

PART VIII_ SCRIPTS OF STAGE PLAY AND FILMS

8.1 Born for You_ The Life of St. Teresa of Avila / Theme Song / Synopsis



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Born for You Life of Teresa of Avila stage play Act 1 & 2

Luz Bolong • 331 views • 6 years ago

Born for You_ the Life of Teresa of Avila traces the spiritual aspects of the Carmelite Religious Order.
Act 1 is Teresa of Avila from ...



Born for You Life of Teresa of Avila stage play Act 3 & 4

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Act 3, scene 1, Ma. Nila is seen talking to Blanche Aricheta, Sea and Sky College registrar. Portraying Doña Teresa de Ahumada ...

AUDIO	VIDEO
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Born for You (*Soy Nacido por ti*)

The Life of Teresa of Avila

By: Fran C. Quitoriano

2 July 2010, Vigan City

PROLOGUE

Total Darkness

Theme Music enters; swells as multi-media projection starts:

- *Map of Spain*

Narrator: (Male Voice) It is the dawning of a new era in 16th century Spain. Spanish hearts swell with pride as the throne of Spain wields its powerful sword over the known world. Her territories expand, as does the influence, power and wealth of her Church.

- *Map of America and Columbus*

- *Map of Peru and Pizarro*

- *Map of the Philippines and Magellan*

Narrator: In the West, Columbus offered dominion over a new continent to King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella, *los reyes catolicos de España*. Cortez conquered Mexico in 1519 and in 1521, Ferdinand Magellan stumbled upon the pearl of the Orient Seas, the Philippines.

In 1524, Pizarro conquered Peru and its vast wealth soon flowed generously into the Spanish coffers.

-*Cathedrals of Spain*

Narrator: It was a time of glory, a time of turbulence. In Germany, the rebel monk Martin Luther was excommunicated as he stubbornly swept aside the dogma of the powerful Catholic Church and social convention. In England, Henry VIII married “Anne Boleyn” and his infamous royal divorce ended in the separation of the Church of England from Rome. It was an era of heresy and abuse, but also an era of great faith. It was the reign of the dreaded Spanish Inquisition and its abuses, religious suppression and dissolution of monasteries. But it was also the age of reformation, the return to grace particularly in the Mitigated Order of Carmel in Spain.

Narrator:

This was also the century blessed with the presence of a reformator nun in the Convent of the Incarnation in Avila. . . .

The woman immortalized by the sculptor Bernini in the Church of Sta. Maria de la Vittoria in Rome. . . the mystic-saint and the first woman-doctor of the Catholic Church: Dona Teresa de Ahumada y Cepeda.

Black out; theme music.

Stage is divided into 2 parts:

- *Stage 1 - Footlights to center curtains, and*

- *Stage 2 – Center Curtains to backdrop*

Lights. Music in the background. (Acting on the apron, DR. Novices cross stage with cleaning implements. Dona Juana talks with them briefly and pleasantly. She has come from the opposite direction.)

Doña Juana:

I am Doña Juana Suarez , one of 180 nuns living in a convent of Avila in Spain, a Carmelite Convent of the Mitigated Order known as The Incarnation.

It was towards the end of October in 1536 when I stood waiting at the convent door, waiting for a friend who was coming to join our community that day. Little did I know that that day my life would change; no, in fact, our life as Carmelites would change. . .or to put it more accurately, her arrival at the Incarnation that day would be like the coming of light to the mitigated order of Carmel that was suffering from the spiritual darkness of mediocrity and materialism. Of course, no one realized that except years later.

I was there to welcome my friend, *mi amiga*, Teresa . With me was a crowd of young nov-
ACT 1, Scene 1 *La Niña Teresa*

ACT 1, Scene 1

La Niña Teresa

Spotlight dims; music up as spotlight on Juana dims and she exits.

Music . Curtains open to reveal the Living room of an early 16th century home. The furniture is handsome without being luxurious. Upstage center is a closed door leading to a room. Downstage left, is a desk where a distinguished-looking gentleman sits writing. At right is another door that leads to the kitchen.

Narrator: “On Wednesday, the 28th day of March in the year 1515, about half an hour after five o’clock in the morning, with the first rays of sunrise, Teresa, my daughter, was born. . .” Thus Don Alonso Sanchez y Cepeda, native of Toledo and man of noble birth and dignity records his daughter Teresa’s entry into the world.

(Church bells ring out the morning angelus. Other bells follow. Music in the background.)

Narrator: The church bells of Sto. Domingo are heard from the distance followed by the ringing of all the bells of Avila: the cathedral, the convents from the Benedictines to the Carmelite Fathers, from the Poor Clares to the Augustinian Nuns of Our Lady of Grace, from the Franciscan Sisters to the Dominican friars of Sto. Tomas, from the Cistercians to the Dominicans of Sta. Catalina.

The old stones echo with the bronze voices of all the saints of the city; for as the saying goes, “in Avila, there is nothing but saints and stones. “

Music Up. The lusty sound of a baby’s crying is heard. The man at the desk glances anxiously at the door located upstage, center. A maid appears from the room holding a basin and a soiled towel over her arm. She seems relieved and glances at the man but decides not to approach him. She exits left while two maids whispering pleasantly to each other with armfuls of soiled linen exit follow the first maid through the left door. The first maid returns, holding a tray with a bowl of hot soup with both hands and a clean towel draped on one arm.

As she is about to enter the room at center, a doctor appears from inside and stops to give some instructions to the maid. Obviously, it has something to do with the bowl of hot soup. He glances at the man at the desk and smiles. Wiping his hands on a small, white towel, he approaches the man at the desk. The 2nd maid reappears with clean linen and the doctor hands her the soiled towel he has used.

Music in the background. Man looks up from his writing, anxiety on his face. He gestures towards the empty chair at his right but the doctor moves to his left instead and stands beside him, obviously tired but relieved.

Don Alonso (*anxiously*) : How is she, Doctor? How is Beatriz?

Doctor: Thank God, she is alright now. Poor Doña Beatriz . . . that was a difficult case.. .but don’t worry, Don Alonso. She is young and will be on her feet before we know it.

Don Alonso: And the baby?

Doctor: Don Alonso, a true blessing from the Lord. *Una niña hermosa!* A lovely baby girl! Your 5th child, I understand?

Don Alonso: Yes, and my first daughter with Beatriz. You know that Doña Catalina left me with a boy and a girl, Juan and Maria. Beatriz has given me two sons, Fernando and Rodrigo. A girl is just what we have been praying for. The Lord has been good! Our prayers have been answered.

(Baby's lusty crying from the room interrupts them. The men look at one another amused.)

Doctor: Just listen to that. . . *(chuckles)* what a girl! Only a few hours out in the world and already she is claiming her rightful place at the top of her voice!

Don Alonso: That gives me a great idea. . . I believe , I shall name her Teresa, after her maternal grandmother. . . the great lady of Castile, Doña Teresa de las Cuevas.

My Teresita will be baptized a week from today, on the 4th of April. That should be soon enough.

(Remembers something. . . searches for and picks up what looks like an invitation from the desk) Ah. . . a blessed coincidence, indeed. *El quatro de Abril* - the day they inaugurate the Convent of the Incarnation, the house of the Carmelite nuns of Mitigated Observance in Avila.

Doctor: *(Very pleased)* Another convent in Avila. . . Truly, we in Avila are blessed with saints and stones. How do they say it? "*En Avila, santos y cantos!*"

Don Alonso: I'm glad it's over. For all her frail appearance, Beatriz has always been a good wife and mother. She has managed our household extremely well and taken excellent care of the children since I married her at 14. She must be overjoyed at having a baby girl.

Doctor: Well, she seemed pretty exhausted - but nothing that a bowl of hot soup and a good rest cannot cure.

You could go in now if you want, and have your first look at *la niña*, Teresita.

(Music in the background. The men stand, move towards the center door and are greeted by the baby's loud crying. They look at each other then break out in hearty laughter. Don Alonso enters first; a maid brings out the empty soup bowl on a tray and the doctor stops her momentarily for a brief instruction about the patient. He enters the room.) Lights go off after they exit. Curtains close.

Music theme

Narrator:

In the Ahumada y Cepeda household, as in the households of Avila, the children developed a taste for adventure, war and glory early in life. They were products of Spain's greatest times. Don Alonso from Toledo and now an *hidalgo of Avila* bore two illustrious names: Sanchez of Castile, Aragon and Navarre and Cepeda, made glorious by Don Vasco Vasquez de Cepeda, lord of the place who had fought with Alfonso XI , Redresser of Wrongs, at the siege of Gibraltar.

Teresa was five when tales of the revolt by the *comuneros* filled the air. Doña Beatriz, Alonso's second wife and Teresa's young mother loved to read her favorite stories of chivalry and romance to her young daughter.



ACT 1, Scene 2

A Child's Dream

(Curtains open to Beatriz' room. Doña Beatriz is sitting on a carpet in front of the fire totally engrossed in a book. Sound of knocking at the door, a lock turning and a young girl's lively face is seen.)

Teresita: Mama. . .Are you there?

Dona Beatriz: Estoy *aquí, hija*. Is Rodrigo with you?

Teresa: No, Mama. He is with the other boys. Don't you remember? This is the day their master is here and they are all downstairs practicing with their swords. Every single one of them dreams of growing up fast and fighting and killing the enemy with a real sword.

Mama, why can't I join them? Why can't we, girls, go to war like them? We could learn to fight, too, and protect our dear Avila against the Moors, like the men.

Doña Beatriz: Well, Teresita. I've got just the story for you tonight. There is someone you must meet. *(Shows Teresa a picture in her book)*. Mira la. . . Isn't she magnificent?

Teresa: Si, Mama. . .is that a woman? Why is she dressed like a man? She looks so strong! Who is she?

Dona Beatriz: She's a woman alright. . .the great heroine, Doña Jimena Blasquez.

Music

One day all the men in her village went off to war.

Sound of approaching horsemen.

Suddenly, the women and the children heard the dreadful noise. It was like thunder . . .the dreadful sound of enemy horses coming towards them. They knew what it meant and they were frightened because there were no men to protect them from the Moors. The children started to cry and the women began to get frantic.

(standing) But Doña Jimena, wise and brave, stood up and gave the orders to the women to hide the children. She gathered the women whom she had secretly trained to use swords and ride horses for a time such as this. They were determined to save their children and their homes, and they fought with all their might. Doña Jimena led her army of brave women to victory that day.

Teresa: *(obviously moved to admiration)*: *Que mujer!* When I grow up, I shall be like Doña Jimena and save my children and my home from the enemy. Mama, do you think Papa will let me train with Rodrigo and the other boys?

Dona Beatriz: Teresa, these days, we have all the men we need to protect us and so, we, women have our own tasks to do. We stay at home and take care of our children and our husbands and leave the fighting to the men. While they're away, we pray for them that they may come home safe from the war.

Teresa: But it seems a good thing to know how to ride a horse and use a sword just like Doña Jimena, Mama. She had to fight for those she loved. You never know . . .one must always be prepared to do great deeds.

Doña Beatriz: Well, we'll see about that. But before you go dreaming again, Teresa, let me hear you say your *Padre Nuestro y Ave Maria*. You must never forget to ask God and the Blessed Mother to protect you especially when you are alone or in trouble.

Teresa: That's easy, Mama. I say them every night. Listen. . .En e nombre del Padre y del Hijo y del Espiritu



Santo. . .

Music. Curtains

ACT 1, Scene 3

To the Land of the Moors

Music. Curtains open to the garden. There is a gate upstage right.

(Rodrigo and a cousin are practicing with their swords. Teresa (7) enters, looks disdainfully at the boys and sits down on a rock under a tree. She is completely immersed in the book she is reading. Rodrigo (12) sends his cousin off and moves toward Teresa. He looks over Teresa's shoulder to see what she is reading.

Teresa: Look, Rodrigo. . .*(holding out the book to her.)* That's St. Laurence. See those flames licking his whole body? The pagans roasted him alive! Isn't that magnificent?

Rodrigo *(turning away in disgust)* Magnificent?! Teresa, I think it's horrible! They're roasting him alive!

Teresa: But he's like a lamb being offered to God. . .a sacrifice on the altar of the Lord. . .and he's dying for Christ!

(Looks at the page and imagines wistfully) If only we could suffer like him, we'd be in heaven now; this very hour!

Rodrigo: I don't know, Teresa. . .but I'd rather die for Christ some other way. . .this is too painful!

Teresa: What about St. Stephen? Mother told me how they stoned him for believing in the one true God. They crushed his skull with a huge rock and left him dead.

(Rodrigo peers behind Teresa's shoulder at the book but still doesn't see why Teresa is so fascinated).

Rodrigo: Nobody dies like that, these days.

Teresa: Well, Papa said they still behead the Christians in the land of the Moors.

Rodrigo: I'm glad we live in Avila. . .so far away from the Moors.

Teresa: Oh, how I envy them. . .their suffering is so short and their reward is so great! Eternal. . .forever and ever. . .you understand that?

(suddenly closes the book as her thoughts shift)

Do you remember the great Basilica, Rodrigo? The one we visited with Papa? Avila's greatest basilica dedicated not to a great warrior, but to children. . .the child-martyrs: Vincent and his sisters, Cristeta and Sabina.

Rodrigo: *(knowingly)* Of course, I remember . . .They refused to offer sacrifice to the Roman gods and the pagans killed them mercilessly.

Teresa: *(stands up dreamily)* Maybe someday, we could also have a basilica dedicated to us – the brother-sister martyrs: San Rodrigo y Sta. Teresa. Wouldn't that be great?

Rodrigo: Hmm. . .of course it would be. . .but. . .but how? No one dies that way in Spain these days.

Teresa: *(thinks)* Maybe . . .we could go to the land of the Moors and have our heads cut off! And we would die and fly straight to heaven! Yes, we could do that! We could definitely do that! *(jumps up and down as she claps her hands excitedly).*

Rodrigo: But, how do we get there in the first place. That must be very far and Papa and Mama would never let us go.

Teresa: *(approaches Rodrigo)* Oh Rodrigo, of course, they would never let us go *(in a conspiratorial way)*. But do we have to let them know? Couldn't we just run away?. . .that would be so much fun! By the time they miss us, we'd be far and away on the road to the Moors. . .

Music (she marches to the music) to death. . .to glory . . .forever and ever!

AUDIO	VIDEO
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(getting more excited at her idea; tugs her brother's sleeve.) Let's go, Rodrigo! Tomorrow! Let's go!

Rodrigo: So soon?

Teresa: Why not! The sooner we die the better, right? Think, Rodrigo! Heaven forever! And a great basilica in our name! "Basilica de San Rodrigo y Sta. Teresa". Say yes!, Rodrigo!

(Rodrigo is silent and begins to show signs of wavering)

(taunts her brother) You're scared, aren't you?

Rodrigo: *(adamant)* I'm not. . .

Teresa: Then, why won't you say yes! *(no answer from Rodrigo. Teresa walks away feigning sadness.)* Well, if you're scared, I will have to go alone. . .that means I will have to go to heaven without you. Of course, that would be a little lonely. . .and I would miss you. You know you've always been my best friend and brother.

(noting how Rodrigo seems to waver) But if you're scared. . . I won't force you. If that's the price of martyrdom, I guess I must go . . .to heaven. . .alone.

Rodrigo: *(thinks)* But that's unfair. We've shared everything together. . .every adventure and now, you get to go to heaven alone? Besides *(trying to sound reasonable)*, you will need me to take care of you. You're just a little girl and I'm your big brother.

Teresa: You're only four years older than I am. . .that's not much, really.

Rodrigo: *(smug)* Still, I'm your big brother and I should take care of you. Who says I'm afraid? I'm just . . .*(gropes for the right word)* being careful.

(Teresa smiles slyly. She has won the battle with Rodrigo! and whispers in Rodrigo's ear. . . "tomorrow then?")

Rodrigo: . . . Alright, we shall go. . tomorrow if you like! *A un hora si quiero!*

Teresa: Rodrigo, thank you. *mañana* will do. I knew you'd never let me go by myself. I want us to go together to the land of the Moors, have our heads cut off together and fly to heaven together.

(knowingly and with excitement she is trying hard to hide.) So, we'll meet in the kitchen after the servants have gone to bed. We will need some bread and some raisins for our journey. You never know. It could be a very long one and we could get very hungry on the way.

Rodrigo: See that gate, Teresa? That's where Juanita passes every morning when she goes to fetch the milk. We could go as soon as she leaves. By the time, they see that we're missing, we shall be far away.

Teresa: This is so exciting! Oh, Rodrigo, do you think we shall be able to sleep tonight? I don't think I shall be able to!

Rodrigo: We will have to if we want to wake up early and leave early tomorrow morning.

(Angelus bells are heard in the distance. They prepare to go into the house . Teresa winks at Rodrigo before she exits. Rodrigo returns her wink with a thumbs up ."

Curtains close as Angelus bells continue to ring. Music. Lights go of.

ACT 1, Scene 4
To Glory or Folly

Music . Curtains open.

(It is noontime. Teresa and Rodrigo limp in carrying their sticks with small bundles of bread and raisin over their shoulders. Rodrigo plops down on the grass; Teresa looks gratefully. They rest gratefully under a tree. There is a road sign beside them which says " TO SALAMANCA". They are tired and wet with perspiration. Rodrigo has removed his shoes, and is in tears as he massages his feet. Teresa is flushed and her usually orderly locks are wet and unruly with perspiration but she holds her head up bravely.)

Rodrigo: Oh, my poor feet. . .how they ache! Don't your feet hurt, Teresa?

Teresa: A little. But what is a little pain compared to the reward we shall have? This is such small suffering compared to heaven! Right, Rodrigo?

(Rodrigo is incredulous as he looks at Teresa who is not complaining.)

(Afraid that Rodrigo might change his mind, Teresa tries to appease him. She opens her scarf at the end of her stick.)

Here, you can have some of my raisins. . .*(she pops a couple of raisins into her mouth)* . Feeling better?

Rodrigo: Uh huh. . .but my feet are killing me. *Estoy muy canzado.* . . Do you think we're almost there?

Teresa: (Confidently with a Dona Jimena gesture) We'll get there, Rodrigo. . . The Lord will see to it now that we've made up our minds to die for him.

Soft Music. (The two close their eyes sleepily.)

(A horse neighs and a man steps in, his mouth opens as he recognizes the two children asleep on the road.)

Uncle Francisco: *(He moves closer to be sure he is not mistaken!)*

Whoa! What have we here! Teresa? Rodrigo! *(The children start at the familiar voice.)*

(Pulls Rodrigo's ear) You brought your little sister all the way in this heat? Where do you think you're going?

(Motions to Teresa to approach him.) Your Papa and Mama must be sick with worry now looking for both of you!

Rodrigo: *(swallows and answers fearfully)* We're going to the land of the Moors, Uncle.

Uncle Francisco: Well, this is certainly not the road going to the land of the Moors! This is the road to Salamanca. . .*(points to road sign)* But why in heaven's name would you want to go to Salamanca!

Teresa: To have our heads cut off so we can die and go to heaven. We do want to get to heaven soon, Uncle. . .*(looks at Rodrigo who nods vigorously)*

ACT 1, Scene 5

*Young Love**Music. Lights*

(Teresa's room. Teresa and her cousin Ines are dressing up for a party. On the bed are gowns and accessories. Ines, Teresa's cousin is making up her face. Teresa is in front of the mirror holding a gown against her and turning around flirtatiously while looking very pleased at her reflection in the mirror. She tries on two gowns but doesn't seem to be satisfied.)

Ines: It doesn't matter what you wear cousin. You know you are always the bell of the party. That color looks specially nice on you. Is that one of your mama's dresses?

Teresa: Yes! *(her gay demeanor changes suddenly)* Yes. Oh Ines, I miss Mama so much. *(Wipes her tears daintily)* We used to have such nice times together. She was often sick but that was the perfect excuse for not to stay home. . . and that gave us plenty of time together.

(nostalgic) As a child I remember slipping into her room to listen to her stories. Papa would be away on business and the boys would be busy practicing with their master. The house would be perfectly quiet and Mama would read aloud while I threw dried lavender flowers in the fire. We enjoyed the scent and blue smoke that filled her room. She would then speak to me about our Lord Jesus Christ and his blessed mother. She would tell me again and again that the Blessed Virgin was my true mother. I did not understand that but when Mama died, I prayed to *Nuestra Señora de Caridad* to take care of me. . . *(points to the image on the altar)* to be my mother. She has always done that.

(Puts down the dress and sits beside Ines who listens to her sympathetically. Ines brushes Teresa's hair as she listens) Do you know the story of Oriana and Amadis, Ines? It was one of our favorites. Ines: *(Shakes her head)*: I don't think I've heard that story. . .

Teresa: Oriana was King Lisuart's daughter, the most beautiful creature man had ever seen. . . so pretty, she had no equal. The Queen gave her Amadis, the young Lord of the Sea to serve her saying: "My darling, this is a young Lord for your service."

Oriana liked him and rewarded his brave feats with her love. "He pleases me," she said. Oriana's words were so deeply engraved in the young Lord's heart that he never forgot them.

He served her faithfully; always with joy and his heart was completely hers. She loved him just as much. And their love lasted as long as they lived, for ever and for ever.

Ines: *(swoons)* Oh. . . *Que romantico!* Do you think, cousin, that we will ever find such a love? A forever kind of love?

Teresa: I would never settle for less! *(stands)* because like glory, love has no value unless it is forever. . . that's what Mama always said.

Ines: Well, our cousin Pedrito seems to like you a lot. I dare say he loves you. . . Do you like him, too?

Teresa: Shhh. . . You know Papa would never approve of him. But it does feel good to be loved and to be the center of everyone's attention.

(Maid knocks at the door)

Ines: *Quien es?*

Miguela: *Senorita Teresa, soy yo, Miguela.*

Teresa: *(to Inez)* It's only Miguela. Open the door.

(Ines stands to open the door and Miguela enters.)

Miguela: *(hand in pocket obviously hiding something, she looks at Ines, hesitates but finally*

AUDIO	VIDEO
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Uncle Francisco: *(Tries to look angry but controls his laughter over the childish reason)*

Such nonsense! I must take you home immediately. *(Teresa and Rodrigo look at each other confused)* You have not learned your Catechism properly. Land of the Moors, indeed. . .*que idea muy tonta!*

(Rodrigo seems relieved. . .but Teresa is silent and angry.)

