the convent of the Incarnation.

Juan de la Misericordia: Carmelite friar and artist, author of the 'live' portrait of St. Teresa.

Juan de Ovalle: husband of Teresa's sister, Juana.

Julian de Avila: chaplain of St. Teresa's first reformed convent and later her biographer.

Luisa de la Cerda: wealthy noblewoman of Toledo whom St. Teresa was sent to console in her bereavement.

Maria Bautista (Cepeda y Ocampo): daughter of a cousin of St. Teresa and prioress at Valladolid.

Maria de San Jose (Salazar): maid-in-waiting to Luisa de la Cerda, later prioress at Seville and a friend and correspondent of St. Teresa.

Mariano de San Benito (Azzaro): Italian courtier, soldier and inventor, who became a leading figure in the Reform.

Nicolas Doria: former Genoese banker, who succeeded Gracian as leader of the Reform.

Nicolas Ormaneto: papal nuncio and supporter of the Reform.

Pedro Fernandez: Dominican Provincial sympathetic to the Reform.

St. Peter of Alcantara: Franciscan ascetic, mystic and reformer who encouraged St. Teresa to embark on her Reform.

March 28	1515	Birth of Teresa Sanchez de Cepeda y Ahumada in Avila.
April 4		Baptism
	1522	Teresa and her brother Rodrigo set out for the land of the Moors to gain martyrdom.
	1528	Death of Beatriz de Ahumada, Teresa's mother.
	1531	Teresa becomes a boarder at the Colegio Santa Maria de Gracia.
	1532	Teresa falls ill and returns to her father's house.
	1533	Teresa visits her uncle and discovers her religious vocation.
November 2	1535	Teresa leaves home to become a novice at the convent of the Incarnation.
November 2	1536	Teresa receives religious habit of Carmel.
November 3	1537	Teresa makes her profession as a Carmelite nun at the convent of the Incarnation.
Autumn	1538	Illness causes Teresa to leave the convent. Teresa reads Osuna's "The third Spiritual Alphabet" given to her by her uncle.
c. Easter	1540	Returns to Incarnation. An invalid until late in 1541. (The effects of the paralysis remain until the summer of 1542 and recur intermittently until about 1554).
Spring	1542	She recovers from effects of paralysis and attributes her cure to the intercession of St. Joseph. (Birth of St. John of the Cross)
December 24	1543	Death of Don Alonso, Teresa's father.
	1544-1554	Spiritual crises & first mystical graces
	1555 - 1556	Begins to think she is "sometimes being addressed by interior voices and to see certain visions and experience revelations". She experiences the 'Mystical Betrothal'.
	1556 - 1557	Final "conversion" 'after nearly twenty years on that stormy sea' Life 8. (A vision of the Christ 'Ecce Homo' marks the beginning of Teresa's mystical life – 1558, or later!)

September	1558	First projects for the reform of the Carmelite Order - discussions begin about the foundation in Avila of a convent for Discalced nuns.
	1559	P. Alvarez SJ becomes her confessor. Transverberation of her heart Intellectual visions of Christ begin.
	1560	Makes a vow of greater perfection Imaginative visions of Christ begin.
April	1561	P. Gaspar de Salazar comes to Avila
	1561	House for the first convent of the Reform bought in Avila (August). (1562 - 67. At St. Joseph's, Avila ("The most restful years of my life": F I)
Jan.-July June	1562	Sent to console a rich widow in Toledo. She finishes 1st draft of the Life. Authorization for the foundation of St. Joseph's received from Rome on the night St Teresa returns to Avila. The Bishop is persuaded by St. Pater of Alcantara to approve the foundation.
August 24 December	1562	Foundation in Avila of St Joseph's (1), the first reformed Carmelite convent; Teresa with the permission of her Father Provincial moves to St. Joseph's, taking four nuns from the Incarnation with her. She changes her name to Teresa of Jesus.
December	1565	Greater part of the second and final version of the Life written. Completes the Life and sends it, at the end of the year, to P. Garcia de Toledo.
December	1565 1566	Begins to write The Way of Perfection Teresa finishes the first redaction of The Way of Perfection and probably the second. She makes the first draft of Meditations on Song of Songs.
Early	1567	The General of the Carmelite Order, P. Rubeo (Rossi) visits Avila and approves the Reform.
August	1567	Teresa's second convent founded at Medina del Campo (2), where she meets St. John of the Cross and secures his collaboration.
April 11 August 15 November 28	1568	Foundation of convent at Malagón (3). Foundation of convent at Valladolid (4). Foundation of the first monastery of the Fathers at Duruelo.
February 3	1569	Valladolid nuns enter new house.
February 21		Leaves Valladolid for Medina, Avila and Toledo, visiting Duruelo on the way.

