



Mother María of Saint Joseph, favorite daughter of Saint Teresa of Jesus

María de Salazar was born in Toledo in 1548. She met Holy Mother Teresa of Jesus in the palace of Doña Luisa de la Cerda and was captivated by her holiness, joy, and the gentleness with which she guided souls. On May 9, 1570, she took the habit of the Discalced Carmel in the monastery of Malagón and took the name of María of Saint Joseph. In 1575, Saint Teresa took her to the foundation in Beas de Segura and subsequently to the foundation in Seville. In 1584 she founded the Monastery of Saint Albert in Lisbon and encouraged the foundation of the Discalced Carmelite Nuns in France.

Her mission in the Discalced Carmel is to witness to and transmit the spiritual heritage of the Mother Foundress. Saint Teresa herself gave her a very important role in the family she founded: “Your reverence explains herself so well in all you write to me about, that if my superiors were of my opinion, **they would elect you as foundress after my death**: even during my life I wish with all my heart you were considered as such, for you know much more than I do, and are better suited.”

She is renowned for defending the Teresian spirit, for her holiness, humility, obedience, and writings. She died a holy death in Cuerva (Toledo), with a smile on her face, on October 19, 1603.

PRAYER FOR PRIVATE USE

Father of mercy and God of all consolation, you created your servant María of Saint Joseph in the image of your Crucified Son and made her faithfully transmit the Teresian heritage. Through her intercession, grant me the grace I trustingly beseech of you...

Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be

In conformity with the decrees of Pope Urban VIII, we declare that there is no intention of anticipating in any way the judgment of the Church, and that this prayer is not intended for public use.

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