Uncle Francisco: A boy your age should know better than to drag your little sister into such foolishness. Come on. . .take your things. I must bring you home. What a fine beating your Papa will give you when he learns about such stupidity. *Vamos a la casa!*

Rodrigo: *(defensively)* It was *la niña's* idea. . .I just went along to protect her.

(Teresa gives Rodrigo an angry look)

Uncle Francisco: Ha, ha! . . .protect her. . .bah! You're a couple of crazy kids! Wait till they learn of this at home! Let's go!

(He pushes them offstage ahead of him.)

Lights off. Curtains..

Juana Sanchez: There was great rejoicing when they got home although as Uncle Francisco had promised, Teresa and Rodrigo did get their share of scolding for the trouble they had caused. For a while, the Moors and martyrdom, and the thought of heaven were forgotten.

Music and spotlight for Juana

Juana Sanchez : She was only thirteen when Teresa's mother, Dona Beatriz passed away. She was only thirty-three. In her sorrow, and remembering her mother's words, Teresa turned to the Blessed Mother asking her to be her mother now that Doña Beatriz was gone.

Mi amiga Teresa, grew up to be an irresistibly beautiful young lady. Her father loved her, her brothers adored her, all who knew her were drawn to her by her charm and wit. At sixteen, she loved the attention and she began to wake up to womanhood.

By this time, Teresa and Rodrigo were once more inseparable. . .they enjoyed long conversations . . .and this time, Teresa dreamt of becoming a famous writer.

Like her cousins, Teresa was caught by the magic of young love and its pleasures. And there was something else. . .Although he remains unnamed, a male cousin soon took a keen interest in winning Teresa's affection. This did not remain hidden from Don Alonzo who watched his daughter Teresa very protectively.



As a teen-ager, Teresa enjoyed the trappings of wealth and popularity to the full. . .and the dreams of childhood soon faded in the background.

AUDIO	VIDEO
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hands Teresa a pink envelope. Teresa grabs it but drops it instead. She and Miguela stoop to pick it up but Ines is quicker.) It's alright, Miguela.

(Ines looks at the handwriting on the envelope and smiles impishly as she recognizes the handwriting. She hands it to Teresa)

Ines: *Aha! Just as I thought!*

Miguela: Señorito Pedrito said to give it to you when no one was looking.

Teresa: *(puts the letter in her pocket hurriedly)* Did anyone see you?

Miguela: No one, Señorita.

Teresa: *(relieved)* Alright then, you may go! Vete! Vete! (B) *(Teresa practically pushes her out the door.)*

Inez: It's from Pedrito. . . I knew it!.

Teresa: How can you tell. ...

Ines: I can tell by the way he looks at you when you're in the room, he sees no one else! He looks at you the way . . . Enrico looks at me. *(giggles)* So, tell me, do you love him?

Teresa: *(confused)* I don't know, Ines. I do know I am happy when we're together. . . If she were here right now, Mama would say that when I love, it must be like Oriana . . . for ever and completely! Pedrito, like the rest of our male cousins and friends will ultimately leave me. These men. . . all they think about is being "conquistadores" for Spain and getting rich and basking in their new found honor. . . their *honra*!

Ines: Well, I say. Let them go. . . but while they're here, let's enjoy their company. *(getting restless)* Teresa, I must go ahead. Enrico must be looking for me now. Do fix yourself now, Teresa, and join us .

Music.

Ines: The music's starting. Can't you hear?. . . Hurry!

Teresa: *(closes the door and hurriedly opens the letter. Smiles as she reads, touches her lips and looks at herself in the mirror. .. She puts the letter under her pillow, takes it out and reads it again just as another knocking is heard at the door.)*

Don Alonso: Teresita, are you in there?

Teresa: Papa? *(nervously hides the letter under her pillow)* Un minuto, Papa.

(She runs to open the door and lets Don Alonso in.) I was just getting ready for the party, Papa.

Don Alonso: You every inch a lady now, Teresa, and a very lovely young lady, una mujer muy bella! Perhaps it's time I found you a husband.

(Teresa pouts; eyebrows up.)

But, sit down, Teresa, *(points to the bed where they sit side by side.)* I have something important to say to you. I am leaving for Gotterandura at dawn and I'm afraid there will be no time to discuss this in the morning.

Teresa: *(nervously looks at him)* Si, Papa. . .

Don Alonso: Teresa, since your Mama left us, it has always been your sister, Maria, looking after you. But you do know that she and Don Martin will be getting married very soon.

They will be settling down in their own home in Villatoro, as soon as the place is ready. Very soon, your brothers will all be off seeking their own fortunes in the service of His Majesty, the King. . . I will have to spend more time attending to our family business and that will leave no one to look after you.

Teresa: *(relieved)* Don't worry Papa. I'm alright. My cousins are here; they love it here. I won't be lonely when Maria goes.

AUDIO	VIDEO
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Don Alonso: That's just the problem, Teresa. You're all young people here. When you are together, it's all parties and fun, dancing, flirtations. . . the magical world of the young ! Sometimes, I miss *la niña* - my simple, sensible Teresa who used to surprise us as a young girl. Remember how you ran off with Rodrigo to the land of the Moors? *(smiles)*

Teresa: *(smiling , too, as she recalls)* Oh Papa, we were only children then.

Don Alonso: *Por supuesto, mi amor!* You're fifteen now and time to get serious about your future. Do you know that I married your mother when she was only fourteen? .

Sometimes I catch you looking sad and restless. . . and I hear things about you that bother me. Unfortunately, I cannot give you the comfort and good advice that your Mama or your sister Maria could give a growing girl like you. I know you are a good girl, responsible, determined. I'd like to be assured that in our absence, no harm shall come upon you. . . in any way at all – physically, spiritually. . . emotionally. After all, you are one of the prettiest girls in Avila. It wouldn't surprise me if someone came up to me now to ask for your hand in marriage. *(walks away slowly then faces Teresa)*

Well, Teresita, I have made arrangements for you to stay with the Nuns of the Assumption as a boarder in their convent as soon as the wedding is over.

Teresa: *(in disbelief)* No. . .

Don Alonso: They say the mistress of the young girls at of Our Lady of Grace, Dona Maria de Bricenio is a wonderful teacher and friend to the young girls there.

Teresa: *(looks at Don Alonso, still speechless but disturbed)*

Don Alonso: You may join your cousins now but let's keep this a secret, shall we?. That way, it will be easier to say our goodbyes when the time comes for you to go.

Teresa: *(toys with her bangles trying to keep calm over the sudden decision to leave)*
Yes, Papa. . . of course, I still think this is just too sudden. *(Don Alonso smiles faintly).*

(Don Alonso leaves the room. Teresa sits down on her bed helpless. She has forgotten the letter. She stands up and dresses up slowly without her initial excitement. Knocking is heard at her door)

Ines: Teresa, what's keeping you? They're all here . . . Enrico, Pedrito. The whole company!. The music's starting. They're beginning the dance. Hurry up, will you?

Teresa: *(Dabs her handkerchief on her eyes, nose and cheek. She brushes her hair slowly and smooths the color on her cheeks and lips)* Alright. . . I'm coming. . .

(She disappears for a brief moment, comes out in her mother's dress and takes a last look at herself in the mirror. Dabbing perfume on her nape and smelling her palms, she straightens up as she opens the door.)

Dance music is heard offstage). Lights out.



ACT 2, SCENE 1

The First Knock

At the Convent of Our Lady of Grace. Teresa's study corner.

Doña Maria de Bricenio: Teresa, look who is here!

Teresa: Ines! *(surprised rather than excited)*

Ines: Teresa! How are you?

Teresa: I'm alright. . .I've been very busy with my books.

Ines: *(hands a letter to Teresa)* I'm sorry. I have to hurry... Enrico is waiting for me outside but we shall come back with the others on Saturday. *(curious and anxious as she looks at Teresa from head to foot)*

You are truly alright?

Teresa: Oh, yes, Ines. . . and thank you for the letter. Do come back and tell me all about the family. No letter from Papa?

Ines: No, I'm sorry . . .but Don Alonso promised to be with us next time we visit you. You know how busy he is with his business trips. Thank you, Sor Maria. Take care of our Teresa, please!

(to Teresa) Adios, cousin! *(hugs and kisses her cousin)*

Teresa: Adios.. *.hasta luego!*

Ines leaves. Sor Maria exits briefly then returns and teasingly, looks at Teresa who still hasn't opened the letter in her hand)

Sr. Maria: Is it from someone special?

Teresa: *(bored expression)* It's from my cousin, Sister. But I don't know. I used to get so excited over news from home and from my friends. But the longer I stay here, I feel, everything is changing. . . or is it just me? The things that used to matter are no longer that important. I used to love all the attention showered on me by people. . .letters, parties, fine clothes, the pleasures of being young and attractive. . . I used to miss them all. Now, they don't seem to excite me anymore. . . sometimes I feel empty afterwards. . .*(sits)*

Soft music.

(changes topic suddenly) Sister, when you were my age, did you ever feel this way? Why did you become a nun? Did you fall out of love with someone? The silence here, the abstinence and penances – it's a hard life, isn't it? But you seem to like it here. It's strange how you fit in here perfectly.

I answered his call and I've been here since. It may not look like much of a life to others, yet there is nothing I could wish for. It's a simple life but you know where you're going and if you are true to your vows, you know you'll get there someday.

When I was young, I, too, worried a lot about where I was going. Here, I've put my life in God's hands and leave my future to him. It's a quiet kind of happiness . . .contentment . . .when you know God directs your life. *(sits)*

Teresa: But your penances and fastings. . .I'm not sure I could ever live like this, Sister. No, life in this convent is too hard. There is just too much to give up . No, Sor Maria, I don't think I can live like you.

On the other hand, I also think I'm not meant to be a wife, either. I dread marriage. . .childbirth. Sure, I love children but how can I ever forget what happened to my aunt Doña Catalina and my own dear Mama who died young and exhausted from the slavery of serving husbands who rush off to serve the King at a moment's notice. I realize now there is no man in this world who could love a woman forever. It happens only in the fairy tale.

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Doña Maria: But there are things that are eternal, Teresa; only. they are not of this world. We will pray that God show you soon where you could serve Him best.

Teresa: I envy them – the girls here who have such great faith. . .who shed tears when they're praying ; who have virtues I don't have. . . who are humble and contented. I know if I entered the convent now, it would be just out of fear of God's punishment for my wickedness. . . and not out of great love for Him.

Doña Maria: Not many are capable of great love. . . it is God alone who gives us that grace to love completely; so we must pray for it.

Teresa: If I were a man, it would be so much easier to decide what to do with my life. I would probably rush off to be a religious and evangelize the poor people – conquerors as well as conquered.

But to serve by dying to self in a convent. . .that doesn't sound very sensible.

Doña Maria: *(smiling)* Teresa, you worry too much. Worry can make you sick, you know. *(Holds her hand to comfort her)* Trust the Lord. Be still. Listen. All this anxiety is preventing you from hearing his voice.

(Sister Maria exits. . .Teresa follows her with her eyes. .) Convent music in the background. Lights fade. Curtains.

Dona Juana: Teresa grew spiritually under the guidance of the saintly Maria de Bricenio. But when she was seventeen, she was so sick, they had to send her home. After she recovered, Teresa became the one strong link that held her family together.

At 21, Teresa decided to enter the convent of the Carmelite Nuns of the Mitigated Rule. Her father was completely opposed to giving her up again, even to God. "Over my dead body", Don Alonso declared.

It was a bitter step to make but nothing could stop Teresa. . .not even her father whom she loved dearly. She escaped, persuading her younger brother to escape at the same time she did. . . Antonio joined the Dominicans to become a friar preacher and Teresa asked me to meet her at the convent gates of La Encarnacion.

I was convinced Teresa had put her past behind her. What I did not know was that my friend had come to the convent not "out of great love for God but simply out of reason – out of great fear of eternal punishment for her sins."

Music, Curtains



same time.

(Juana and Teresa are sitting under the trees.)

Teresa: Juana, what do you know of that young priest in town?

Juana: Why, Teresa, haven't you heard? *(stands and shows disgust in her face)* The whole village despises him. . .they talk about his open and long-standing affair with the woman at the inn. She has been his mistress for seven wretched years. She seems to have bewitched him. . .he wears her amulet around his neck and no matter what he does, he can't seem to leave her. He has lost all sense of shame, guilt and honor. *A priest of God! Que lastima!*

Teresa: *(thoughtfully)* But whatever he has done, he is still God's priest and therefore, he still has the power to forgive sins from the Lord. . .

Juana : *(visibly upset)* Well, my friend, you must be very careful and not trust him completely.

Teresa : *(suspiciously quiet)*

Juana: *(worried)* Wait. . .have you been going to confession to him? Is that why you've been very quiet lately? Something is bothering you. . .you can tell me. I'm your friend.

Teresa: Juana, something has happened. He has broken off with his mistress of many years but he has professed his love for me, instead. He gave me the amulet today and I threw it into the river.

Juana: *(frightened)* God help us! *Es un demonio*, Teresa, and he's out to get you! . . .how could you let him to do that to you!

Soft music

Teresa: Do what, Juana? I have experienced something terrible. . .the power of evil on a weak human being. . .but I have also seen God's great mercy for a repentant sinner.

It was not sin, but God's mercy and my prayers that have proved victorious to the end.

Juana, the poor man. . .he only needed to be reminded that even in his wretchedness, God loves him. Juana, he has returned to God. . .asked His forgiveness. He will be alright now. Trust me.

Juana: Oh Teresa, I'm sorry. I have judged you badly. I wish you would get better soon so we can leave this place. Your treatments have not helped you at all and your condition is worse. Don Alonso thinks we should all go back to Avila before the old woman kills you with her potions.

We have to get back to the house now before it gets really dark. I'm beginning to get frightened.

Teresa: Alright, Juana. . .let's go home.

Music up. Curtains.



ACT 2, Scene 2

*La Madre**Music and lights*

Juana :Teresa, do you really like it here?

Teresa: I believe this is a most reasonable decision I've made. . .you could say, a compromise, that's the truth. Here I am free of the problems of being a wife and mother; on the other hand, I am a nun without the strict penances of Doña Maria's convent. I think it's a good choice even if my body refuses to cooperate! There is joy, in knowing that I have chosen this life and freedom, in giving up the pleasures I have been used to.

Juana: Teresa, sometimes I think you try too hard. Your fainting spells have become too frequent, and the other sisters talk about your exaggerated penances and indiscreet fastings and vigils. You're my friend and I hate listening to them say it is simply vanity that makes you punish your body so much. You frighten even me. . .

Teresa: My wickedness torments me, Juana, and I am angry with myself. I have, therefore, begged our Lord to allow me to share his sufferings. I know my doctors find no cause for my fainting spells and the pains in my heart are deeper than what they can understand. But you know, it is quite simple – it is only my Lord answering my prayer to suffer with Him.

Juana: But Teresa, to serve God, you also need a healthy body. I'm glad that Don Alonso has asked to bring you to Becedas for treatment. They say the *curadora* there has an excellent reputation having cured some very desperate and strange cases in the past.

Mother Prioress has asked me to accompany you to Becedas. On our way there, we could visit with your sister Maria at Castellanos de la Cañada while we wait for Spring. The *curadora* insists that only then, will the herbs, you need for your treatment be available.

Teresa: Juana, It is a cure I do not want, Juana, but one that I shall make in obedience. We could visit uncle Pedro at Hortigosa. It has been 7 years since I saw him last. It is perhaps God's plan that I see him again since I so badly need to be helped with my struggles with prayer. . .and he is just the right person to help me.

(Knocking at the door)

Mother Prioress: Dona Teresa, Don Alonso is here. The carriage is ready to take you and Doña Juana to Becedas. Don Lorenzo is here to help you with your things. *(She blesses them and leaves.)*

Juana helps Teresa and Don Alonso and her brother Don Lorenzo carry the luggage out.)

Lights out. Curtains. Music and spotlight.

Narrator: At Hortigosa, it was a happy reunion between Teresa and her uncle. My friend revealed details of her interior life to him, particularly her discouragement with her lukewarm and often distracted vocal prayer. Don Pedro gifted Teresa with a book by Padre Fray Francisco de Osuna. The Third Spiritual Alphabet was a gift that she would always treasure for it initiated her into recollection and mental prayer.

She learned to pray without words until her heart spoke directly to the Lord. She emptied her heart of everything created and learned to love everything only in God and for God. Her rebellious nature began to wake and little by little, as she struggled, she received the precious gift of union with Christ, her Master and Spouse. Teresa did not really know what it meant then to receive such special favors from the Lord and it gave her happiness but also much pain at the

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ACT 2, Scene 3

Reborn

Teresa: Papa, I want to make my confession. Please, Papa, . . . a priest. . . now. . .
 Don Alonso: Later, Teresa, when you are better.
 Teresa: Please, Papa. Now. . .
 Juana: Please Don Alonso. She wants to make her confession. May I call a priest now?
 Don Alonso (crying out): No, she is not dead! She can't be dead!. No. . .no. . .not Teresa. .
 Juana: Don Alonso! Don Lorenzo!
 Teresa (*moans*) . . .wa. . . .ter. . .agua. . .agua. . .
(Lorenzo enters to calm his father. He sits beside him while Juana motions to the sisters to continue to wrap Teresa in the shroud.)
Lights out
Lights on in another part of the stage) A corridor of the Incarnation.)
A nun is shown ringing a bell to summon the nuns around her. 6 Sisters come out.
Two sisters run while crossing themselves and whispering:
 Nun 5: It is Sister Teresa. They say she is dying. . .
 Nun 6: Eya es muerto. . .she is dead, not dying. She has been dead for the last three days.
(Nun 7 joins them. They whisper the news and Nun 3 crosses herself.)
 Nun 8: They have already dug her grave but Don Alonso won't permit us to take her away. He insists he can feel her pulse. Mother Prioress is on her way to ask again for Don Alonso's permission to bring her home for the burial.
Four nuns gather (Nun 5 and 6 have come from Teresa's house) Their voices are heard:

(Nun 3 and 4 join them): No sign of life. . . no mist on the mirror..

Nun 9: They even put candle wax on her eyelids. A person who's alive would have opened her eyes.
 Nun 10: We must prepare the chapel for her. I hear they intend to bring her today and have the burial tomorrow after Mass.
 Nun 8: I will miss her. She was always kind to me.
 Nun 9: You should have seen Don Alonso. The poor man was beside himself with grief. He blames himself for not allowing her to make her confession. They say he absolutely refuses to allow the nuns to bring her here.
 Nun 10: (*Juana Suarez approaches*) Here is Doña Juana. Let's ask her.
(They follow her down the corridors.) Lights out.
Lights on at the Ahumada House
(Don Alonso, Lorenzo, Dona Juana watch over the motionless Teresa)
A soft moan is heard from Teresa. Only Juana hears it. . .the men have dozed off. She goes nearer the bed and watches Teresa closely. Another moan and a very slight movement of Teresa's finger.
 Juana: Don Alonso! Don Lorenzo!
The men rise simultaneously and rush to the bed. Teresa moans again and tries to open her eyes. Dona Juana rubs off the wax from her eyes.
 Teresa (*moans*) . . .wa. . . .ter. . .agua. . .agua.
(Juana rushes to the table and gets a glass of water. The other sister dips a clean handkerchief into the glass and wets Teresa's lips.)
(The sisters unwrap Teresa and rush out to return with the Mother Prioress). (Don Alonso props Teresa up in his arms crying. Teresa seems dazed as she looks at everyone around her and realizes what has happened.)
Lights brighten; music increases. Curtains.

ACT 3, Scene 1

La Madre

Scene: Infirmary at La Encarnacion, Juana is feeding Teresa in bed (L);

(Music and spotlight on Juana Suarez)

Teresa crawling on all fours with Juana watching her from the bed;

(At R, Teresa props herself against the bed then stands slowly, amazement on her face. She tries to walk and it is as if she had never been ill. She runs to kneel before the statue of San Jose (R).

Teresa: It's been eight months Juana before I could move my fingers. Do you think I shall ever walk again. I have been helpless in bed for the last three years. Is this what God wants of me?

Juana: We must not lose hope Teresa. God is all powerful, the giver of life. If he created us out of nothing, he can make you walk again.

Patience, my friend.

Juana Suarez: It was a miracle and she thanked him with renewed gratitude. But as she herself would describe it later, "the lavish celebration in his honor displayed "more vanity than spirituality. . .I was so eager to make a brilliant impression."

The devil was not sleeping. Teresa's miraculous recovery attracted people to her and soon she settled down in the normal busy life of the Incarnation. For almost twenty years, she was tossed like a ship at sea –up and down, up and down, directionless. *Soon she began behaving like everyone else. Teresa's charismatic presence began to attract rich and prominent visitors who adored her and gave her a great pleasure.*

On his visits, Don Alonso reprimanded her and Padre Barron urged her to pray seeing how the things of the world continued to captivate her. She struggled to pray, and then she began to see herself clearly – the woman she was and the woman God needed her to be. He never let go even at her worst.

(Teresa kneeling down before Christ's image and flogging herself until she falls flat on the floor.)

(Music creeps in, lights revolve.)

(Teresa with arms outstretched begins to pray and levitates. She falls back and soon begins to feel extreme pain in her heart. She finally drops to the floor in exhaustion.

(Juana enters and rushes to her side.)

Juana: Teresa, are you alright? You frighten me!

Teresa: Such joy and pain. . .*un tan alegria y allavez dolor!*.

. .overwhelming joy and pain as if I were drowning. . .Oh

Juana. . .how can I explain this? *Alegria y dolor. . .*

(By now, both are crying. . .Teresa, out of joy; Juana, of fear



and confusion)

(Lights dim. Curtains)

Voice is heard offstage: *Doña Teresa de Ahumada, to the parlor!*

Apron. Teresa crosses stage to the Grill.

Lady Guiomar: Sr. Teresa, I have just seen Padre Barron and he sends you this book.

Teresa: Lady Guiomar, how wonderful! How is Padre Barron? Has he been well lately?

(opens the package). . .The Confessions of St. Augustine! I have such a need for good books. The Lord be praised! Thank you, my lady.

Lady Guiomar: You have quite a reputation here, Sr. Teresa.. .visions. . .the gift of silent prayer, levitations, spiritual union with the Lord. No wonder everyone wants to be your friend. . .even the Lord who grants you such special favors!

Teresa: Not so, my Lady. . .my soul is a stubborn , unworthy donkey! Most, if not all my confessors have already given up on me! Padre Daza, Padre Salcedo, Padre Aranda - they refuse to hear my confessions accusing me of being too proud and ambitious for my own good. They believe it is not God but the devil deceiving me. All this is just a diabolical suggestion at work.