May 14	1569	Foundation of Convent at Toledo (5)
July 9	1569	Foundation of Convent at Pastrana (6) Teresa writes her Soliloquies.
November 1	1570	Convent founded at Salamanca. (7)
January 25	1571	Teresa, with the help of St John of the Cross, founds a convent at Alba de Tormes(8); she reluctantly accepts nomination as Prioress at the Incarnation.
October 14		Installation as Prioress of Convent of the Incarnation, Avila
May - Sept	1572	St. John of the Cross Confessor at Convent of the Incarnation, Avila
August		Visits Salamanca Convent for transference of the Community there in September
August 24	1573	Teresa begins to write the Book of the Foundations. Teresa receives the mystical grace of Spiritual Marriage.
November 18		
March 19	1574	Founds Convent at Segovia (9); the nuns leave Pastrana on account of difficulties raised by the Princess of Eboli, who denounces Teresa's Life to the Inquisition.
October		Teresa finishes term as prioress at the Incarnation and returns to St. Joseph, Avila as Prioress.
January 2	1575	Inquisition orders seizure of The Book of Her Life. This manuscript was later approved but kept in its secret archives until 1588. Teresa founds a convent at Beas (10) and meets Father Gracian who persuades her to found another at Seville.
February 24		Foundation of Convent at Seville (11). An aggrieved novice denounces her to the Inquisition.
May 29		The General disapproves the Reform and orders Teresa back to Castile.
December		Receives a written order from the General to leave Andalusia and to go to reside in a Castelian Convent. P. Gracian authorizes her to stay at Seville until the summer.
	1576 - 1580	St Teresa is mainly at Toledo and Avila. Strife within the Order keeps on hold other foundations
January 1	1576	Foundation of the Convent at Caravaca (12) during her stay at Seville.
April 5		Agreement for new house at Seville signed.
May 28		Ceremony of inauguration of the new house at Seville (13).
June 4		Teresa leaves Seville for Toledo.

June 2	1577	Teresa begins to write The Interior Castle.
October		Violent scenes at the election of a Prioress at the Incarnation, Avila. Nuns voting for St Teresa are excommunicated. Ana de Toledo is finally chosen.
Nov 29		Finishes The Interior Castle.
December 3		St John of the Cross during a stay for hearing confessions at the Incarnation is carried off to Toledo and imprisoned there by the friars of the Observance. Teresa petitions King Philip to order the release of St. John of the Cross.
December 24		Teresa falls and breaks her left arm.
August 17-18	1578	Dispute between Calced and Discalced reaches its height; Father Gracian and Teresa in disfavour with authorities. St. John of the Cross escapes from prison in Toledo.
April 1	1579	Teresa permitted to resume her travels. She leaves Avila for Medina, Valladolid, Salamanca and Alba. Under pressure from the King, the nuncio reverses course; the persecution of Discalced comes to an end.
July		Teresa sends Way of Perfection to the Archbishop of Evora.
February 21	1580	Foundation of Convent at Villaneuva de la Jara (14).
December 29		Foundation of Convent at Palencia (15).
June 30	1581	Foundation of Convent at Soria (16).
September 10		Elected Prioress of St. Joseph's, Avila.
November 28		The last meeting of Teresa and St. John of the Cross.
April 19		She founds her last convent at Burgos (17).
October 4		Teresa dies at Alba de Tormes.
April 24	1614	Teresa beatified by Paul V.
March 12	1622	Teresa canonized by Pope Gregory XV.
April 24	1626	St. Teresa of Jesus becomes the second patron saint of Spain.
	1726	Pope Benedict XIII institutes the Feast of the Transverberation of her Heart.

September 27	1970	<p>Pope Paul VI declares St Teresa of Avila (1515-1582) the First Woman Doctor of the Church along with St. Catherine of Siena.</p> <p>"Doctor of the Church" is a title given to those Saints whose writings are deemed to be in accord with the doctrine of the Church and which the Church believes can be used as authentic teachings.</p>
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If you have any further corrections or observations please forward to the editor of Carmel Lights. This Chronology is under construction. Your input is greatly appreciated. Thank you.