Lady Guiomar: But that is not what I hear of you. . . and that's certainly not what I believe of you. These special favors from the Lord can only mean you are blessed.

Teresa: They say these things are only granted to people known for their holiness and extraordinary. With the grace of God, I try my very best to change my life in the Master's example yet I cannot claim to be equal to the saints . . .but I know it is He and not the devil directing me because I desire only what is good. It can be very confusing. . .the saintly Pedro de Alcantara, the Duke of Gandia, Francis Borgia, Padre de Salazar, Padre de Ibanez. . .they are all pushing me to undertake a reform for the Order.

Lady Guiomar: I know other people who believe you. I too, am seeking a way to the Lord's forgiveness. I should like it if we could be friends. I would like to offer my help when you do set up your first foundation; that is, if you will let me.

Teresa: I should like that, too, my Lady. Please give my thanks to P. Barron for the wonderful book when you see him again. May God guide us. . .it will be difficult times ahead for your mission.

(They bid goodbye and Teresa returns to the community room while Lady Guiomar exits).

Front Curtains open. Grill is pulled offstage.

On center stage is the refectory of the Incarnation where the nuns are at recreation: A group of nuns are around Sr. Inez. They stop talking as Teresa passes by with her new present. Some nuns are around the organ enjoying secular music and some are busy sewing laces on their collars.

Obviously, Teresa is the object of Sr. Ines and her group. As she passes, she smiles at them but is met by varying negative reactions. She shrugs her shoulders and moves on. The discussion resumes as soon as she is out of sight.

Sr. Inez: *(with a malicious smile)* All she does is show us that she's different from us. Who does she think she is, anyway? . . . I've never known a nun to be so scheming and arrogant as that Teresa... She talks of praying in her own way and talking to the Lord directly as a friend. *Esta muy ilusonada! Eres una hipocrita!*

Nun 6: *(naively)* But all she has done is set a good example of obedience to the Rule. Is that arrogance?

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Sister Inez: Obedience, perhaps, but certainly, not humility! Even her confessors refuse to hear her confessions now. . .She lectures them when she should be listening to them.

I hear Padre Daza believes her visions are the work of the devil. . . *(nudges the sister beside her)*
Go on, tell them what you know..

Nun 7: The doctors can't find anything wrong with her and can't understand her fits and spells. They suspect they are self-induced and calculated to put her in the center of everyone's attention. They believe even her three year- paralysis is a kind of neurosis rather than a physical illness. . .you know, up here *(gestures with her finger and makes a face. Everyone has a good laugh. The other nuns giggle.)*

Nun 8. But the saintly Padre de Alcantara, Francis Borgia and the other Jesuits have encouraged her to pursue her kind of prayer.

Sr. Inez: Those Jesuits are themselves a center of controversy. They are all over Europe and the Indies attracting young men with conceit and arrogance. Besides, many have been deceived and found guilty of fantasy and heresy by the Inquisition. Dona Teresa may well be the next to be summoned and to face trial. It's frightening how the devil seems especially active in our Church these times.

Nun 9: Dona Teresa says she doesn't mind dying. . . she's eager to see her Master.

Sr. Inez: So, now she talks of dying! What else did she say?

Nun 9: She asked me if I also felt like dying. . . I said, "What on earth for? I want to live long so I can suffer for Christ. I couldn't do that if I were dead, could I!

Sr. Inez : Well, Dona Teresa's not going to die, either. Look how the Lady Guiomar takes such good care of her. *(with disgust).*

Nun 10:Hmmp. . .With such a good nurse, she will recover faster than expected and live so long she won't be able to see her spouse for a long, long time... Ah! God help us. . *Muy Ilusionada!*

A nun comes from the parlor holding gifts and other sisters crowd around her. She distributes some sweets and they chatter while munching them and exchanging jokes and laughter.

Voice over:

"Doña Teresa de Ahumada, to the parlor!"

(Teresa passes through, smiles at the group as she passes. Two rich nuns follow after her attended by novices in white veils holding cleaning equipment. The nuns are dressed in silk and lace and one is holding a lapdog. A group of 4 nuns and a young lady move. They are noticeably more quiet than the rest. They seem to prepare for Bible-sharing.)

Nun 2: God was not in the strong wind. Neither was he in the earthquake or in the fire. . .

Nun 3: No!, not in the fire! He was in the gentle breeze, the still, small voice that spoke to the prophet Elijah!

Nun 4: *(looks around fretfully)* How can we hear the still, small voice in this convent? We are too noisy!

Nun 3: We came to spend our lives in solitude, apart from the world so we could help save it through prayer and sacrifice. Sometimes I feel ashamed of what I, too, have become.

Nun 3: So unlike our Master whose poor and humble ways we promised to imitate.

(Teresa returns from the parlor with gifts. She joins them while the other nuns look at her with envy and disdain.)

Nun 2: Nobody seems to mind the Rule here. It's maximum tolerance. . .those who have the

means have even changed the habit. Look at all those frills and the laces. . .their silk and fine linen habits. Only the novices are obliged to observe the Rule now.

Nun 3: Yes, we dress as we please. . .we have rich benefactors who bring us gifts in exchange for spiritual favors. Only we, the poor sisters live in the dormitories.

Nun 4: Those who can afford it have their own suites and private oratories where they may even bring their maids to serve them. Isn't it ironic that we who came to serve Christ and his poor are being served by maids?

Teresa's niece looks at her and Teresa beats her breast in guilt, whispering, "Lo siento".

Nun 1: I think we give in too easily to the whims of our rich and generous benefactors. They invite us to their homes and shower us with material gifts in exchange for our prayers. They come in and out as if they owned this place. Some of these rich ladies even borrow and return us at will. What has happened to our enclosure!

Teresa: But, on the other hand, without these generous benefactors, we could die of hunger. There is not enough work to bring in the money to feed a hundred and eighty nuns everyday! There must be a way. . . (thoughtfully)

Nun 1: But who can blame our Prioress for allowing the sisters to leave the enclosure for long periods of time. When Carmelites go out on such visits, that's less mouths to feed.

Nun 2: Well, in the rich houses, the nuns get decent meals and sleep in soft and warm beds. They travel in comfortable coaches to and from the palaces. They come home laden with presents. . . silk, jewelry, food, warm beddings for themselves and for us. . . who can blame our Prioress for letting them go!

Nun 3: Just look at our parlors - they are never empty of visitors. Even the gentlemen come any hour of the day on the pretext of getting spiritual advice. . . prayer time, meal time. . . even during periods of silence. In the name of charity, we are told to attend to these souls in need of comfort. You'd think this was a home for single ladies instead of a convent. I wonder if I came to the right place to serve God. *(Teresa bows head in shame)*

Nun 4: We know that many of our sisters are here because there are no men to marry them. The men are all gone with their dreams of being *conquistadores*! Their lives are pledged to the King, to Spain and to their personal honor! They're all in the Indies where the streets are reportedly lined with gold and silver. If they're lucky, they may even get a title and a territory from the King himself!

Teresa: I must confess this discussion comes as a relief to me after so long. Being called to the parlor repeatedly can be very flattering; it can go to the head and then to the heart. Soon, you can't even remember why you came here in the first place. By then, it may be too late. We lose the sense of sin and guilt then justify our own lukewarm attitudes and bad habits. . . I shudder to think of the possible punishment awaiting us for all eternity unless we change.

(Deep, fearful silence)

Niece: We must believe in God's mercy and understanding. . .but, we can't just sit around complaining. . .let's do something. For a start. . .what about forming smaller communities. . .

(Everyone looks at her in amazement as if she had dropped a bomb.)

I know it probably sounds crazy but yes, wouldn't it be great if we could go away, I mean remain contemplative nuns but live in smaller groups. . It has been done before!

Nun 2: Perhaps thirteen nuns in a single house would just be right. . . Isn't that what Christ did? He invited 12 apostles. . . fewer nuns, less noise and distraction. Then we could pray better, and listen more closely to the still, small voice of God.

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Nun 3: Then we could have less needs and learn to live like our hermit fathers did - simple, poor, chaste virgins obedient to the Rule and Christ's invitation to follow Him.

Teresa: *(as if in a trance)* Like the early fathers. . .like the apostles . . .owning nothing as individuals and even as a community except the very bare necessities: a roof over our heads, frugal meals, fasting, abstinence, coarse habits, cells just large enough for us to sleep in and practice solitude. . .

(comes down to reality with a soft, apologetic laugh)

It sounds so ideal and so easy but there's a whole world of difference between just saying it and doing it.

I must admit I, too, have been guilty of complacency... enjoying the privileges under our mitigated Rule and not feeling the smallest desire to give them up. . .I enjoy the material gifts, the popularity. . .I'm afraid I, too, have lost the interest and ability to pray and contemplate. It bothers me that I have been living here so dishonestly - one foot in the convent and one foot in the world. Yes, they are right in saying "Eres muy ilusionada; eres una hipocrita.

(Nuns: The Lord forgive us . . .lo siento. . .beat their breasts and bow their heads.)

Teresa: I have never truly left the world. My illness has even served as an excuse for me to be lazy, to miss my prayers. I have been adjusting His will to mine instead of my will to His. Compromises. . .lies.

With your help, we have hope. No more compromises; only determination. . . a strong determination to set us on our journey backwards. We could start a reformation and go back to the original primitive rule of the fathers.

(Nuns smile and nod approvingly. Teresa motions for them to be quiet)

Nun 4: How soon can we do this?

Teresa: Not so soon, I'm afraid. It won't be easy. I assure you there will be a lot of resistance, misunderstanding and anger. They will think we are putting ourselves above the rest and trying to show we are holier than they.

Nun 1: Where shall we live? No matter how humble, a convent will cost us money which we don't have.

Nun 2: What about alms and endowments? At this time, people are not so eager to feed beggars like us.

Nun3: And if we did beg, that would make us dependents on our benefactors and their whims.

Teresa: We must pray and seek direction in confession. This, we could do immediately.

Niece: Could you take the first step to get approval? We will need to seek permission from the Carmelite Provincial, or the Bishop.

Nun 4: Or the King. . .the Holy Father. . . After all, it is within the Church that we shall promise to live our vows.

Teresa: Padre Ibanez has promised to help. . .so has Lady Guiomar.

In the meantime, let us be quiet about this. The less people know, the less objection there will be. We must pray and ask God to nurture this determination within ourselves. No matter how impossible it looks now, if this is God's will, He will provide all that we need to start His work of reformation. San Jose has been generous with his miracles. He will intercede for us.

(Bell for night prayers is heard. Teresa's group hurries to go. As they exit, the others dally behind until chanting is heard. Some put down their needlework and exit; some dally, still chatting and giggling.)

ACT 3, Scene 2

The Journey Backwards

Narrator: Pope Eugenius IV had mitigated the rigors of the primitive rule in 1432, 20 years before women were admitted into the Carmelite Order. Through the years, Carmel, which had always been a stronghold for penance and prayer deteriorated into a house for lonely bachelors and unmarried women. Silence in the convent gave way to the noise of the world. The nuns enjoyed more liberties and found their greatest pleasure is in secular things and the company of creatures. Over population in the convents strained their resources which led them to extended visits to friends and relatives as well as benefactors. Soon, most of them slowly lost interest in prayer and lost touch with God.

At La Encarnacion, there was strong opposition from the nuns at the news of Teresa's plan for reformation. Understandably, such a move was not flattering for the calced Carmelites of the Mitigated Order. It was downright insulting. They had doubts as to Teresa's real intentions. The nuns ridiculed her believing she was crazy and deserved to be punished for her pride and ambition.

The friars were just as furious, threatened for their daily bread. Another convent dependent on alms would anger the people who were beginning to feel the famine and poverty. But Padre Ibanez gave Teresa the greatest encouragement and affirmation to go ahead with the work of reformation.

(Curtain opens to show the Grill, P. Ibanez and Sr. Teresa.)

Teresa: Padre Ibañez, every single day, the group gets more and more restless. They think we should do it soon. It's been two years since we first thought of a reformation.

Padre Ibañez: Get on with the foundation, Sister Teresa. The community has gone beyond its bounds. The Rule must be observed. The life of Christ's followers must not be more luxurious than Christ's own life. The sooner the foundation is begun, the better it will be for you and the friars of Carmel, the people of Avila and our Church.

Teresa: But Padre, we have very little money.

Padre Ibañez: This is just the time to put things in God's hands. If there are any objectors, let them come to me. God bless you, my child.

(P. Ibañez leaves Teresa after blessing her.)

(Prioress enters and calls Teresa who responds briskly.)

Prioress: Sister Teresa, our Father Provincial needs you to go to Toledo as soon as possible. Don Arias Pardo de Saavedra, one of the richest men in Spain, has passed away. Up to this time, no one has been able to bring comfort to his widow, Dona Luisa de la Cerda. Your reputation has reached her and she has asked for you to go to her immediately.

Teresa: But Mother, there are other nuns. Does our Provincial have another reason for wanting me to leave the Incarnation at this time?

Prioress: It is Madam de la Cerda's wish, Sister Teresa, and not our Provincial's.

Teresa: In that case, I shall obey. But before I go, Mother, I wish to ask your permission to visit my sister, Dona Maria and her husband, Don Juan Ovalle. It's about a family matter that has to be attended as soon as possible.

Prioress: Impossible. They live in Alba de Tormes and that would set you back a couple of days. Madam de la Cerda's coach will be here for you tomorrow. The Provincial doesn't want to displease her. You know what a great help she is to the Carmelite convents. We cannot afford to lose her support.

Teresa: If I go now, Mother, it would only take a couple of hours. My sister Maria and her husband, Don Juan de Ovalle have moved to Avila.

Prioress: Oh, is that so? In that case, you may go. I will call the alms sister to go with you.

Teresa: May I bring Dona Juana Suarez with me, instead? She's an old friend of the family.

Prioress: Alright. I shall have her go with you.

Teresa: Thank you, Mother.

(Prioress leaves; Sr. Juana appears. They speak as the lights dim.)

ACT 3, Scene 3

Conspiracies

Narrator: What the Prioress did not know was that Teresa had made up her mind to obey Padre Ibanez. She bought a house in the name of Maria and Juan Ovalle. The Prioress had allowed her to help the family settle down, not suspecting that this was not to be the very first reform convent in Avila.

Preparations were now being made for the opening of the Convent of St. Joseph in Avila on August 24, 1562, 26 years after we have welcomed her at the Incarnation.

Carpenters: *(noisily blaming one another and cursing the devil for the wall that fell)* The wall fell down! It is so obvious. *Es una obra del Diablo!* Si, si! The devil's work! Don't you think so, Señora?

Dona Guiomar: God is not pleased with this. We must stop it.

Teresa: Lady Guiomar, it only means this is what God wants. That is why the devil is playing such tricks on us. We must continue.

Don Juan: How shall we put up another wall! This will cost us extra to have it rebuilt. They must have done a bad job and must be made to pay for it.

Teresa: No, Don Juan. We shall have the wall rebuilt and pay them again for it. God will provide as he has always done. Let us not worry.

(to the carpenters) But you must promise to do a good job this time. If it falls down a second time, we shall put it up again.

Carpenters: Si, Sor Teresa. We shall do our best.

(Don Juan leaves exasperated while carpenters start to put the wall up again. Sr. Teresa and Lady Guiomar are discussing the plans when suddenly. . .)

Carpenters: Don Juan! Don Juan! Your son, Gonzalo. . . *El es muerto!*

Teresa: Es muerto? Gonzalito?

Dead! Merciful Jesus!

(Don Juan runs to his son while his wife cries out:) Gonzalito, mi hijo!

(Carpenter carries the boy to Teresa who holds him in her arms then lays him on the ground and bends over him, covering him with her veil. She prays and remains motionless for a while.)

Teresa: O God, master of life and death, if it be your will, let the boy live!

(She sets him down on the ground. The carpenters and a few people watch her. Suddenly, the boy moves.)

Carpenters: He's alive! The boy's alive! *El esto vivo! Es un milagro!*

(Boy moves then pulls himself up towards Teresa. Then he stands and runs to his parents as if nothing happened. The carpenters and other people whisper in disbelief and crossing themselves say):

Crowd 1: It's a miracle! He is alive! *Es un milagro! El esta vivo!*

Crowd 2: She prayed and the Lord heard her. She has brought him back with her prayers. It must be true what they say; she must be a saint.

Crowd 3: . . . or the devil! God help us! *(crosses himself).*

Gonzalo: Mama, Papa, Tita Madre, why is everyone staring at me?

Teresa: Let's get on with the work. We have to finish this as soon as possible. *(Everyone turns to his/her work as lights dim.)*



ACT 3, Scene 4

The Convent of San Jose

(The sound of bells is heard. Neighbors rush to the Ovalle House out to see what the bells mean. There are nuns kneeling in front of the altar receiving the blessing after Mass.)

Crowd 1: What's happening?

Crowd 2: The Ovalle House . . .

Young girl: *(peeps into the window)* It's a new chapel with nuns in it.

Crowd 3: It's not a chapel; it's a convent of Carmelite nuns! They are going to live here in strict enclosure with fasting, penance and prayers.

Crowd 1: Why?

Crowd 2: To pray for sinners like you and me!

Crowd 3: How poor the house looks. . .just like Bethlehem!

(Another group approaches. . .angry men . .

The Our Father is being sung inside while the crowd outside gets rowdy.)

Angry Men (4): Down with the convent! Down with the nuns! We can't feed them. . .We must save the bread for our children! There is no extra money for another convent!

Angry women (3): Get them out of here! We can't feed them!

(Lights dim. Spotlight on Teresa who is still on her knees in front of the small altar. The nuns begin to get restless.)

Teresa: Whatever have I done? What if I don't find some money to feed them? My Lord, what now? I have obeyed you. Please take care of your children.

Voice of the Lord: "The more the problems come, the greater the reward. Remember Teresa, you are mine and I am yours. Let nothing disturb you. . .let nothing affright you. I am here. . .

Teresa: My daughters, the Prioress demands that I return to the Incarnation immediately.

San Jose Nun 1: Mother, what shall we do without you? The villagers hate us! We have no work, no food.

Teresa: Have faith, my daughters. St. Joseph will take care of you. Ursula de los Santos will be Prioress of this house. This is your chance to suffer for Christ . . . and mine, too. I must leave for the Incarnation at once.

Sr. Ursula, Nun 6: Mother, must you leave so soon? I am not sure I can do this.

Teresa: Have you forgotten, my daughters, how many souls are being lost in Spain? Fr. Maldonado has reminded us of the great harvest work that awaits the church in the missions. Since we cannot go to help them there, let us do our best with the little we can share with our Church here.

Prayer is our weapon, silence, our stronghold and mortification, our strategy. We must build more powerhouses of prayer. But now, I must go or Mother Maria, in her anger, will come herself to drag me to the Incarnation. Wouldn't that be ridiculous!

Juana Suarez: On Nov. 28, 1568, the little house at Duruelo was declared a Discalced Carmelite Monastery. In a simple ceremony, Fr. John of Mathias changed his name to John of the Cross. He, Friar Anthony of Jesus and Friar Jose de Cristo began to live the Primitive Rule.

The reform of the Carmelite friars would spread to Italy and then, the whole world. In the meantime, Teresa continued to found her convents in Medina del Campo, Malagon, Valladolid and Toledo.



ACT 3 Scene 5

Las Fundaciones

At the Prioress' Room, Sr. Teresa approaches Mo. Prioress cautiously

Mother Maria Cimbron: Sor Teresa, I would never have believed this. . .but you are what they say you are - a liar and a scheming woman! I demand to know why I was not even consulted on the founding of San Jose. How could you live a life of extreme poverty and penance when you cannot even follow the Mitigated Rule of La Encarnacion.

Teresa: Mother, I am truly sorry. But I only acted in obedience to Christ, through Padre Ibanez and Padre Alcantara. Besides, we had received authorization from the bishop and a brief from Rome authorizing the setting up of the reform convent in San Jose. We did it quietly to avoid trouble. We could not compromise the mission God had given us, could we? I shall gladly accept whatever punishment you give me, Mother.

Mother Maria: Very well, Sor Teresa, I shall forgive you this time but I can't guarantee the same forgiveness from your sisters here. They have been greatly angered and humiliated by your insensitive behavior. You will serve at the Incarnation for the next six months before you go back to San Jose.

Teresa: Disculpa...Como quieres, Madre Maria. *(She leaves the room.)*

Narrator: Meanwhile, back at San Jose, the commotion goes on for another six months until Teresa returns. She directs the convent for the next five years teaching her nuns how to pray and do penance in strict enclosure and silence. In 1567, Padre Juan Bautista Rubeo, Master General of the Carmelites visited San Jose. He was greatly edified by the silence, the humility and life of prayer of the reform community. He gave Teresa patents to found more reform houses for nuns and friars. The movement began to attract not just the women but also the priests.

Teresa: Padre Antonio de Heredia, welcome. Father General has authorized me to found monasteries of men according to the Primitive Rule but I have no friars.

Padre de Heredia: Here I am. I will be the first.

Teresa: Padre, you are Prior of St. Anne's Monastery. After 57 years of living comfortably, are you sure you want this kind of life?

P. de Heredia: Mother, I am serious. If you will not accept me, I am joining the Carthusians for I sincerely desire this austere kind of life.

Teresa: Then, I shall give you a year of trial and see if you can bear the difficult life of the primitive rule.

Nun of M del Campo: Padre Juan de la Cruz wishes to see you, Mother.

P. Juan: I have been thinking of joining the Carthusians. The Mitigated Rule of our convent is not what I have dreamed about as a way of life.

Teresa: Well, Father, I am founding a Carmelite Order for men under the Primitive Rule. I beg you to please wait a while. Come on, Father, would you not rather embrace the more perfect life according to the Primitive Rule as a son of Carmel rather than as a Carthusian?

P. Juan: Provided I do not wait too long.

Teresa: Don Rafael has offered me a house at Duruelo. . .it's small, poor and has nothing of the amenities you have at your convents. . .but it's hidden in a forest of oak trees with a rolling stream close at hand – a charming, gracious solitude.

If you wish, you and Padre Antonio can visit the place and begin living there. If you are ready to accept the habit, we shall go on with the foundation of the reformed friars of Carmel.

Teresa: Fathers, we are lucky we have a house except.. .it is really an abandoned, tumble-down shack with nothing but a porch, a room and a tiny kitchen. It is so low and poor; it could be the stable of Bethlehem.

P. Juan: Wonderful! Then I can truly live in poverty.

P. de Heredia: Even a pigpen would be welcome. I shall work for my resignation as Prior of St. Anne's immediately. *(He bows and exits.)*

Teresa: Padre Juan, you could go with us to our foundation at Valladolid to learn something about the life of the Discalced religious. As soon as the permission for Duruelo comes through, you could go ahead and transform the stable into a monastery. What do you say?

P. Juan: That I shall do before any obstacles arise!

Teresa: All for the glory of God!

P. Juan: Mother Teresa, give me your blessing that I may begin the work for His glory.

Teresa: We will follow you with our prayers. God's blessings be with you and the foundation, Father. Now you must give us your blessing that we, too, may live our life as we should.

P. Juan: I shall never forget those to whom I owe so much. *(Gives his blessing.)*

Lights out. Music.

Juana Suarez: On Nov. 28, 1568, the little house at Duruelo was declared a Discalced Carmelite Monastery. In a simple ceremony, Fr. John of Mathias changed his name to John of the Cross. He, Friar Anthony of Jesus and Friar Jose de Cristo began to live the Primitive Rule.

The reform of the Carmelite friars would spread to Italy and then, the whole world. In the meantime, Teresa continued to found her convents in Medina del Campo, Malagon, Valladolid and Toledo.



ACT 3, Scene 6

Diversions

Dona Juana: On July 29 1575, Ruy Gomez de Silva, 2nd highest ranking man in Spain died. His beautiful but haughty and self-willed wife was inconsolable and demanded to enter the Carmelite Convent at Pastrana immediately.

(A nun approaches Teresa who is writing seated on a rock in her cell.)

Nun: Mother Teresa, the Princess of Eboli is here. She is asking to be received as a nun.

Teresa: The Princess of Eboli? *(shocked!)* Oh no, this is the end of the convent!

(Nun enters the community room where she finds the Princess sitting in the Prioress' chair. A maid hovers over her.)

Your highness, That is the Prioral Chair.

Princess: What if it is? I am the princess and will not be subject to anyone, not even your Prioress. After all, I founded this place.

Teresa: Your highness, it is time for Vespers. Won't you join us in the chapel?

Princess: *(standing up)* I am tired and prefer to retire now. Tell my maid to fix a light supper for me in my private quarters. Oh, and Mother Teresa, I would like her to take the veil on the same day I take my veil. I simply cannot do without her. *(Dismisses Teresa with a wave of her hand).*

Teresa: *(following the Princess who has already turned her back to Teresa)* Your highness, this convent has Rules which even I, as Prioress must obey. Unfortunately, we cannot accede to your wish. We in the reformed order have vowed to serve God and only God, through obedience to His rule in strict enclosure and complete silence. If you will not bend to the Rule, we will have to ask you to leave.

Princess: *(standing)* You dare to tell me that? *Sin verguenza!* Very well, I shall leave but I shall withdraw all help to this convent and we'll see what shall become of you! *(to her maid)* Prepare the coach. We are going home. *(The poor girl is flustered and obeys nervously.) As she passes Sister Teresa, she mumbles an apology but the Princess sees this and shouts at her.)*

Maid: Pardone me, Sor Teresa.. .

Princess: Idiota! Vamos!

Princess and her maids leave the convent. The nuns watch, helpless but relieved. Teresa shrugs her shoulders and raises up her hands and eyes upward with a grateful smile.

Nun: Mother, what terrible stories they tell about you. She will not stop until she destroys you.

Teresa: I could be doing worse things if the Lord were not guiding me by the hand, my child. But my great sorrow is the way our discalced friars are being treated by their brothers in the Mitigated Order. I hear they have been tortured and imprisoned. And what is worse, all the Carmelite convents, mitigated and reformed, have been put under the jurisdiction of the superiors of the Mitigated. It is like a death knell to our reform movement.

(Mother Teresa calls her nuns) My daughters, we shall leave this house at once and join our sisters at the new convent in Segovia. We shall leave tonight under cover of darkness. . . but have no fear. Our faithful protector, St. Joseph, will be with us.



ACT 4, Scene 1

Te Deum

Friar: Open the doors! Open the doors! Sr.Teresa has been appointed Prioress of La Encarnacion.

"We cannot accept her!" We demand an election! "No way!" "Let her go back to her reform. . we don't need her here!" "We don't want her! Go away!" No la queremos! No la necesitamos! Vete! Vete!"

Juana Suarez: Teresa, you should not have come. They resent your appointment as Prioress of La Encarnacion. They are demanding to hold an election.

Teresa: My friend, this is an imposition even on me. I would have been happier in one of our humble reform convents but I had to come. . . out of obedience to the Lord through our superiors.

De Salazar: I, Brother Angel de Salazar, Provincial of the Order of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, on behalf of the Provincial Council and with the approval of the Most Rev. Apostolic Commissary have been entrusted to appoint as Prioress of the Convent, The Incarnation in Avila, Mother Teresa de Jesus. Issued in Avila in the year of the Lord, 1571.

Nuns: We don't want her! No! Never!

Juana Suarez: We want her and we love her! *La necesitamos! La amamos!*

Music: Te Deum. . . Lights on. Lights out. Music.

ACT 4, Scene 2

It is Time

Juana: Thirteen years before, Teresa had asked me to join her at San Jose. Although we remained the best of friends, I knew we were made for different things. I decided to remain at the Incarnation while she chose to follow the Lord, the more difficult road of the reformation - its risks, its adventures but also its rich blessings. Her physical sufferings worsened through the years and would have stopped a weaker soul from doing all that she had done. To Teresa, they were just another way to God whom she had finally discovered and to whom she was eternally united in prayer. From her daughters and sons, she learned what she had taught them; humility, obedience, love for God and neighbor. Looking back, she had found what she first sought in her childhood: a love that was complete and forever.

Narrator: In her lifetime, Teresa had founded 17 reform houses for nuns and friars. At 60 and in retirement, she had written her autobiography, the Foundations and other minor works. Two years later, she wrote the Interior Castle, her most important contribution to the Church's Theology of prayer. All her writings were done in obedience.

The struggle between the Discalced and the our Calced Orders worsened after the death of Padre Rubeo. In 1581, Philip II ordered the separation of the two provinces and the Chapter of Alcala confirmed the Constitution giving the convents of the Discalced autonomy from the Mitigated Order. Teresa returned to San Jose as Prioress and founded two more convents but her battle, ordered by God had been won.

Teresa: "It is so sad that we who have promised ourselves to the Lord have abused the little freedoms that we enjoy. My daughters, for the love of God, I pray you, observe the Rule and do not follow my bad example. I ask you to forgive me. A contrite and humble heart, O God, you will not despise."

P. Antonio: Sor Teresa, do you want to be taken back to Avila after your death?

She had loved much and was loved much in turn. . . *"Amor con amor se paga".*

Narrator: On October 4, 1582, at Alba de Tormes, in the arms of her beloved daughter, Sr. Ana de San Bartolome, Sr. Teresa of Jesus went home to her Spouse. She was 67.

Teresa: Padre, what kind of a question is that? Do I have anything at all that I own? Can't they be kind enough to give me a bit of earth here?

"It's more than twenty years since I went to bed so early.

This is how you, Lord, treat your friends. No wonder you have so few.

"Lord, I am a daughter of the Church. . . a daughter of the Church". . . My bridegroom and Saviour, this is the long-awaited moment for me to see you. Let us go. It is time... time to go home."
(The Duchess of Alba enters and covers her with a cloth of gold).

Music: Te Deum. . . Lights on. Lights out .Music.

Narrator: On March 12, 1622, she was canonized and given the title: Doctor of the Church – the highest honor ever given to a woman. Marcelle Auclair who wrote "Teresa of Avila" could not have described her better. *On the spiritual plane, she was a true "conquistador" in the spirit of her times. She had found the passage joining contemplation and action, as did Magellan who found the strait joining the two oceans. She drew up the chart of the spiritual universe as did Mercator who produced the first globe in 1541.*

Teresa was the eagle who soared high and far beyond the walls of Avila and the boundaries of Spain. She was a woman in every way – gentle, caring but strong, ahead of her times. She was humble and respectful of the men who, in their own ways either led or misled her but in her purity and holiness, she equaled the saints among them and towered over most of them. She was physically ill most of her life but this physical weakness only strengthened the determination of her intellect and will to love.

Four centuries later, all of Teresa's 17 foundations continue to be in existence. Through her spiritual sons and daughters in the Discalced convents of Carmelite nuns and friars, she continues to teach us how to pray with our hearts and find the God within us and in those around us. Like her Master, she was a living reproach to those who courted evil but a magnet for souls who sincerely searched for God.

All her life she was a pilgrim on a journey . . . *Eya es nacida por Dios!* One long painful but glorious journey back to that dawn in March 1515 when through the love between Don Alonzo and Dona Beatriz, she was born for God.

As a tribute to this great woman let us remember that we too are born for God and God alone.



Let Nothing Disturb You

Theme Song: Born For You: Life of Teresa of Avila

composed by: Nepthalie Moutri Aromin

performed by:

Nepthalie Moutri Aromin & Edgardo Regalado

Chorus by St. Teresa of Avila

Musical arrangement by Edgardo Regalado

When I feel so alone

And I can't go on

In this world that lets me down,

Makes me weary of life.

When life seems too hard to bear

With all my sorrows and pains,

My worries and cares

I just want to end it all

Chorus 1:

Let nothing disturb me

Let nothing frighten me

All things are passing away

God never changes

Patience obtains all things

Whoever has God lacks nothing

God alone suffices...oooh...

When life seems too hard to bear

With all your sorrows and pains,

Your worries and cares

You just want to end it all

Chorus 2:

Let nothing disturb you

Let nothing frighten you

All things are passing away

God never changes

Patience obtains all things

Whoever has God lacks nothing

God alone suffices

Bridge:

We are Yours, O God, born for You.

Born to do Your Will. Repeat Chorus 2..

...Lacks nothing God alone suffices...

When you feel so alone

And you can't go on

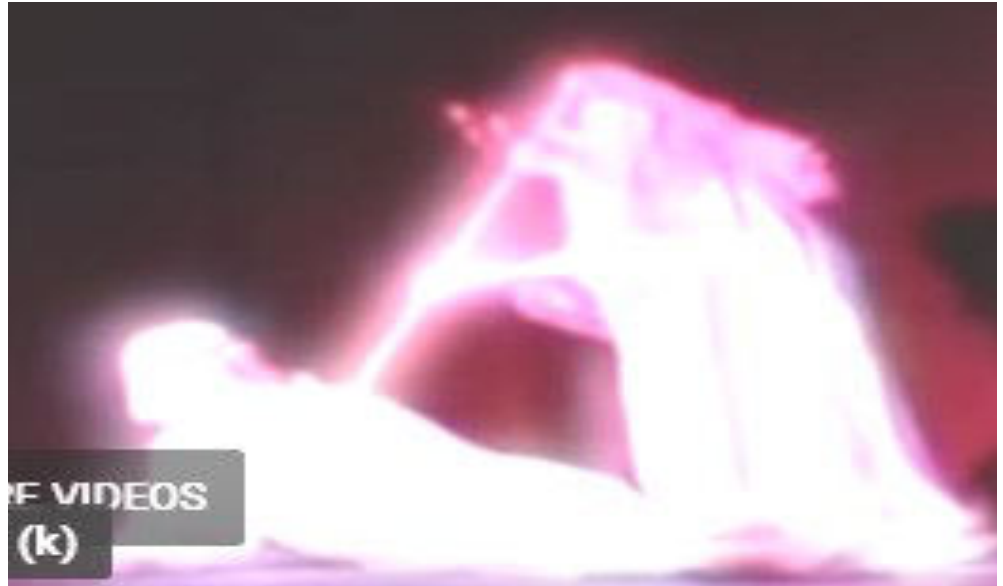
In this world that lets you down,

Makes you weary of life.



ACT 3, Scene 1

La Madre



Nila Testimony

Juana: Teresa, are you alright? You frighten me!

Teresa: Such joy and pain. . .*un tan alegria y allavez dolor!*. . .overwhelming joy and pain as if I were drowning. . .Oh Juana. . .how can I explain this? Alegria y dolor. . .

(By now, both are crying. . .Teresa, out of joy; Juana, of fear and confusion)

In our 2000 pilgrimage to the Holy places a treasured souvenir is the Jubilee Cross we bought in Vatican. Our Carmelite Saints understand that there is no other way but to embrace our cross. The booklet entitled "Secular Carmelite Twins contain our lives as Secular Carmelites of the St. Teresa of Avila Community at Pindangan, City of San Fernando, La Union founded in 1975.

Luz testimony: During the second showing of the stage play "Born for You _ the Life of Teresa of Avila" at Ortega Cultural Center, City of San Fernando, La Union I met an accident. The Jubilee Cross (see above) I was wearing during the play that I attached to a rope choked me. It is good Blanche portraying the role of Juana was monitoring my delivery. She noticed something wrong so she asked the play to stop. I was pulled down from the pulley. When I awoke I inquired where we are. Realizing I was worried about the audience if they have left. Fortunately, they closed the curtain as if it was intermission.

Synopsis : “ Born for you_ The Life of Teresa of Avila”

The story of Teresa of Avila is a chronicle of a child's dream and anxiety over heavenly reward and punishment and a woman's lifetime journey of family, personal struggle, faith, passion, miracles, perseverance and reform in the mitigated order of Carmel in Spain.

Teresa , youngest of the Ahumada y Cepeda children, is born in 16th century Avila, Spain to noble and rich family. She grows up to be an adventurous child and adult, fired by her mother's tales of faith, heroism, and true love. Even as a child, Teresa envisions herself as a celebrated saint of the Church, one day destined to enjoy endless reward in heaven.

She is orphaned at an early age and with no one to look after her, Teresa is sent to the Convent of Our Lady of Grace as a boarder. For the first time, Teresa experiences and expresses her distaste for the excessive penance and mortification practiced by the Augustinian nuns.

Ultimately, under the guidance of the saintly Doña Maria de Bricenio, Teresa grows spiritually. At 21, contrary to her dear father's wishes, the surprise of her friend, Doña Juana Suarez and all who knew her in Avila, she escapes to join the Carmelite Nuns of the Mitigated Rule of La Encarnacion. Her decision is born of great fear of eternal punishment rather than true love for God.

In the convent, despite her lukewarm faith, she is favored with the Lord's gifts of powerful mental prayer where her heart learns to speak directly to God, spiritual union with Christ, her Lord and Master and heavenly bliss in penance and sacrifice.

The peak of Teresa's fidelity to the Lord is tested through her call to reform the Carmelite Order she has joined. With great faith, obedience and surrender to the Lord, Teresa overcomes her great spiritual and physical difficulties and accomplishes her task. She is accused of being a liar and a scheming woman and rejected as an emissary of the devil by the very nuns she loved and the priests whose guidance she sought and respected.

With God's help and the support of a few friends and benefactors (among them, Padre Ibañez, Padre Antonio de Heredia and Padre Juan de la Cruz, Lady Guiomar) she succeeds in founding 17 reform convents for nuns and two monasteries for discalced friars in her lifetime.

Teresa's 67-year struggle on earth was long, painful but victorious - she was born for God and only God. Her life was an unending lesson that God alone suffices. In Him alone did she find what she had searched for all her life - a Love eternal and forever.

Ray Pedroche

Narrator of Stage play, Quezon City

August 15, 2014

SOMEWHERE IN TONIGHT'S FACEBOOK is a photo of Blanche Aricheta and me, after recording a documentary on the 5th centenary of Sta. Teresa de Avila. The script done by her was so touching that somewhere in the narration I could not control my sobbing—yes, my soul was so touched with the advocacy of St. Teresa of faith, trust, simplicity, humility and – LOVE which was a beautiful quotation inspiring and passionately delivered by me that I was shaken with an unspeakable feeling that I consider this a miracle. I don't easily shed tears, not even over the death of my closest of kin. Blanche, I know you also cried. . . Congratulations for making Sta. Teresa present in the recording... And I am sure the Carmelite twins were just as touched. Hope to be with you again. God bless!

8.2 “Lights, Camera, Action _ A Documentary Film of St. Teresa” / Tickets and Proceeds



Watch at YouTube Channel



A Documentary Film to Commemorate
the Fifth Birth Centenary of St. Teresa de Jesus of Avila

Multimedia (use own audio):
St. Teresa of Avila Community
Liturgy of the Hours
OCDS House of Prayer façade

Narrator:

Vuestra soy, para Vos nació. ¿Qué mandáis hacer de mí? I am Yours and born of You; what is your will for me to do?

Teresa tries to sit up with Sr. Ana supporting her.

“Lord, I am a daughter of the Church... a daughter of the Church”. . . . My bridegroom and Saviour, this is the long-awaited moment for me to see you. Let us go. It is time...time to go home.”

Meditation, morning praise, mass, Mary, meetings, mission - these define the St. Teresa of Avila Community in the City of San Fernando, La Union. It is the home of an interesting blend of enthusiastic retired teachers, businesswomen, civil servants, mothers, and the blessed single, yet sisters bonded in fraternal love.

This presentation entitled, “Lights, Camera, Action”, spotlights this small community as they pay tribute to Carmel’s Holy Foundress, La Santa Madre Teresa, and emphasize her life and teachings.

VTR: Rodolfo Beltran: Bishop of San Fernando de La Union

On the occasion of the 500th Birth Anniversary of St. Teresa de Jesus of Avila which we are preparing and that this Feast will fall on March 28 and I am very thankful for the St. Teresa of Avila Community because of what they are doing. In fact, they have a preparation for the Year of the Laity and this is a documentary film for the 5th Birth Centenary of St. Teresa of Avila which is entitled, "Lights, Camera, Action."



This Year of the Laity especially celebrates both the Sacraments of Baptism by which all the faithful becomes God's sons and daughters. And secondly, the Sacrament of Confirmation, by which they become witnesses of Christ to others. The gift of the Holy Spirit this year is to be renewed and the laity to activate their charism from sleep. They will indeed play the role as co-responsible agents of evangelizing and live in the task of social transformation. This celebration will usher that they become true witnesses of the Gospel and also collaborate with the Hierarchy _ the Priests, Bishops in the Apostolate of evangelizing. So my dear friends, the Year of the Laity is especially referred to the Laity but we are journeying with them.



Fr. Provincial Superior Angelo Madelo:

Who is St. Teresa of Avila? She is a writer, mystic, founder of 17 monasteries. When Pope Paul VI proclaimed her as the first woman doctor of the Church, he fittingly chose a title as a basis for conferring that Teresa of Avila, teacher of Prayer.

She taught that along with prayer all must try to live a virtuous life in following Jesus. Therefore, we are one with our Superior General, Fr. Saverio Cannistra, ocd. Her birth anniversary celebration is an occasion to remind us of the responsibility to continue the mission of St. Teresa has begun. The celebration carries our own disposition.

I was Born For You what does God want of us? It is the loving surrender of our lives, our wills, our time, our resources, our duties so they can create things through us making us light to others. And so may I commend St. Teresa of Avila Community, City of San Fernando, La Union for the response to the call to prepare St. Teresa's 5th Birth Centenary.

Narrator:

The first tertiary group in San Fernando, La Union was established on August 14, 1975 by then Bishop Victorino Ligot under the guidance and inspiration of Mother Mary of St. Joseph and the nuns of the Carmelite Monastery of the Holy Family. But it is fondly recalled that it was on July 16, 1975 that they first came together in a mass at the church ruins in Pindangan.

Most of them were “retired teachers - many of them “missed” or widows”; but, they were “a very select group”. They were called, “The Tertiaries of Carmel”.

Then on October 29, 1996, with the encouragement of Bishop Antonio Tobias, the group was canonically instituted into a Community by Rev. Fr. Camilo Maccise, ocd, the prior general of the Discalced Carmelites of the Order of the Blessed Virgin Mary of Mount Carmel in Rome.

The present day St. Teresa of Avila Community sisters are lay Carmelites - members of the Secular Order of Discalced Carmelites or OCDS. Reminiscent of their forebears, they are “consecrated spouses of Jesus Christ”.

They ‘live in the world’ proclaiming the goodness of God, sharing in Jesus’ mission and imbuing Mary’s virtues in their daily lives. Yet, it is St. Teresa’s “ardent missionary zeal” that they “faithfully foster” and “keep at heart” with love, detachment from everything and humility as their yardsticks.

Nila: Like the apostles...owning nothing as individuals and even as a community except the very bare necessities: a roof over our heads, frugal meals, fasting, abstinence, coarse habits, cells just large enough for us to sleep in and practice solitude...

One of its first members is Cresencia Cabigas, a former college teacher. Now 86 years old, she is presently its Director of Formation.

VTR: Cresencia Cabigas

Cresencia Cabigas: My dear, Praise the Lord! I am now grateful that the leaders are now younger, they are more active in promoting the needs of each of the individual members. Before talking, talking only and eating. But now it is well organized. And our leaders are well prepared. And you are really working for the good of the individual members. Especially “dakayo”, you who are willing to sacrifice your time, effort, resources which we did not have that previously.

Music (500 hymn): Maestra de la Luz

Subtitle: Lights

Narrator: A pair of St. Teresa’s spiritual daughters is the definitive professed Ortega twins.

Luz : I am delighted that my name is Luz which means light.

Narrator: What’s in a name? Many names in the Bible have prophetic significance. Perhaps, one’s vocation in life is the essence of one’s name.

Luz: In the bible, light is the first of God’s work. It signifies His presence and favor. Jesus is the light of the world that enlightens, and each one of His followers is compelled to serve as a light to the world themselves, a lamp to others according to one’s God-given gifts and good deeds.

St. Teresa lights. St. Teresa inspires.

Video clip - stage play: Juana introduction

Act 1, Scene 3—La Nina Teresa

Blanche (Dona Juana): to put it more accurately, her arrival at the Incarnation that day would be like the coming of light to the mitigated order of Carmel that was suffering from the spiritual darkness of mediocrity and materialism. Of course, no one realized that except years later.

Luz: Her example is an inspiration to all Christians. Pope Benedict himself asserts that, “she evangelized unhesitatingly, showing tireless ardor, employing methods free from inertia and using expressions bathed in light”. She is profoundly contemplative and effectively active.

Narrator: In her lifetime, up until this time, St. Teresa continues to illuminate through her spiritual sons and daughters, such as the lay Carmelites, who strive to embody the Carmelite

charism which is “a way of following Christ...by seeking to form contemplative communities at the service of God’s people in whose midst they live. Fraternity, service and contemplation are therefore essential values for all Carmelites.”

Nila: For us, twins, our first lights were our parents - Rosa Ubaldo Ortega and Judge Evaristo Lacsamana Ortega. Our late mother, who was an elementary school teacher, was one of the pioneer members of the OCDS here in San Fernando.

Our vocation is attributed to her who happily served the Lord for 32 years. It is inspiring to come to know that they were the light to other people as well. “A life lived for God leaves a lasting legacy”, indeed.

Luz : I felt God’s wonderful touch in 1999 which inspired me to have a statue of God the Father made and then the statues of God the Son and the Holy Spirit as well.

Little by little, I was being drawn to the Carmel way of life starting when I brought the Carmelite nuns of Pindangan to Lipa City for a retreat with Fr. Kieran Kavanaugh in 2003.

Narrator: St. Teresa inspires, indeed. Her image accompanies her spiritual sons and daughters in their activities, kindling the flames of Teresian spirituality of prayer and action throughout the community.

Luz: The Bible tells us that we “... are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house”.

Nila: On a personal note, the tricycle with body number 1515 is a marvelous sight to my twin. Seeing it did not only happen once but many times on or before significant dates and activities since September 2, 2010. The sight of this tricycle gives enough spark to Luz to carry on.

Luz: Other people may find it amusing or even odd, but St. Teresa herself had a “lively sense of humor”. She also said that “Sometimes it is the feeblest whom the Lord leads along the way”.

Nila: Fr. Elie Umbert, OCD explains that the presence of God by our side is a grace for everyone. He believes that God’s gifts are limitless, and that God reveals Himself when least expected under many forms or through intermediaries; anyone may be an instrument of His grace.

Luz: But so does the devil; and so we need to be vigilant.

Narrator: In preparing for the 5th birth centenary of St. Teresa, the Ortega twins have seen the 1515 tricycle countless times. Should they expect to see it more often as Teresa’s 5th birth centenary is fast approaching? Will they see it again even after the occasion?

VTR: Ride on trike going to OCDS, open gate, inside house



AUDIO	VIDEO
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Subtitle: Camera

Audio: Shutter

Luz: It is within the confines of the OCDS House of Prayer that St. Teresa occupies a special place.

Nila: But most significantly, she lives, speaks and works best outside, through her spiritual sons and daughters in the world. Have you met her lately?

Narrator: La Santa Madre Teresa's muy determinada determinacion blossomed throughout the world.

In the Philippines, there are 22 "Teresian ideals" or communities pruned by their loving friendship with the Lord; thus, they eagerly live in service of the Church and to Christ. They are exceptionally capable of blending spiritual solitude and community life by praying in common and sharing in leisure, yet are happy with being alone with God.

St. Teresa expressed that, "The main disposition required for always living in this calm is the desire to rejoice solely in Christ, one's Spouse. This is what they must always have as their aim: to be alone with Him alone. And they should be no more than thirteen in the house."

They echo, "Vuestra soy, para Vos nació. ¿Qué mandáis hacer de mí?" I am Yours and born of You; what is your will for me to do?

The lens of the camera captures the sights and sounds, and focuses on the fruits of the encounter of the St. Teresa of Avila Community with La Santa Madre Teresa and with the living Christ who dwells at the center of their lives.

Video clip: Parish Night presentation - Bahay Karmel, Pundasyon Karmel

Pictures, videos: with caption- OCDS activities, not necessarily for 500th

Luz: Presenting the dancing Carmelite Nuns and Friars in their Carmelite Habit.

Bahay Kubo

Bahay kubo, kahit munti
ang halaman doon, ay sari-sari
sinkamas at talong, sigarilyas at mani
sitaw, bataw, patani

kundol, patola, upo't kalabasa
at saka mayron pa, labanos mustasa
sibuyas, kamatis, bawang at luya
sa paligid-ligid at puno ng lingan.

Bahay Karmel

Bahay Karmen, kahit munti
mga santo doon, ay sari-sari.
Elias at Simon, Teresa at Juan
Teresita, Benedicta, Magdalena Pazzi.

Francisco, Nuno, Teresa ng Andes

AUDIO	VIDEO
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Margarita Redi, Martires ng Compiegn
 Alberto ng Jerusalem, Juan Soreth, Raphael
 Joachina, Maravillas, Andres Corsini

Liturgy of the hours

Processional Song

Nellie: I, Nellie of the Blessed Sacrament inspired by the Holy Spirit, in response to God's call, sincerely promise to the Superiors of the Order of the Teresian Carmel and to you, my brothers and sisters, to tend toward evangelical perfection in the spirit of the evangelical counsels of chastity, poverty, obedience, and of the Beatitudes, according to the Constitutions of the Secular Order of the Discalced Carmelites, for the rest of my life. I confidently entrust this, my Promise, to the Virgin Mary, Mother and Queen of Carmel.

Feast days -

PNP Band

Our Lady of Carmel/Elijah

Fr. Dan Fauste, OCD (Chairman of the National Commission for the 5th Birth Centenary)

Blessing of the statue of St. Elijah at Carmel of the Holy Family Monastery, Pindangan, City of San Fernando, La Union.

St. John of the Cross

Meetings

Gatherings

Eating

Narrator:

The little Teresian community of 17 active women in Pindangan continually strives to imitate the life of prayer and action that La Santa Madre embraced.

She had set herself as example that "action mattered, for 'progress has nothing to do with enjoying the greatest number of consolations in prayer' ... rather 'a holy daring'; for God helps the strong and He shows no partiality".

With the grace of God, they carry on with her assurance -

"Nada de Turbe Nada de Espande;

Todo Se Pasa,

Solo Dios Basta"

"Let nothing disturb you, let nothing affright you; all things are passing, God alone suffices".

*Subtitle: Action**Stage Play: Act 3, Scene 4*

(Lights dim. Spotlight on Teresa who is still on her knees in front of the small altar. The nuns begin to get restless.)

Teresa: Whatever have I done? What if I don't find some money to feed them? My Lord, what now? I have obeyed you. Please take care of your children.

Voice of the Lord: "The more the problems come, the greater the reward. Remember Teresa, you are mine and I am yours. Let nothing disturb you. . .let nothing affright you. I am here. . .

(The crowd breaks up outside and the nuns settle down to their prayers. There is a knock at the door and a messenger enters with a letter for Teresa. She opens it and reads it hesitating whether to share the news with her nuns. As she approaches, the nuns are standing after their prayers. Teresa motions to the nuns to come and hear the news)

Teresa: My daughters, the Prioress demands that I return to the Incarnation immediately.

San Jose Nun 1: Mother, what shall we do without you? The villagers hate us! We have no work, no food.

Teresa: Have faith, my daughters. St. Joseph will take care of you. Ursula de los Santos will be Prioress of this house. This is your chance to suffer for Christ . . . and mine, too. I must leave for the Incarnation at once.

Sr. Ursula, Nun 6: Mother, must you leave so soon? I am not sure I can do this.

Teresa: Have you forgotten, my daughters, how many souls are being lost in Spain? Fr. Maldonado has reminded us of the great harvest work that awaits the church in the missions. Since we cannot go to help them there, let us do our best with the little we can share with our Church here.

Prayer is our weapon, silence, our stronghold and mortification, our strategy. We must build more powerhouses of prayer.

Theme Song _ Let nothing disturb you ... we are yours oh God... born to do your will.



AUDIO	VIDEO
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Subtitle 2: A Star is Born

Narrator: The stage play, “Born for You: The Life of St. Teresa of Avila” is the first, the grandest and the most daring celebration on the life of Carmel’s Holy Foundress.

Produced by the St. Teresa of Avila Community and the Sea and Sky College, it is a gift for St. Teresa. It was written and directed by Fran Quitoriano and showcased the Sea and Sky College Faculty and students. Bishop Artemio Rillera graced the stage play’s gala in San Fernando City, La Union in October 2010.

Bishop Rillera: God alone suffices.

Narrator: Then in January 2011, it was shown in the City of Vigan in Ilocos Sur with Archbishop Ernesto Salgado in attendance.

Archbishop Salgado: May we be inspired by the life of St. Teresa of Avila to follow her footsteps to serve God.

Narrator: and at the AFP Theater in Quezon City in October 2011 with the special participation of Froilan Torres, ocds and Edith Burgos, ocds.

Theme song: “Let nothing disturb you...we are yours oh God... born to do your will...”

Narrator: Vuestra soy, para Vos nació. ¿Qué mandáis hacer de mí? I am Yours and Born of You; what is your will for me to do?

Narrator: St. Teresa was a dreamy but sensible mystic. While solitude was a requirement in her convents, she loved a charming garden and a beautiful view.

Interior Castle, props, costumes and painting exhibit, book

OCDS garden, house

Subtitle: A Garden for St. Teresa

VTR: Carmela Palaroan

St. Teresa’s Flower Garden, an offering to St. Teresa De Jesus of Avila 5th Centenary March 28, 1515 to 2015.

Bells will be joyfully ringing announcing the 5th Centenary of St. Teresa de Jesus Birthday but yellow bells have its own way of announcing St. Teresa’s 5th Birth Centenary of her Birthday by melodiously ringing and singing —a love song of St. Teresa “Born for You” (in the Hands of God— St. Teresa of Avila)

‘God sublime, one Being Good,

Behold this one so vile.

Singing her song of love to you

Yours I am, for you I was born.

What do you want of me?’

Subtitle: Handiwork of God

Music: Exceeding Beauty

Narrator:

The St. Teresa of Avila Community’s experiences are shared in a book entitled, “A Child’s Genuine Voice in Prayer and Action”. It is a quincennial gift of prose that chronicles the lay Carmelites’ life of prayer and action.

Accompanying their witness to the beauty of St. Teresa’s charism are Teresian songs whose lyrics and music were composed by Nepthalie Moutrie Aromin and arranged by Edgardo Regalado.



HAPPY THE ENAMORED HEART
Inspired by the Angel of the Transverberation

Dichoso el Corazon enamorado
 Dichoso el Corazon enamorado
 Queen solo Dios ha puesto el pen sa
 Miento por el re nuncio do o la criado

Yen el halla su Gloria y su content
 Por queen Diosesta to do su intent

Aun de si mismo vive desuncidado
 Yasi alegre pa say muy go

Zoso las Hondas de este martempes tuoso
 Zoso las Hondas de este martempes tuoso

Dichoso el Corazon en cudo Dichoso el Corazon
 Enamorado Queen solo Dioshapuesto
 Elpensamiento por el re nuncio to do la cui-a do
 Yen el hal por queen

La a Gloria y su content Aun desi mismo ui
 Diosesta to do sa intent yasi a-leg-re pa
 Ve descuidad do sa y muy gozoso las Hondas de este
 Mar tempes tuoso Las Hondas de este mar tempertoso.



Subtitle: St. Teresa of Avila Images

Narrator: St. Teresa's image accompanies her spiritual sons and daughters in their activities, kindling the flames of Teresian spirituality of prayer and action throughout the community.

Nila: There is an Italian artist named Fabio Nones who said that painting an icon, is much like praying, living in communion with God's presence. To him, religious images do not only serve just those who create them, but also those who contemplate them. St. Teresa herself liked images so much..

She reasoned that, "if we love the Lord we would rejoice to see a portrait of Him..." and so it is for us with hers.

AUDIO	VIDEO
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Music: Top of the World

OFF'RING TO THE WORLD

Lyrics by: Ma. Nila O. Argel, ocds
Such a feeling's coming over us
There is wonder in St. Teresa's tin statue
Which St. Teresa of Avila Community, La Union, Philippines
Gives the world on her 499th birthday.

Everything we want the world to see
Is coming true especially for us
And the reason is clear:
With all our love we did our best
For St. Teresa's 5th birth centenary.

REFRAIN

We're on the top of the world looking
Off'ring our gift and the only explanation we can find
Is the love we have found ever since 2007,
The year when St. Teresa's tin statue was made.

Something great, oh something great is coming
St. Teresa will go to her proper place
To see her on a pedestal, enclosed on a pentagon
That is happiness, oh happiness for us.

There is only one wish on our mind
Try to live St. Teresa's battle cry:
Let nothing disturb you,
Let nothing frighten you,
All things pass,
Only God suffices.

She taught that biblical images facilitate the presence of God in prayer. What you can do as a help is to carry about an image or painting of the Lord, not so as to carry the bulk on your heart and never look at it but as to speak to Him often for He will inspire you with what to say.

St. Teresa is depicted with her symbols - a heart, an arrow, a book and her doctoral cap for being the first woman doctor of the church.

Luz: Her 15-inch pilgrim statue is symbolic - 15 to mark the year of her birth, 1515; and the pentahedron or five-sided base symbolizes her 5th birth centenary.

Statues - 15", life-size and the pentahedron or five-sided base symbolizes her 5th birth centenary.

At the OCDS House of Prayer, her life-size image is enclosed in a pentahedron, shaped as a lamp-post designed by Architect Gerry Ocampo.

The Bible tells us that we "...are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house".

Subtitle: Scapular Fun Run

Music: PNP Band Procession

Narrator:

The OCDS community felt obligated to nurture the youth not only academically but also spiritually. On July 16, 2014 Sea and Sky College students received scapulars as 500 were offered on the Solemnity of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel.

Back in September 2012, the students sprinted for the first time for St. Teresa of Avila in the "Takbo para kay Sta. Teresa de Avila."

Visit to Tacloban, Bohol, Cebu

Subtitle: Transformation

Music:

Narrator:

The St. Teresa of Avila Community was inspired to extend their vocation in Tacloban in December 2013 after it was hit by the super typhoon.

50 symbolic Christmas packages were brought for the surviving kin in time for the day of remembrance and prayer.

The visit to earthquake-stricken Bohol followed in June 2014. It is a place where, amidst the ruins and the loss, hope, faith, courage, determination and love prevail.

Luz: We are at the Church of the ruins of the Our Lady of Light, the Nuestra Senora de la Luz Parish here in Loon, Bohol.

"God gives no more than what can be endured and His Majesty gives patience first." Indeed! Teresian prayer is chiefly affective.

St. Teresa emphasized, "The important thing is not to think much but to love much... Do what stirs you to love."

Visits, travels - world pilgrimage

Subtitle: "Carmel of the Road"

Music: Leaving on a Jet plane

Narrator:

Just as St. Teresa travelled for an ideal, her spiritual sons and daughters follow her example; not to make foundations, but to revive their spiritual lives in order that they, too, can inspire others to aspire to live a Christ-centered life and, thus, be transformed.

A journey back to one's roots in faith is the only itinerary because Teresa's learned from the courage and victories of the past becomes source of our strength to live facing the future; confident that God's grace will help us surmount in all difficulties.

LEAVING ON A JET PLANE

(adapted from Leaving on a Jet Plane by John Denver)

1. All our bags are packed we're ready to go
We're here in OCDS House of Pray'r
Gazing at St. Teresa's statue
The time to depart for Avila has come,
The 5-year preparation is done
Already we're so excited, we could fly.

REFRAIN:

So kiss us and smile for us
Tell us that you'll welcome us back
When we're done with our pilgrimage
We're leaving on a jet plane
To fly to Egypt, Europe and Africa.
Oh friends, we love to go.

Ending:

We're leaving on a jet plane
To fly to Egypt, Europe and Africa
Oh friends, we love to go.

2. There are many times we think of you
Many times, we are with you but we can't
Miss the Avila 2015 pilgrimage
Every place we go, we think of you
Every song we sing, we sing for you
We'll tell you all about it when we're back
(REFRAIN).

3. It's time to go and embark on our journey,
Face our fears in an unknown territory
But God will be with us so we'll be fine.
Our hearts are restless to go this mission
To evangelize and bring God to nations
Guided by the Holy Spirit to do His Will.
(REFRAIN)



INTERMISSION

VTR: Pater Noster Learning Center pupils

Narrator:

There is no rest to those who chooses to make oneself a Teresita or a little Carmel. *But, “(It is) not actually us doing these for Our Holy Mother Teresa of Jesus, but (it is She) acting and doing this with us and for us all!”*

Throughout most of her 67 years our beloved saint practiced a determined determination in her quest to be a daughter of the Church.

A few times the devil had caught up with her but at all times God led her back to him.

She progressed in her journey, albeit the way peppered with tribulation and pain. But, most of all, her obedience to God allowed her surrender to His mystical direction and her reform in the likeness of the image of Christ.

She started her mission as a woman of prayer and ended as a woman of action, which God wanted her to be. But, up till now, many, many years after her death, she is still in action.

Nila: *Brave, Saint*

Luz and Nila: *and Heroes*

Interview:

Nila: *If St. Teresa were alive today, what will you tell her.*

Mo. Mary: *Is this the Carmel she envisioned? Are we authentic.*

Nila: *What other achievements or work your nuns have accomplished?*

Mo. Mary: *We had a solemn novena for the opening. Another on her 499th Birth Anniversary. A frame statue are around the schools with somebody who will talk.*

2. Nila: *Have you seen any of your students following your footsteps?*

Sr. Yah, *we help them as working students. Some are taking education.*

Nila: *What is your message to the young sisters?*

Sr. *They should pray hard so they could persevere. Nowadays it is very difficult because of gadgets.*

3. Mo. Rose Ann: *Somebody came here with paintings beautifully done. Each one of us has a past in their childhood days.. They were brought up differently. Others coming from a broken family. Others it is only the “lola” bringing them up.*

4. Nila: *What else do you think you need to do for the Lord?*

Sr: *I would want to live my life to the full. Prayer is easy. All the moment of life we pray the whole day. So what we need is to live our life in love with prayer.*

Nila: *You are really blessed because as you said yesterday somebody donated where you are staying now. It is 1.5 hectares.*

Sr: *Yes. We were only asking for one, but they gave us 1.5.*

5. *We are all aware that Carmel is celebrating her birth centenary. How are you celebrating?*

Sr: *Well, for us spiritual review by studying her teachings.*

Nila: *Which do you find as challenge?*

Sr: *As usual the struggle to see the will of God*
Video clip of stage play conclusion



Narrator:

In the spirit of her times, she had found the passage joining contemplation and action, as did Magellan who found the strait joining the two oceans. She drew up the chart of the spiritual universe as did Mercator who produced the first globe in 1541.

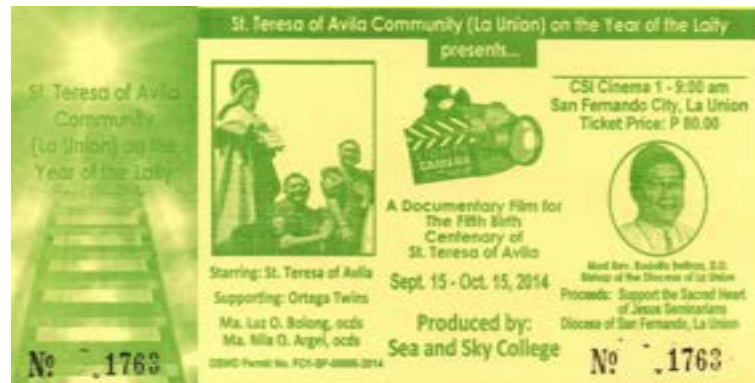
Teresa was the eagle who soared high and far beyond the walls of Avila and the boundaries of Spain. She was a woman in every way – gentle, caring but strong, ahead of her times. She was humble and respectful of the men who, in their own ways either led or misled her but in her purity and holiness, she equaled the saints among them and towered over most of them. She was physically ill most of her life but this physical weakness only strengthened the determination of her intellect and will to love.

Four centuries later, all of Teresa's 17 foundations continue to be in existence. Through her spiritual sons and daughters in the Discalced convents of Carmelite nuns and friars, she continues to teach us how to pray with our hearts and find the God within us and in those around us. Like her Master, she was a living reproach to those who courted evil but a magnet for souls who sincerely searched for God.

All her life she was a pilgrim on a journey . . . Eya es nacida por Dios! One long painful but glorious journey back to that dawn in March 1515 when through the love between Don Alonzo and Dona Beatriz, she was born for God.

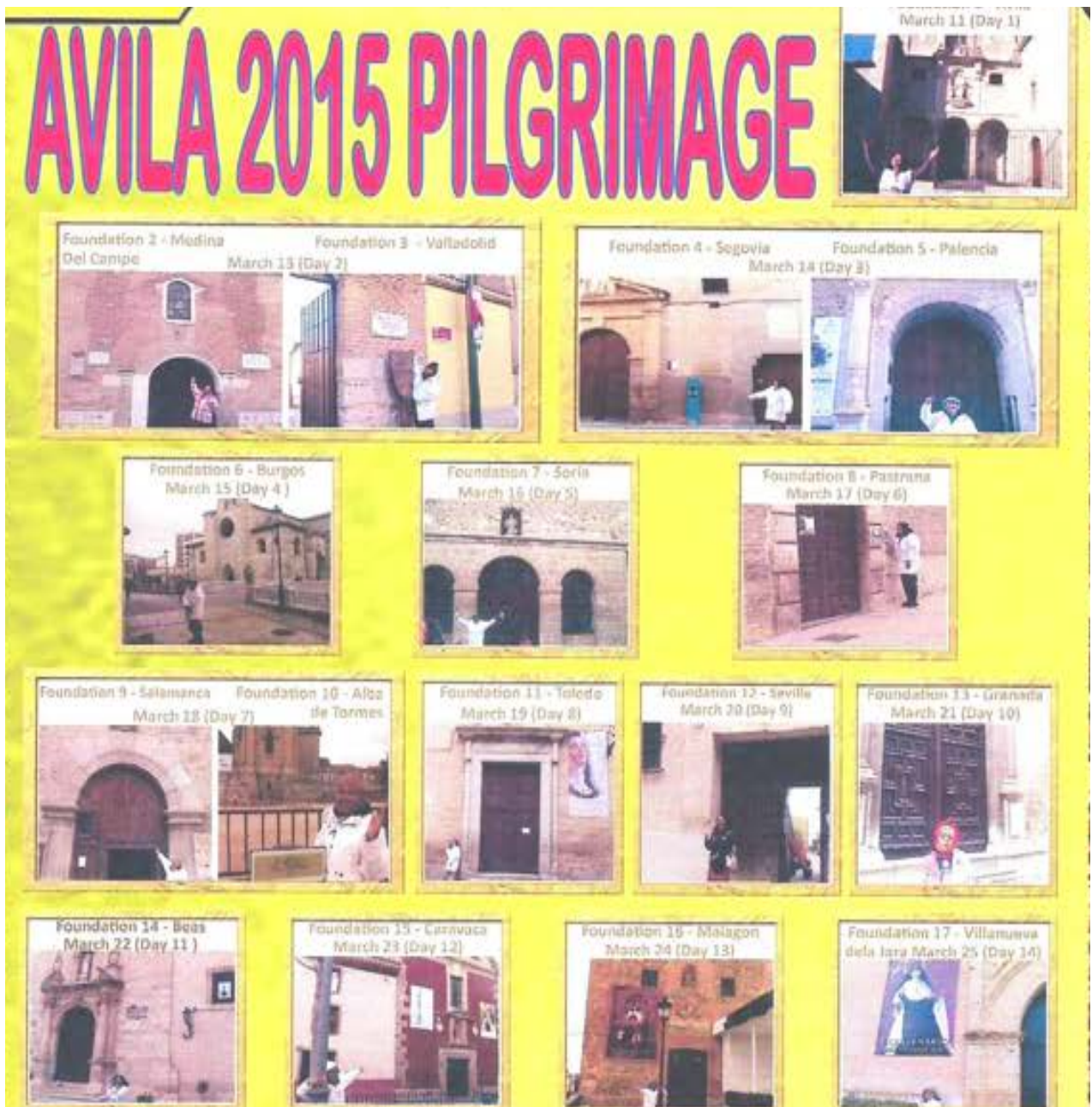
As a tribute to this great woman, let us remember that we too are born for God and God alone.

Tickets and Proceeds



A fund raising activity, proceeds were given to Bishop Beltran for the seminary.

8.3 Avila 2015 Pilgrimage / Cinema



Watch at YouTube Channel



Avila 2015 Pilgrimage

Luz Bolong • 634 views • 5 years ago

Today, September 26, 2015 is the feast of twin saints, Saints Cosmas and Damian. We, the Ortega twins of the Philippines, Ma.



Narrator: *"...For if the soul is much with (God), as it is right it should be, it will very seldom think of itself; its whole thought will be concentrated upon finding ways to please Him and upon showing Him how it loves Him. This, my daughters, is the aim of prayer: this is the purpose of the Spiritual Marriage, of which are born good works and good works alone."*

Avila 2015 Pilgrimage is a two-month spiritual journey of the Ortega twin sisters, Ma. Luz and Ma. Nila, members of the St. Teresa of Avila Community in San Fernando City, La Union, Philippines. It was one among a myriad of responses to the spiritual challenge entrusted to the Carmelite family to celebrate the life, love and work of La Santa Madre Teresa on her 5th birth centenary.

The twins' determination to follow the way of Carmel brought them to Europe and Africa. 60 days on the road, these lay Carmelites spent 17 of their days focused on the 17 foundations of St. Teresa of Jesus in Spain.

Just as St. Teresa travelled for an ideal, her spiritual daughters follow her example; not to make foundations, but to constantly renew their spiritual lives in order that they, too, can inspire others to aspire to live a Christ-centered life and, thus, be transformed.

"This...makes me desire that in a matter so important we don't grow satisfied with anything less than doing all we can on our part; let us neglect nothing, and may it please the Lord that He be served by giving us the grace to do all we can."

Indeed, there is no rest to those who choose to become a little Carmel.

FEBRUARY 21—MARCH 10, 2015

I. EUROPE

1. ITALY

NILA: Our first stop was in Rome.

Narrator: The city of Rome in Italy is the seat of the Holy Catholic Church.

It has always been an important destination for religion and pilgrimage even before Christianity arrived. For many centuries, it is home to countless places of devotion and worship, foremost is the walled enclave – the Vatican City, and the Pope.

NILA (with Luz on cam): While in the eternal city, we stayed with the Benedictine Nuns whose twin saints, St. Benedict and St. Scholastica, and their motto, Ora et labore, "pray and labor", continue to inspire us, twins, in our journey in life. We entered the picturesque Santa Cecilia in Trastevere church where the saint's remains is enshrined.

Adlib Luz:

At my back is the window where the Pope went out for the angelus. I've seen this picture (Pope Angelus News) and I really wanted to see it but failed because along the way I kept on taking pictures saying pretty soon we will have our dreams come true, we will see the Pope and then when we were almost at the St. Peter's Square Nila got a wrong direction from passerby.



AUDIO	VIDEO
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2. POLAND

Nila: We travelled to Poland next, where we followed the Karol Wojtyla Trail. It included a visit to the Monastery of the Barefoot Carmelites.

Narrator: Poland is said to be one of the most fervently spiritual countries in Europe. The tragedies that befell it have become the reason that the country is predominantly Roman Catholic.

One of its sons, Pope Saint John Paul II, born Karol Jozef Wojtyła, was born and raised in the town of Wadowice. He served as Pope from 1978 to 2005, and declared saint in 2014. It was before the monastery's church altar that little Karol was given his first scapular. Currently, the Papal scapular is placed in a golden rosette on the wall nearby the altar.

Nila: At the chapel are exhibits devoted to Fr. Rudolf Warzecha, OCD, who awaits beatification, and Raphael of St. Joseph Kalinowski, OCD, the monastery's founder who was canonized by Pope John Paul II in 1991. He is the first man to be recognized as such in the Order of Discalced Carmelites since Saint John of the Cross.

Narrator: At the altar is a bust of Blessed Alfons Maria Mazurek along with his relics. He had served as prefect of the seminary, then prior of the monastery in Czerna. During the German invasion in Poland, he was shot to death. In 1999, Mazurek was declared one of the 108 Blessed Polish Martyrs by Pope John Paul II.



We were not able to reach St. Peter's Square on time, but we believe that we have received the Pope's blessing during Angelus. The next day, we retraced our steps back to St. Peter's Square to visit OCD General Delegate Fr. Alzinir Debastiani at the General House.

Adlib Luz: So we got direction from Sister Amata and Sister Margaret to just walk and walk following the river. Yesterday we did that but turned and now we just proceeded and proceeded and we were still following the river and then stopped. Nila told me to look at my back and surprise of all surprises there's the St. Peter's Square.

Narrator: The Discalced Carmelite Order is known by the initials *O.C.D.* (*Ordo Carmelitarum Discalceatorum*), established in the late 16th century in accordance to the reform of the Carmelite Order of the Ancient Observance by St. Teresa of Avila and St. John of the Cross. The Discalced Carmelites are distinguished by their devotion to Our Lady, symbolized by wearing the brown scapular

Nila: But before we got there, we stopped by a nearby church to view an exhibit on St. Teresa. The church turned out to be the Basilica of St. Teresa of Avila. It is a modern minor basilica, parish and titular church dedicated to St Teresa of Jesus.

Narrator: The Basilica was founded in 1901. Five years later, it was made into a parochial church and granted its care to the Discalced Carmelites who still have a Generalate by the church, and serve the church and its convent, and parochial centre. In 1951, it was elevated to the status of "basilica", and then in 1962, Pope John XXIII made it a titular church.

Nila: We were very happy that Fr. Debastiani was at his office when we visited him without notice. Our request for permission to visit the foundations of St. Teresa was granted.

Luz Adlib: We are now on our way home at the Monastery of St. Cecilia. Today is a fruitful day. Nila was right in choosing Rome as our first destination. We were blessed by no other than Gen. Delegate Fr. Debastiani. This morning we received two letters from him which we requested him to write for us addressed to Fr. Antonio and the other to the Mother Prioress of the Monastery of San Jose in Avila. So more or less our Avila 2015 Pilgrimage, the success is assured with these two letters. He also reminded us to go and visit St. Teresa Transverberation at Sta. Maria dela Victoria here at Rome, Italy which we did after seeing him.

Before we left his office, he gave us brown scapulars which he took out from his pocket. He also told us to see Bernini's masterpiece sculptor of the Ecstasy of St. Teresa of Avila at Sta. Maria dela Victoria or the Our Lady of Victory Church. And so, off we went.

Nila: (With Luz on Cam)

We were also able to visit a church in honor of St. Jude. It was not in our itinerary, but a Filipina whom we approached for directions to the Trevi Fountain mentioned about it.

Luz: We were taken by surprised that the church is under the Carmelite nuns. Here in the Philippines, churches of St. Jude and his devotions are under the care of Divine Word Missionaries or Claretian Fathers.

Narrator: St. Jude Thaddeus is one of the 12 apostles. He is a martyr and a cousin of our Lord. Devotees in "desperate cases" go to him for intercession.



3. CZECH REPUBLIC

Narrator: The Ortega twins' next stop was in Prague, Czech Republic, staying at the Carmelite Convent.

Nila: The nuns were such gracious hosts. Their warm welcome was a relief having arrived on a cold early morning. We were given the keys to the front door for our comings and goings. We are very grateful to the sisters.

We paid a visit to several incorruptibles. We prayed before the body of Mother Maria Electa of Jesus, still flexible many years after the discovery of its preserved condition. The sisters of her Carmelite monastery were able to seat her body in a chair and it is still viewed in the same position up to the present day.

Narrator: Incorruptibles, mostly attributed to the Saints, are those whose mortal remains have not succumbed to the laws of nature, yet retain their flexibility and supple feel of live flesh.

Nila: Still in Prague, we visited the Church of Our Lady of Victorious where the image of the Infant Jesus is enshrined. We met Padre Anastacio Roggero after the mass and exchanged gifts – from us, our booklet, from him - a book entitled, “The Little King”, which tells of the true history of the Infant Jesus of Prague in pictures. The story shows the decisive role played by the Carmelite saints in introducing and developing the devotion to the Infant Jesus inside the Carmelite family.

Narrator: St. Teresa was alive during the golden age of Spain. She had a great love for the humanity of Christ and developed the Carmelite devotion to the Infant Jesus.

Indeed, in every convent which she founded, a statue of the Infant Jesus was venerated. These statues differed in the clothes they wore, but they were all beautiful Niños. The devout nuns gave these statues special and lovable names - El Peregrinto, El Lloroncito, El Fundador, El Tornerito, El Salvador.

Nila: We went back to the Holy Infant Jesus of Prague Shrine where we bought a Chaplet of the Holy Infant. An Indian priest blessed it and us, twins.

The love of St. Teresa for the Child Jesus was so great that it is said that one day in the monastery of Avila, she met a beautiful child who asked her, “Who are you?” “I am Teresa of Jesus,” she replied, “and who are you?”, she asked.

Narrator: “I am Jesus of Teresa.”



4. IRELAND

Narrator: Ireland earned the moniker, the “island of scholars and saints”, for its evangelical missions across Europe that introduced not only Christianity but also written language.

Nila: A familiar face greeted us at the airport. It was a pleasant surprise to have Sr. Cynthia pick us up. She is a Carmelite nun who used to stay at the Carmelite Monastery of the Holy Family in Pindangan, San Fernando City, La Union.

Our first activity on the visit was to participate in the Liturgy of the Hours at the Avila Retreat house in Dublin. We also paid a visit to the Carmelite Monastery chapel in Galway and in Knock.

Narrator: St. Joseph’s Monastery is a foundation of Carmelite nuns in Galway. The few documents on their history record that it was in 1831 that the sisters moved to their present location at Mount Carmel.

On the other hand, the monastery of Tranquilla was founded in Dublin in 1833 and transferred to Knock in 1981. The sisters believe that Knock is “a fitting home for (the) Order whose joy...has always been to say, “Carmel is Mary”.

Nila: We were able to meet the Director of Studies of the Carmelite Institute of Britain and Ireland (CIBI), Pat Mullen, as well as with Frank O’Neill, the administrator. My twin was previously enrolled in postgraduate studies at the institute.

It was providential that we met another Filipina, Rina Domingo, who served as our tour guide and hospitable driver.

The trip with fellow friends of St. Teresa added more excitement in looking forward to reaching our next destination – and that is meeting and greeting the daughters of the great Reformer in her foundations.



5. SPAIN

Luz: Spending 17 days in Spain was symbolic. It was a way of retracing the footsteps of St. Teresa who travelled all over Spain to renew the Order of Carmel.

Nila: The work of reformation of the nuns and friars was a mystical grace from the Lord. He directed Teresa’s steps, and she obeyed.

Narrator: Enveloped with an intense apostolic spirit, St. Teresa continually asked, “What can I do for the Church?” For St. Teresa, the greatest service rendered to God was to bring souls to Him. She achieved this when she founded a small convent of cloistered nuns who practiced a strict life of constant prayer and action, yet a happy one being alone with God.

She left her trail in 17 places in Spain. Her journey of instituting the Teresian charism among nuns and friars lasted 20 years. At the present time, these Teresian cities have joined together under the name of Huellas de Teresa de Jesús (The Trail of St Teresa of Jesus) to illuminate the work and legacy of the 1st woman Doctor of the Church.



AUDIO	VIDEO
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1) AVILA

Narrator: Teresa received approval for the foundation of the Discalced Carmelite Nuns of the Primitive Rule of Saint Joseph which she began together with her niece and three other nuns. By the Lord's favor, the Monastery of St. Joseph, her first foundation, was inaugurated in 1562 in Avila.

Luz: We arrived in Avila, the birthplace of St. Teresa, on March 11, 2015, and immediately went to the Carmelite Convent.

With God's grace we had a place to stay at the Carmelite Institute of Teresian and Sanjuanist Studies (CITEs).

We met Fr. Ramil, a Filipino priest who is studying there as well as CITES Director Padre Javier and Milagros. We are grateful that Padre Javier granted our request to stay there for the grand celebration of St. Teresa's birthday on the 28th.

Nila (with Luz on cam):

It was a blessing we received before we embarked on the visitation of the rest of her foundations.



2) MEDINA DEL CAMPO

Narrator: St. Teresa's 2nd foundation was in Medina del Campo, the Carmel of St. Joseph, founded in 1567.

Luz: At the nun's Museum, there was a large exhibition which was dedicated to the meeting between St. Teresa and St. John of the Cross in Medina. It is where they met for the first time. St. John was in Medina to celebrate his first Mass.

Though the guided tour was in Spanish, the guide was very accommodating. I was even able to lie down on the bed of St. Teresa!



3) VALLADOLID

Luz: On the same day, we reached the 4th foundation in Valladolid. The Conception of Our Lady of Mount Carmel was founded in 1568. It was where St. John of the Cross served as Confessor to St. Teresa's nuns.

Narrator: Mother Teresa returned to Valladolid on several occasions to be with her nuns, on her way to found other convents. Despite being very ill, she managed to make her last trip, to Valladolid, about 15 days before her death.

Luz: The nuns have an exhibit which has treasured two exceptional gems: the original handwritten version of her book, 'The Way of Perfection', its second edition, and the largest collection of her letters, also handwritten.

In the evening, we listened to the Lectio Divina by Padre Martin Martinez, ocd.



4) SEGOVIA

Luz: We walked to the Carmelite monastery in Segovia. After mass at the Cathedral, I was inspired to go to the Monastery of St. John of the Cross.

A lady from whom we asked directions expressed concern, but nevertheless encouraged us.

It was difficult getting there, with our entire luggage in tow. But we were bent in seeing the serene sacred place.

Narrator: St. John of the Cross was chosen by God to assist St. Teresa in the work of founding the Discalced Carmelite Order. It was in Segovia that he had another vision of Christ Crucified.

He died and was buried in Ubeda, but his body lies in state in Segovia.

St. Teresa's foundation, the "Carmel of the Glorious St. Joseph", was her 9th foundation established in 1574.



5) PALENCIA

Nila: At a convent in Palencia, the mother prioress and a nun from Peru welcomed us with a video presentation and gave a brief description of some Teresian relics.

They encouraged us to proceed to San Bernardo Church to view an exhibit. We were a little hesitant to go for it would be late. However, the insistence of the mother prioress pushed us to go. It was, indeed, a blessing to have gone there for we found out that the Convent we went earlier was not the foundation established by St. Teresa! Maybe the nuns transferred to a new location for Calle de San Bernardo is now a busy district.

Luz: The exhibit at the San Bernardo Church and the video presentation were extensive. It affirms the creativity and, most especially, the love of those who made it for St. Teresa. These gifts of love surely touched those who came to watch, just like us.

Nila: The highlight of our day was a funny and faith experience. At around 7 in the evening, we asked a taxi driver at the parking area to bring us to Hotel Castilla Vieja. The driver went out of his taxi, and pointed that it is just around the corner.

Narrator: St. Teresa's foundation in Palencia is titled, "St. Joseph of Our Lady of the Street". It was her 14th, established in 1580.



6) BURGOS

Narrator: "Saint Joseph of Saint Anne" is St. Teresa's last foundation in 1582. It is also the most northerly among her foundations.

In one of her few journeys to Burgos, Teresa's wagon was almost carried away by the current of a river. It was this event that led to the story that as Teresa began to complain to God...

Nila: ...she heard a voice from heaven saying,

Narrator: ..."My daughter, don't you know that this is how I treat my friends?"...

Nila: ...Teresa replied, "Yes, my Lord, I know. That is why you have so few!"

Luz: The Convent Church was open at 5 p.m. And a Korean nun let us in. It is home to various relics - sandals, handwritten letters and other possessions of St. Teresa. The mother prioress gave us stampitas and some reading materials.

Luz: Ad lib

How blessed we are. Finally, we now have seen the statue of St. John de Ortega. We will really have a statue carved at La Union so that we know that there is such a St. John de Ortega, who is interceding for all of us, who had lived a good life worth emulating. Thank you St. John de Ortega. We love you very much.



7) SORIA

Narrator: The Monastery of the Blessed Trinity in Soria is the 15th foundation of St. Teresa, established in 1581.

Luz: We were happy that the Convent door was open.

The kind nun let us in and she showed us the Letters, the chair, the food container, among other precious items that belonged to St. Teresa.

At the Carmelitas Descalzos Church, we were delighted to listen to Padre Pedro Ortega who explained what was inside the church and their exhibits.



8) PASTRANA

Narrator: The Barefoot Carmelite Convent of San Jose was Teresa's 6th foundation in 1569.

Luz: The convent of San Jose in Pastrana was closed. But there was a museum nearby which we visited. We were fortunate to have viewed the world renowned Pastrana tapestries.

Narrator: The set of 4 tapestries commemorate the exploits of Alfonso V, King of Portugal, in North Africa. It unfurls a vibrant tableau of Portugal's 15th-century military victories woven in glorious hues of wool and silk. They have been the property of the Collegiate Church of Our Lady of the Assumption in Pastrana since the 17th century.

Nila: We also visited the Guadalajara Tres Carmelitas Martires Convent. Dedicated to the 3 Carmelite nuns martyred for their faith during the Spanish Civil War.



9) SALAMANCA

Luz: After holy mass at del Carmel Church, we requested to see the Santa Teresa Casa. It is where St. Teresa stayed when she visited Salamanca in 1570 to found her 7th convent and where she wrote the poem, "Vivo sin vivir en mí".

At the Monastery of Saint Joseph founded by St. Teresa, the Mother Prioress showed us the original writings of St. Teresa and St. John, and the statue of St. Teresa used during the processions. The kind mother also gifted us with postcards of St. Teresa.

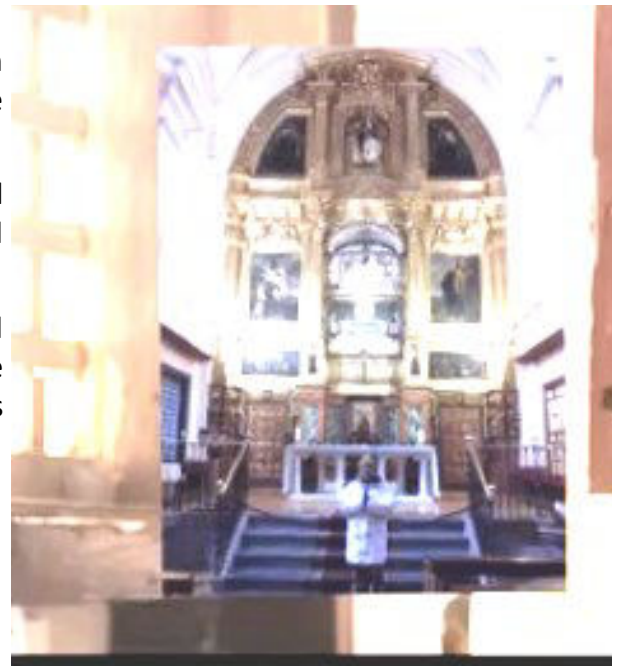


10) ALBA DE TORMES

Luz: Also on our seventh day, we visited the 8th foundation of St. Teresa, the Our Lady of the Annunciation in Alba de Tormes founded in 1571.

The town boasts of possessing the mortal remains of St. Teresa and her miraculously pierced heart, and arm resting in a glass reliquary.

We arrived at the Basilica, where Teresa had died, and viewed the church' museum. Inside the church above the altar is where Teresa's body is kept in a chest, held by two golden cherubs.



11) TOLEDO

Narrator: Toledo is one of the provinces where the 7 southerly foundations of St. Teresa are located.

Just like the northerly convents, St. Teresa left behind tangible possessions, cared for by her spiritual sons and daughters throughout the years.

Luz: The convent in Toledo is St. Teresa's 5th foundation. At the church, the Carmelite sisters tend to the incorrupt body of Blessed Maria of Jesus.



12) SEVILLE

Luz: It was quite difficult finding the convent due to the narrow and winding streets of Seville. But we were able to reach it nonetheless. In fact, we were early for the Stations of the Cross. Then there was a lecture about St. Teresa and a guided tour to a room full of reliquaries.

Narrator: Seville is home to the Monastery of St. Joseph of Carmel, the 11th foundation which started in 1575. It is where the original autographed copy of St. Teresa's Interior Castle is kept, as well as her lone portrait painted while she was alive.



13) GRANADA

Narrator: St. Teresa's 16th foundation was in Granada, established in 1582 by St. John of the Cross for her while he was Superior of the convent of the Barefoot Carmelites of Los Martires. It was the only foundation during Teresa's lifetime that was instituted in her absence.



Nila: The convent was open and Luz talked with a nun who led us to the side altar to view some relics. We were delighted to see the canes used by St. Teresa and St. John.

From here, we took a walk in the Carmelite monastery garden at Los Martires.



14) BEAS

Luz: The nun at the Carmelite convent graciously welcomed us. She gave us two keys –A big one to enter the door at the left side to the stairs and a small one to enter the exhibit room.

At the parlor, the Mother Prioress gave us English explanations of the exhibit. There was an unlit room where the St. Teresa's cell was reconstructed, the original cell is inside the Cloister. We had a grand time taking pictures with an icon of St. Teresa writing on her desk. We also tried lying on her bed.

There were Teresian relics such as a hand bell, a key to the original cloister door of the monastery, fragments of her habit, her veil, and lecturn.

Narrator: It was in Beas that St. Teresa's arrival, and reformation, was warmly received. Her 10th foundation, St. Joseph of the Saviour, was founded in 1575.



Ad lib

Luz: Okay, we will try to look by and by.

In the meantime, I think this is the chair of St. Teresa.

15) CARAVACA

Narrator: The founding of the Monastery of St. Joseph was favorable to the people. But it was short-lived, and St. Teresa was not able to visit her 12th foundation in person.

Luz: Travelling to Caravaca took six hours by bus but we enjoyed the sceneries along the way. Unfortunately, the bus had already left when we realized that our bag was still inside the bus compartment!

After being told that we can get it back at 7 in the evening, we went to see the convent of San Jose. We took pictures at the plaza with the statue of St. John of the Cross, and again the popular statue of St. Teresa writing on her desk.



16) MALAGON

Luz: The convent in Malagon was closed, and so we proceeded to the Parish Church instead. We returned an hour later and the OCD priest eagerly opened the Convent for us.

We found another statue of St. Teresa writing on a desk and was placed on top of a *carro* ready for procession. The great surprise came when we were about to leave. Teresa's "carriage arrived!" Much to our joy.

Narrator: The Foundation of St. Joseph in Malagon was St. Teresa's 3rd foundation instituted in 1568.

Her nuns were able to move to a more solemn site in the town's outskirts more than a decade after.



AUDIO	VIDEO
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17) VILLANUEVA DE LA JARA

Narrator: At Villanueva de la Jara, St. Teresa founded the Monastery of St. Anne in 1580, her 13th foundation. It was a request. But since she was forbidden to found more convents, St. Teresa had qualms of setting it up. Her obedience to the Lord and trust in Him gave her the courage to make the foundation.

Luz: As we were getting off the bus, we met two ladies who helped us find our way to the Convent. One of them was named "Lucia". She is in theatre and a member of the church choir. She had also portrayed St. Teresa in a stage play.

Nila: Luz was asking the nun at the turn to let us in but she was hesitant. However, there was divine intervention for while Luz was busy pleading with the nun, a lady arrived together with two men. It was a good thing that one of the men could speak English, and became our tour guide. Because of them, we were able to view the relics of V.M. Ana de San Agustin, ocd and her tomb. She was St. Teresa's companion in putting up the convent.

Ad lib

Luz: We are from the Philippines, Secular Carmelites and we have been going to all the foundations. This is the 17th foundation that we visit and we are going home to Madrid to sleep. So we have to see now the church.

Gentleman and Sister at the turn talks in Spanish

Luz: Are you a priest or what "giggles".

Gentleman: We are not.

Nila: No more bus going to Madrid? How can we go to Madrid?

Luz: We were back in Avila on March 26. We visited the museum and took pictures at the Todo Se Pasa bookmark.

At the La Encarnacion convent, we had a grand time shooting with our modern nun habit.



AVILA

Ad lib

Luz: The sun is shining very brightly. I am holding the candle of St. Teresa de Jesus Centenary 5th, 1515-2015 given by the Carmelite Sisters of Knock, Ireland.

I am inspired to have a video on our visit to La Encarnacion, wearing once more our modern Carmelite nun habit.

Later in the day, we joined Fr. Ramil in CITEs events. There was also a vigil at La Santa Church in the evening, as well as a re-enactment of the death of Jesus. We also visited St. Teresa's family house which has since been the property of the Church.

Walking around Avila in the evening was a beautiful moment.

NILA: March 28, is a special day for us, twins. Our dream of a joint celebration with St. Teresa became a reality. It is the anniversary of our baptismal day and we celebrated it with St. Teresa in Avila.

After all, it was her 5th birth centenary! We wore our Filipiniana dress accented with the hair accessories which we bought at Prague.

Note: It should be Poland

After praying the Laudes Solemnnes in honor of St. Teresa with the presence of her cane at CITEs, we followed the procession transferring her cane to La Santa Church where there was a concelebrated mass with the bishop of Avila and Superior Gen. Cannistra.

Ad lib ON THE WAY TO SAN JOSE CHURCH

Luz: There's Rev. Cannistra... the bishop

We are really very near.

We are at the back of La Madre



MARCH 29—APRIL 15, 2015

II. AFRICA

6. EGYPT

Narrator: St. Teresa worked for the renewal of the Carmelite Order across rivers and plains on horse and mule throughout Spain. Her spiritual sons and daughters brought Carmel beyond Spain.

Luz: From Europe, we travelled across the ocean to be in Egypt, to connect with the stories in the Old Testament and be with the Carmelite nuns and friars.

Narrator: Egypt boasts of 5,000 years of civilization that have contributed to its rich cultural heritage marked by conquests and crusades.

The monastery of the Discalced Carmelite friars in Cairo is the 1st Carmelite foundation in Africa in the 20th century. Established in 1926, the Carmelites were devoted to the spiritual care of the European Catholics who lived nearby the monastery.

The Ortega twins also visited the church built in 1932 which was dedicated to Saint Therese of the Child Jesus. There is also the Saint Therese Clinic inaugurated in 1986 which, until the present time, offers invaluable aid to the nearby population.



7. South Africa

Nila: From Egypt, we journeyed to one of the world's exotic places, South Africa. Spending 15 days with the OCD Carmelite nuns, we witnessed how the nuns live to the teachings of our Holy Mother Teresa. They actively participate in the mass. They play different instruments. They sing beautifully in the responsorial psalms.

They live in semi-enclosure for masses are held inside the chapel together with the people.

vtr

Priest asked for mass intentions

Nila: We pray for our families back home.

They make communion hosts for the whole archdiocese which provides them additional income.

Luz: Watches the making of hosts.

Oh! Fast.

Narrator: There was a joyous celebration of April 15. It was the anniversary of the Filipino nuns' arrival at Cape Town 13 years ago. It was also our despedida being our last night at Cape Town.

Luz Adlib: So we will tell them you celebrated 13 years here at Cape Town.

After dinner a short program followed. Twin Luz enacted a scene at Act 3 of our stage play, "Born for You—The Life of Teresa." We sang "All of Me" (Loves All of You) while the nuns had a community song in honor of St. Teresa of Avila.



Narrator: In 2003, five Filipino nuns arrived in South Africa and began the work of putting up the Carmel of Retreat at Cape Town.

Since then, this group of Carmelite sisters had grown with the community, even choosing to stay in foreign land to attend to their needs. The Carmelites friars on the other hand, are hopeful that in the coming days a dwelling place for them shall rise in South Africa in God's time.

Narrator: The Ortega twins had a taste of a luxurious African hospitality. The kind Carmelite nuns urged them to go on a Safari. Seeing the big five wild animals: buffalos, rhinos, lions, elephants and leopards, opened their minds to the wisdom of God, that even ferocious animals add to the dimension of grandeur and beauty to His creation.

Narrator: Also in Cape Town, the twins met with fellow OCDS members — Aaron Spencer, president of the Confraternity of the Holy Family and the community formator Anthony Hoffmann.

Their unexpected encounter on Divine Mercy Sunday can be likened to St. Teresa work of reformation. Despair turned to hope that brought forth the dream and the promise for the order and the church that can be achieved thru prayer and good works.

The twins also drove to Cape Point, a promontory at the southeast corner of the Cape Peninsula; to Robben Island, home to the infamous prison where Nelson Madela spent 18 of his 27 years, along with over 3,000 political prisoners during their fight to end Apartheid.

On their trip to Pretoria, Ma. Luz received one of her wishes - which was to hug African children, supposedly in Ghana West. But on the bus, the twins were awakened by three African children who played with them.

In Pretoria, their niece, Pinky Ortega, and her husband, Consul for Ghana West, Chad Jacinto, toured the twins to two significant places – the Union Buildings, the most famous buildings that tower over the city, and the Voortrekker Monument, the biggest Monument in Africa in honor of Voortrekkers' search of independence and freedom.

The twins feel blessed that their choice of Pretoria as their last destination in the Avila 2015 Pilgrimage was approved by St. Teresa, for they departed at 15:15 or 3:15 PM on April 22 for the Philippines.

Note: 1515 is the year of birth of St. Teresa.

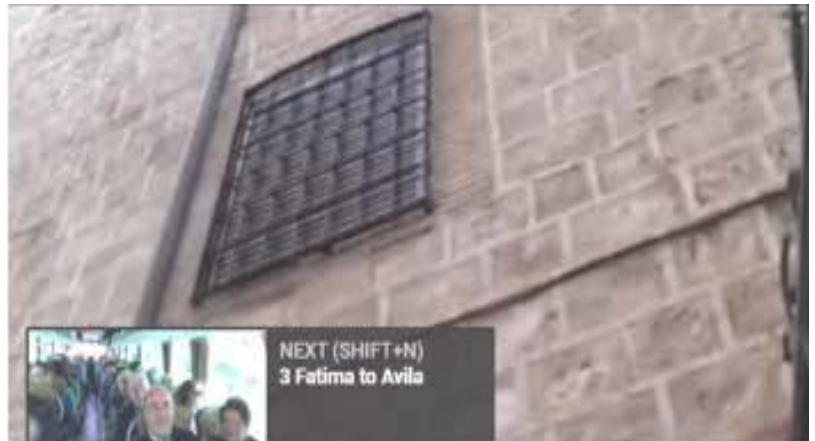
EPILOGUE

Narrator: "What moves the spirit of man kindling his missionary spirit to embark on a journey of a thousand miles? What inspires man to leave his comfort zone and face the fears and challenges of an unknown territory? The restless heart called to holiness."

Making foundations was a painful experience for St. Teresa. But she always found God in all things who faithfully gave her determinada determinacion, her determined determination, to accomplish His work. She knew that in her efforts to serve Him, He will always be victorious.

Therefore, the founding of 17 Carmelite houses and many more dwellings of Carmelite nuns and friars all over the world, and lay people, who all dedicate themselves to a life of prayer and action, is the work of God.

With this humble undertaking, Avila 2015 Pilgrimage, may all of us find God working, and may God be praised.

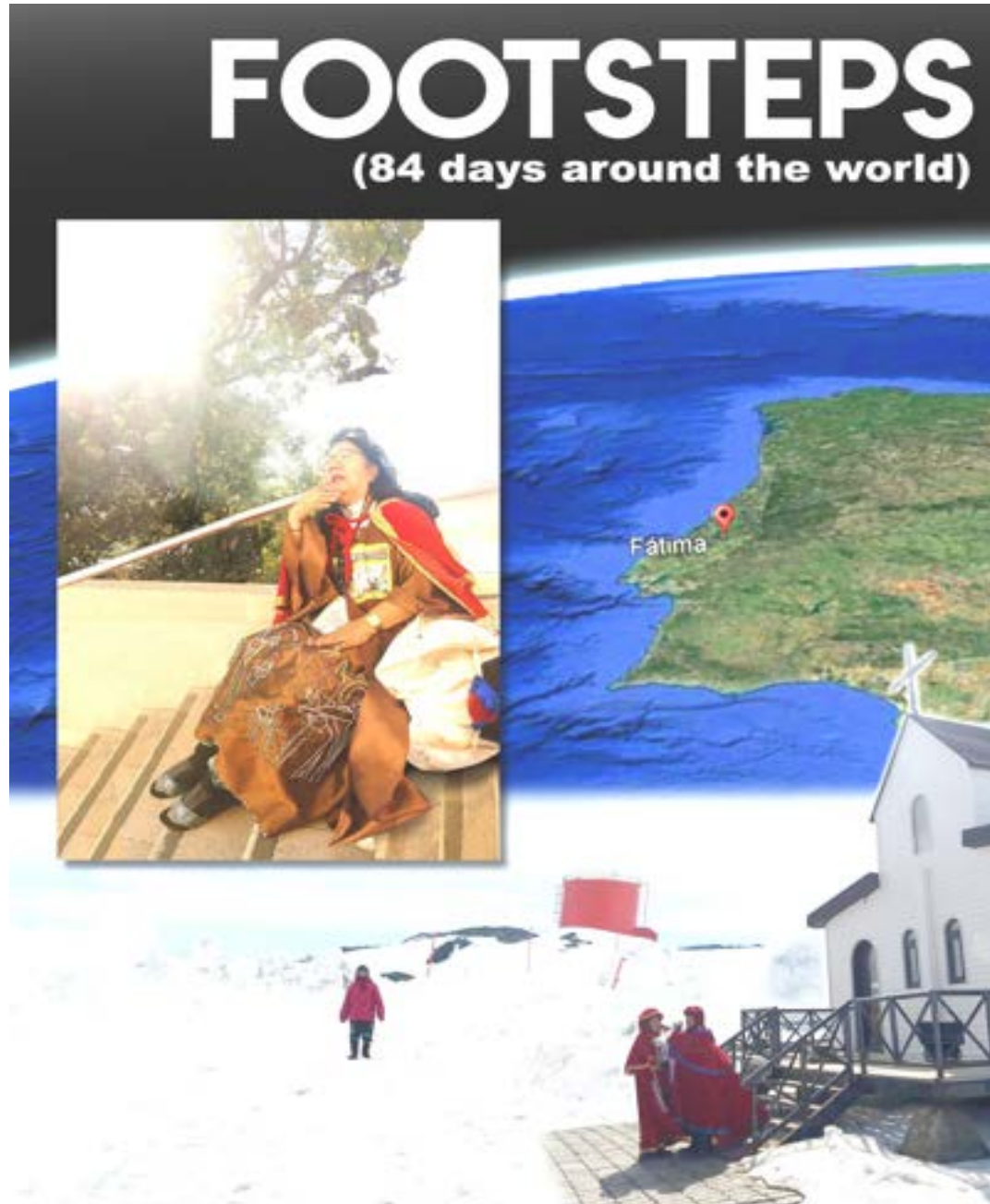


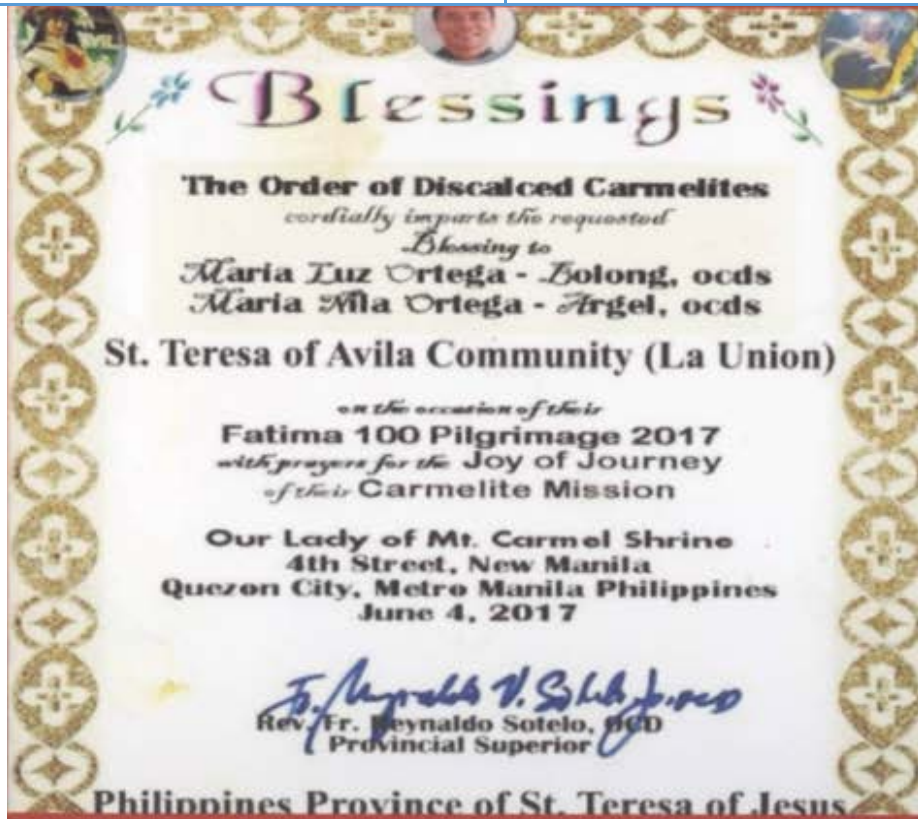


All smiles after watching the movie “Avila 2015 Pilgrimage” last Sept. 17, 2015 at CSI Cinema, La Union. An offering for the 21st Foundation Anniversary of Sea and Sky College and thanksgiving for the 37th wedding anniversary of founders Danny and Luz Bolong Jr.

Top: Luz with husband Daniel Jr. and son Daniel III. Bottom: Ortega twins with Sis. Cresing Cabigas and sister Flor Ocampo.

4. Footsteps (84 days around the world)





CONTINENTS	COUNTRIES		
I. Europe	1. Portugal 4. Russia	2. Denmark 5. Greece	3. Scotland 6. Turkey
II. Africa	7. Ghana	8. Uganda	9. Tanzania
III. N. America	10. Nicaragua		
IV. S. America	11. Colombia 14. Peru	12. Brazil 15. Chile	13. Bolivia
V. Antarctica	King George Island		
VI. Oceania	16. New Zealand		
VII. Asia	17. Indonesia		

AUDIO	VIDEO
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8.4 “Footsteps (84 days around the world)”/Theme Song/Feedback/Synopsis/ Endorsement
 Narrator: (Male) A self-reflective person asks, “who am I?”, and “how did I become what I am?” These questions form the Autobiographies of such great men and women, especially the Saints. St. Teresa of Avila wrote her autobiography when she reached her 60th birthday. It was written under the direction of her confessor, Fr. Pedro Ibañez. She was probably inspired by Saint Augustine, an autobiography of the “Saintliest of the Wise and the Wisest of the Saints”. Saint Augustine began his memoirs when he was 43 years old. They provided significant insight into his sinful youth and his conversion to Christianity.

Narrator: The jet-powered airliner Boeing 707 made its First Flight in 1954, the year the twins - Maria Luz and Maria Nila -were born.

Narrator: At the age of 48, the twins went for a Marian Pilgrimage in 2002 to Europe through an inspiration received by Luz, the older twin by 15 minutes and a namesake of Sr. Lucia of Fatima.

Fifteen years after, Luz received an inspiration to go back to Fatima to attend the 100th year of the “Miracle of the Sun”. It was exactly 707 days before the October 13, 2017 celebration.

Narrator: Hence, 84 days around the world was conceived. It is a chronicle of the journeys of the Ortega Twins to 17 countries in the 7 continents of the world.

Song: Around the world

We searched for you

Background music:

We travelled on

When we're inspired

To keep a rendezvous

We knew somewhere, sometime, somehow

You look at us

And we would see your smiling face and nod.

In Avila, Spain we gave away your statues

Next we went to Antarctica, and to Fatima



Narrator: It is an adaptation of the 1873 classic adventure novel,

“Around the World in Eighty Days”, by Jules Verne. This modern day journey narrates the twins’ travel to Europe, Africa, North America, South America, Antarctica, Oceania, and Asia.

Narrator: But why 84 days? There are 12 apostles and 72 disciples.

It must be heaven-blessed that on the day of our departure on October 5, 2017, the Gospel of Luke 10:1-27 was on “The Mission of the Seventy-Two”. The pairing of the 72 disciples “two by two” was designed by Jesus in order for us to think and face whatever challenges of life that await ahead, together.

Narrator: The twins see themselves as the so called “other laborers” in our own time.

Indeed, all around us, there is so much “harvest” to be done. Are we ready to be part of Jesus’ mission? Maria Luz and Maria Nila’s journey begins at the Ninoy International Airport. Seven statues of St. Teresa of Avila and four sets of Carmelite outfits were packed in four pieces of luggage and one statue in a box were dropped at the Checking area.

I. EUROPE

1. PORTUGAL

Narrator: The twins took a taxi to the house of niece Patricia Ortega with husband Pedro Encarnacao. The couple was out for a trip to Amsterdam leaving the house keys. Home away from

AUDIO	VIDEO
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home, the twins had a good night's sleep and in the morning went out to look for Saint Anthony of Padua Church.

Narrator: Passing by St. Mary of Magdalene Church, then by St. Nicholas Church, and Lisbon Patriarchal Church, still there was no St. Anthony Church in sight.

Luz: St. Anthony intercede for us. As we go to see your shrine you definitely have brought into our lives John and Monica.

Narrator: Truly, after awhile, the twins behold the church of St. Anthony. After long missionary pursuits, St. Anthony settled in Padua, hence, his name, St. Anthony of Padua. He is the patron saint of lost things.

On May 12, 1982, Pope John Paul II stopped at the church on his way to Fatima. The twins knelt where St. John Paul II prayed. As the twins went out of the Church, they were approached by a group of students and their teacher who asked that they hug each other.

Narrator: From their bus tour, the twins jumped off at the Belem boat terminal. The Harbor cruise of Lisbon's waterfront in the Tagus river which goes right under the bridge was such an enjoyable experience!

Luz: You might be wondering where we are. Ania? (What?) Is it at San Francisco or Lisbon.

Passengers: (giggling) San Francisco

Luz: Well, that bridge was made by the same person who constructed the

Nila: San Juan ... San Francisco bridge.

Luz: San Francisco bridge.



FATIMA

Narrator: The twin sisters were blessed to have a place to stay in Fatima even without reservation. The Congregation Daughters of St. Mary of Leucato through Sister Andreina Nicoa and Rev. de Madre Laviña Garcia were a big help. As a gesture of appreciation, the twins gave the first of the seven statues of St. Teresa of Avila to a Filipino couple, Walter and his wife, for giving the twins a two-day free accommodation at their residence. Their house is just a 5-minute walk to the Fatima Sanctuary.

Narrator: There were three apparitions of Our Lady at the mountain of Fatima: Our Lady of Ortiga, Our Lady of Fetal, and Our Lady of Fatima. Indeed, the mountain of Fatima can be called "Our Lady's Mountain." Since Fatima is a place of prayer and penance, the twins walked on their knees praying the Rosary as an offering to request favors. It was a great sacrifice.

Petitions by the Ortega Twins

Nila: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, Amen

O Most Holy Virgin Mary, you came to Fatima to reveal the graces that come from praying the Holy Rosary to three little shepherd children. Following the *footsteps* of the children of Fatima, we want to bring God's word to others. Give us the strength, O Lord to be messenger of the Gospel. Please grant us our petitions and we will become instruments in letting others know of your great love to us. These are our intentions: World peace; Loving relationship of all family members; Live a balanced life, work, family and recreation; Good health and happiness of SAS Family; Strong and harmonious relationship of Carmelite family; God fearing and loving children, apos (grandchildren); Fruitful pilgrimage for evangelization; All those who asked for their prayer petitions. We asked these through the intercession of Our Lady of Fatima, St Peter of Cupertino, All Carmelite Saints, and all the Saints whose shrines we are visiting in our pilgrimage dubbed Fatima 100 Pilgrimage to graciously hear and answer our prayers through Christ our Lord. Amen. Grant O Lord that this pilgrimage will bear fruit, that we will be able to implement the SAS TV so that we can bring more people to you. In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Narrator: God compensated the twins instantly. The next day a man at the vicinity offered to bring them to the apparition site of Our Lady of Ortiga. When God closes a door, he opens a window.



Narrator:

This is how the twins consoled themselves when they were not able to see the tomb of Sr. Lucia.

Notice posted on the walls say that the Basilica was closed in preparation for the anniversary activities.

Narrator: On October 12, 2017, Luz rested at the stairs going to the colonnade. Spending time at the steps, Luz was inspired to join the sick during the healing mass. God gave the twins a better place to be during the ceremonies. On top of the colonnade were seats for the twins.

In their Marian Pilgrimage in 2002, they had prayed at the sepulchers of Sr. Lucia's cousins, Jacinta and Francisco. Next to the tombs of these two saints, was the prepared final resting place for Sr. Lucia of Fatima.

Narrator: It was misty on the day of the 100th anniversary of the "miracle of the sun" on October 13. The twins felt Mama Mary's presence during the recitation of the Holy Rosary at the apparition chapel. The "Happy Atmosphere Mist" was exhilarating and exciting. It left the twins in a state of happiness.

Narrator: Nila is happy for having spent seven years talking about the lives of Saints in her radio program over DZNS at the Archdiocese of Nueva Segovia, Vigan City, Ilocos Sur from 2004 to 2011. She remembers sharing to her listeners the life of St. Elizabeth. When she was widowed, Elizabeth withdrew to a small house near the Convent of the Poor Clares which she had founded in Coimbra. Her incorrupt body is enshrined in a silver coffin at the Convent of the Poor Clares which the twins visited.

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2. DENMARK

Narrator:

Denmark is a part of the northern European region known as Scandinavia. The country's capital, Copenhagen, is the home of a lovely couple, niece Erika Peralta and husband Anders Boenaes, with their three daughters Alexandria, Arianna and Andrea.

After receiving the twins at the turn, the nun met them at the parlor and led them to the chapel to pray.

The Ortega twins join a 1-hour water cruise of the Danish capital courtesy of their niece. Aboard the boat, the winding waterways gave a glimpse of the city. One cannot miss the iconic "The Little Mermaid" statue from the famous fairytale by Hans Christian Andersen.



3. SCOTLAND

Narrator: Glasgow is the largest city in Scotland, and third largest in the United Kingdom. After breakfast at Glasgow Airport Hotel, the twins went to the Discalced Carmelite Monastery. The mother prioress was dressed without the usual big scapular. She received the twins at their parlor and served chocolates and tea. She led the twins to the chapel adorned with stained glasses by the Artist Shona McInnes. On the windows were portraits of St. Therese, St. Teresa Benedicta, St. Teresa, the Story of Carmel, and St. John of the Cross. The green carpet inspired Luz to prostrate. Twin Nila followed. Prostration is a Higher Gesture of Reverence.

Narrator: The Ortega twins took a taxi to the Dunfermline Abbey or Holy Trinity Church founded by St. Margaret of Scotland and her husband Malcolm. Luz went inside to visit the tomb of St. Margaret while Nila watched their luggage. God knows all of our heart's desires. He did not want the twins to feel disappointed leaving Scotland, not seeing the statue of St. Margaret. With a little help, the twins came upon the building in red bricks.

Narrator: Luz realized that she forgot to bring their veil. With God's providence, she saw a white veil inside the church, and "borrowed" it for photo ops.

Who is St. Margaret of Scotland? She is the wife of the Scottish king Malcolm III. One of the first things Margaret began to do as queen was to read the Bible to her husband. It is said that the daily readings and stories she read to him helped "civilize" the king, setting in place the conditions for the growth of the Catholic faith in Scotland. Two of her eight children are Saints.

Edinburgh

Narrator: The Ortega twins joined the Edinburgh City Tour with "Rabbie's Small Group Tours". Surprise! Just the Ortega twins inside the tour bus.

Edinburgh Castle is one of the most evocative castles in the whole of Britain and has dominated the Edinburgh skyline for centuries.



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4. RUSSIA

Narrator: Novosibirsk is the third most populous city in Russia after Moscow and St. Petersburg. The mass at the Carmel of Resurrection of Christ Monastery had just ended when the twins arrived. The mother prioress welcomed them and led them to the chapel. Once inside, the twins took videos and photos. Inside were some relics of St. Martirii, one of the early monks in the Kiev-Pechersk monastery. His relic has been reserved in the Carmelite altar alongside those of St. Teresa and St. Raphael Kalinowski. Carmel, hidden in the middle of Russia, is dedicated to prayer for Unity.

Narrator: Three nuns received the twins at the parlor and offered tea and cookies. Taking pictures of the nuns was prohibited. So the twins recorded the beautiful songs they rendered for them.

Song: voice of nuns

Personalized Christmas Cards which the nuns produce were also given to the twins as souvenir.

Narrator: The twins were too early for the evening mass at the Cathedral. While waiting, they prayed and made their documentation of their past travels. Luz was sitting on a bench beside the image of Our Lady when Nila left her to buy groceries near the Cathedral. When Nila arrived, Luz happily reported that she was lent a blanket.

Narrator: The Trans-Siberian Railway is a network of railways connecting Moscow to the Russian Far East. It is the longest railway in the world. The tour ended at the marketplace where the twins bought boots and gloves. Their guide said it will snow the next day. True enough, Novosibirsk's first snow fall happened on the day the twins were to leave for the airport. Luz and Nila enjoyed themselves in the snow at the playground.



5. GREECE

Narrator: The taxi driver did not know where the Cathedral was located and so the twins told him to bring them to the Discalced Carmelite Monastery. It was fortunate that the nuns were having a retreat that day and the retreat master, a friar from France, speaks English.

The Monastery guest room was provided for the twins for the whole duration of their stay in Athens.

Narrator: After mass, the twins left for a city tour. Beside Nila was a girl speaking Ilocano on the bus. Minerva Garnace-Mapa and her husband are graduates of Sea and Sky College. She assisted the twins in their next stop.

The twins had the best sights of Athens in their "Hop-On Hop-Off Tour" - the Acropolis, Parthenon, Mars Hill, and the Ancient Agora of Athens, Constitution Square, House of Parliament.



Corinth

Narrator: On their last day in Greece, the twins informed the mother Prioress that they were going to Corinth. They wanted to see the Route that Apostle Paul followed in Greece. Paul spread the word of Christianity more than anybody else and for this reason he was named "Equal-to-the-Apostles" and "Apostle of the Nations".



The Monastery guest room was available for the whole duration of our stay at Athens.

6. TURKEY

Narrator: The twins visited Istanbul, the largest city in Turkey and the fifth-largest city in the world by population. It is considered European, yet it occupies two different continents. One part of Istanbul lies in Europe and the other part lies in Asia.

Cappadocia

Narrator: St. Paul was looking for a secure place after being expelled from Jerusalem. He came to Cappadocia, the first Christian colony in this region with his followers. Religious cave paintings display evidence of early Christianity. This is the most unique natural environment in Turkey with its magical, fairy like landscape. Camels were first brought to Turkey during the Ottoman times and used as draft animals.

Luz: Praise God for a wonderful hot air balloon here at Cappadocia.

Nila: Praying for a fruitful 84 days around the world tour with twins Luz and Nila.

Narrator:

The twins were able to see Mary's stone house in Ephesus.



II. AFRICA

7. GHANA

Narrator: AFRICA comprises 54 countries. It is the hottest continent and home of the world's largest desert, the Sahara, occupying 25% of its total area. During the Avila 2015 pilgrimage of the Ortega twins, they visited Cape Town. In their Fatima 100 pilgrimage, they visited three countries: Ghana, Uganda and Tanzania.

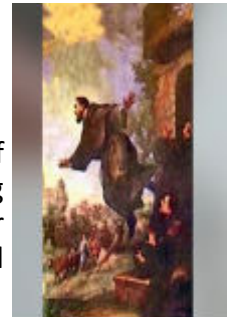
What is unique in their visit to Africa is that they visited the Discalced Carmelite Nuns in the three countries. For this pilgrimage, they could not help but acknowledge God's providence.

The monastery in Tamale, Ghana is the first missionary foundation of Carmel in the Philippines and the first Carmelite monastery in Ghana founded on August 8, 2002. Very Rev. Fr. Yitireh mentioned that he witnessed the coming of the nuns to Africa, and was present during the inauguration of the Convent.

Narrator: The twins had an authentic experience at Ghana as they accompanied a sister and the driver in delivering bread and juice to their customers in the community.

Ghana has given a unique dimension of their travel to Africa.

Before their pilgrimage, the twins watched the life of St. Cupertino, the flying saint, while at the University of Santo Tomas Hospital where they took care of Danny, Luz's husband, after his operation.



Sept 18, 2020—feast of St. Joseph of Cupertino

Luz flies? Hahaha! Luz at the altar of the Carmelite Monastery chapel of Tamale, Ghana, Africa. She's not a flying OCDS after all. Hehehe!



8. UGANDA

Narrator:

Arriving at the Entebbe airport on November 9, 2017, the twins booked for a Mityana Town Tour where they had an encounter with the Uganda Martyrs.

Emmanuel Obong, in-charge of the pilgrims office led the twins in walking “where the first Christian missionaries passed and preached from”, and where some of the Uganda Martyrs were killed before their bodies were taken to be buried at Namugongo near Kampal.

Mother Prioress, Sr. Mary Helen of the Trinity, welcomed the twins. Tired from the trip, they slept until around 6:30 in the evening, waking from a knock at the door.

Meeting the nine nuns at the parlor was a great joy. They shared their experiences in their just concluded visit to Europe and to Ghana.

Met by mother prioress upon arrival. In the evening, we talked with the nuns at the parlor.



9. TANZANIA

Narrator: On their way to the Discalced Carmelite Nun Monastery in Tanzania, the twins dropped by Victoria Lake for a short dip. Victoria Lake, the world's largest tropical lake, is named after Queen Victoria.

The twins proceeded to the Monastery at Mont Bunda Nare Region. The mother prioress had just arrived from the fields. The twins were moved with her words of welcome -“Welcome as it is the right thing to do, just as Jesus welcomes us all.”

Tanzania Carmelite monastery gave the twins a glimpse of their activities inside the cloister, such as gardening, sewing vestments, and making host.

Song: Nun’s Voice: “She guide, protect us all our way.... Sweet Virgin Mother, pray for us”

Luz: Hello students

Sister: Say I love You

Students: I love You

Luz: I’m glad Father and Sister brought us here. So, I can again have a video with all of you.

Father: Thank you.

Students: Thank you.

Luz: This would make our trip to Africa a very, very memorable one.

The mother prioress from India said, “welcome as it is the right thing to do, just as Jesus welcomes us all.”



III. NORTH AMERICA

Narrator: It is the continent which is home to the largest Christian population in the world. Almost 80% of the people in Canada, the USA and Mexico consider themselves as Christians. Nicaragua's president's name is a fusion of the people closest to twin Luz' heart - Daniel Ortega, the reason for including this country in this Pilgrimage.

10. NICARAGUA

Narrator: Checking out from the hotel, the twins took a taxi to the bus station, then a tricycle from the highway to the Carmelite Monastery doorstep.

The mother prioress welcomed them at the turn and later at the parlor, serving them with good pasta.

Secular Carmelite Councilor Rodrigo Vivas Chamorro served as interpreter.

OCDS National President Maria Martha Salomzano, Councilor Chamorro, and other members showed Nicaragua's great hospitality to the twins. Their hotel stay and tour driver were provided for by the OCDS community.

Councilor Chamorro came to the hotel to say goodbye before the twins left for the airport.



IV. SOUTH AMERICA

11. COLOMBIA

Luz : The dove represents the Holy Spirit. So we are being guided by the Holy Spirit to go to mass at the Carmelite Monastery.

Narrator: The mother prioress and an English speaking nun from the Dominican Republic welcomed the twins at the small parlor before mass, and served them coffee. Ushered to the big parlor, the nuns were eager to listen to the twins' stories. The nuns gave the twins a wooden wall display with St. Teresa's saying engraved - "Nade de Turbe". Unfortunately, the gift was confiscated at the airport.

The twins rode on a Funicular going up to Montserrat Monastery.

Luz: Those doves brought us to the Carmelite Monastery. Those doves, beautiful!!

Narrator: Once at the top, there were plenty of walks, both long and short, on well-marked paths. From above - the scene was just spectacular. Luz was disappointed that the tour was in Spanish. But after the tour, the twins were satisfied.

Luz: Hello Nila

Nila: Hello Kambal.

Luz: Are you enjoying?

Nila: Yes, really.

Luz: Tremendously!

Narrator: It is impossible not to notice the amount of graffiti that occupies the walls of the city. Graffiti and street art painting helps promote a new form of artistic and cultural expression.

AUDIO	VIDEO
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Narrator: Despite having the same genetic makeup, identical twins have their differences. For the identical Ortega twins, Luz gets inspiration from the Holy Spirit - feeling anything is possible. The inspiration is acted upon with the cooperation of twin Nila. Like this movie, Luz was inspired to go around the world, doing a very detailed itinerary while Nila does documentation being knowledgeable and skilled in computer.



Narrator: They get along well sharing the tasks that are critical for the success of their project. Nila does household work while Luz checks on the itinerary.

The twins went back to the Carmelite Monastery before leaving Colombia. Luz wanted to check if the Monastery is really a 15 _ minutes walk.



12. BRAZIL

Narrator: Luz wants unique poses, even climbing the structure at the side of the Escadaria Selarón, also known as the 'Selaron Steps', a set of world-famous steps in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Brazil, a vast South American country, is where the famous Christ the Redeemer statue is. It stands atop Corcovado peak and boasts incredible views of Rio de Janeiro.

Luz : Today is Feast of Christ the King. And what a marvelous day to visit Christ the Redeemer here at Rio de Janeiro. The weather is fine and so we will always remember this day, very symbolic and memorable.

Narrator: At the statue's base sits a chapel, dedicated in 2006 to Our Lady of Aparecida , the patron saint of Brazil. No video was allowed inside the Chapel.

Porto Alegre

Narrator:

Arriving at the Carmelite Monastery at Porto, Alegre, the twins did not expect that it is a Friars' Monastery. However, the friars were very helpful. Fr. Joseph Natal, OCD brought the twins to the Carmelite Nuns Monastery. The mother prioress and an English speaking nun welcomed them at the parlor. After their 2-day stay, the twins bid the nuns goodbye and were touched by their gifts given to them after mass. Mother Prioress, Sr. Susana, gave words of encouragement –

May the joy of the Lord be your strength.

We wish you a good and holy pilgrimage!

May all objectives be achieved and add to the Mystical Body numerous graces for your lives and those of the souls entrusted to you.

Our Holy Mother Teresa of Jesus protect you!



13. BOLIVIA

Narrator: Arriving noon time at the Carmelite Monastery, the mother prioress and her nuns served lunch to the twins. The nuns could not speak English. Nevertheless, they let the twins stay at an annex room of the monastery. Upstairs were three bedrooms and at the ground floor was a parlor where the nuns served coffee and some food.

Overlooking the city of Sucre from the top of Calle Polanco, La Recoleta was established by the Franciscan Order in 1601. It has served not only as a convent and museum, but also as a barracks and prison. Its highlight is the church choir.

Narrator: And its magnificent wood carvings dating back to the 1870s, each one intricate and unique, representing the martyrs who were crucified in 1595 in Nagasaki. The twins joined other tourists at the audio visual room to watch a BBC documentary, “Caminando con Dinosaurs” or “Walking with Dinosaurs”, which preceded a 30-minute guided tour of the Cretácico Park. Ferocious roaring of dinosaurs sounded so real. Any one would believe they may in fact be walking amongst us. Wanting more of dinosaurs, imagine senior citizen-twins, walking a long distance, then climbing up a very steep hill to sit next to dinosaur footprints!

Narrator: Sucre is endowed with a waterfall known as the “throat of the devil” with a natural cavern of stalactites and stalagmites. At a distance, the twins saw the waterfalls, but the more adventurous twin, Luz, wanted to go near it. With the guide, Luz ably reached her destination.

On the rocky ridge top at Chataquila, is a lovely stone chapel dedicated to the Virgin de Chataquila. The Virgin-shaped stone dressed in a gown is placed on the altar.

The twins attend mass officiated by the Bishop of Bolivia. They also entered the church of Siervas de María, Ministras de los Enfermos. The Congregation has its General Headquarters in Rome, and a house in the Philippines. After mass there, Sr. Teresa accompanied them to look for an internet cafe. After walking and finding no internet, the twins then attended the third mass for the day at a Jesuit Church. Sr. Teresa then left the twins to attend to the Liturgy of the Hours prayers in their convent.

Around 3 o’clock in the afternoon, the twins happily encode their document – “Ortega Twins Carmelite Vocation” at Sucre, Bolivia. Translated in Spanish, a copy was given to the Carmelite nuns. Carmelite Vocation December 3, 2017 - First Sunday of Advent Luz encodes Ortega Twins Carmelite Vocation at Sucre, Bolivia

We want to reflect on the meaning of a Secular Carmelite; a life lived in prayer, silence and simplicity! Superior General Fr. Saverio Cannistra, OCD on his message to the Order for the Feast of St. Teresa 2010 said, “When Teresa speaks of prayer, she doesn’t speak of it as a simple act or a spiritual exercise. A most committed Spiritual life leads us to its final aim to recite the Our Father with full adhesion of mind and heart_ her comment in the last sixteen chapters of her book bears witness to this. Perfection therefore is to be so adult as to be able to pronounce as one’s own the words that Jesus pronounced talking of God: Our Father!”

Have we wasted ourselves during these 15 years when we started attending monthly meetings at the OCDS House of Prayer at Pindangan? Nila based at Vigan City has to come to San Fernando City to attend our regular monthly meetings. Ilocos Sur province where Nila resides is the next province from La Union so it is easy for Nila to travel. Besides, this arrangement has brought us twins closer to each other. Jesus has furnished us with the answer in the Gospel. He said, “I bless you Father, Lord of heaven and earth, for hiding these things from the learned and the clever and revealing them to mere children”. Carmelite way of life remind us how worthless are all our human ambitions when placed next to the glory of God. God is reminding us, that at the end of the day we shall live with only one important project: “to live in the presence of the Lord_ and to praise Him all our life.” We twins enjoy having a mixed life_ that is, both married and Secular Carmelites.

Fely Ortega narrated to Luz that our Papa Evaristo 'Bisting' Ortega was very happy to relay to his mother, Dona Francisca Lacsamana - Ortega that our mother Rosa just gave birth to us twins. His remark was twins are "swerte" meaning brings luck. Aware that the name given to Luz means light, she (Luz) tries her best to live up to the expectation to be the light in our family with a smile on her face adding, "it is a great responsibility. One must not be afraid to go against the general trend and current mentality. You have only this life, try to live it to the full." On our Marian Pilgrimage at Lourdes in 2002, Luz recalls the priest at the confessional box quoting John 10:10 to her, "I have come that you may have life to the full."

We have seen God's mighty hand to work in our lives, and for this we give Him glory and praise. We are very grateful for all that has shaped our lives so far. Avila 2015 Pilgrimage, a two-month spiritual journey of us twins that has brought us to Europe and Africa, was in honor to La Madre's 5th Birth Centenary. Sr. Mary Lucy of Jesus and of the Immaculate Heart, OCD, formerly Sr. Lucia of Fatima led us to attend the 100th Anniversary of the Miracle of the Sun. Fatima 100 Pilgrimage 2017 is an "84 days around the world" that brought us to the seven continents of the world.

Our holy parents, St. Teresa of Jesus and St. John of the Cross through their lived experiences have contributed to the deepening of our own experience of the Carmelite life. "They acknowledge Mary as 'Lady' and 'Mother' of Carmel and propose her to us as model of prayer and surrender of self on our pilgrimage of faith" (Discalced Carmelite Constitutions, 48). We see our lives as a tapestry made from different pieces, woven by the loving hand of God to make a beautiful whole.

The mother prioress and her nuns met us and served lunch. They let us sleep at their guesthouse.



14. PERU

Narrator: Lima is the capital of Peru and its largest city. The twins visited the Carmelite Monastery in Lima. Video is not allowed. They learned that the Nazarene Discalced Carmelites wear a purple habit. A staff at their souvenir shop assisted the twins in checking-in at Europa Hotel which is adjacent to San Francisco Basilica, and nearby the Monastery of St. Dominic.

Narrator: The Monastery of St. Dominic houses three of Peru's five saints - St. Martin the Porres, St. John Macias, and St. Rose of Lima. Luz was attracted with the stained glass depicting the three saints' images. Three separate rooms were allotted for each of the saints. After watching the life of St. Martin de Porres, the twins tried lying down on his bed. Luz sat on the chair reading St. John Macias' prayer. Then the twins went down to the crypt where St. Rose was buried. The Dominican convent is recognized by its pink bell tower which marks an easily visible landmark from the top of Cerro San Cristobal.

Narrator: Luz was counting the steps again! See how the Ortega twins differ! At the catacombs down the Church, one can see the skeletons and skulls. The excellent tour guide said that pictures were not allowed inside but a video was shown at the lobby.

Guide: speaks in Spanish

Luz: Take my picture. Picture it.



15. CHILE

Tour Guide: Providencia...This avenue...

Luz: Immaculate Conception?

Tour Guide: You find the Providencia.... A church in this area.

Narrator: Discalced Carmelite nun is the first fruits of the holiness of the Teresian Carmelites in Latin America. St. Teresa de Los Andes is the first Chilean and the first Discalced Carmelite nun outside Europe to be declared a saint. She asserts that "Jesus is our infinite happiness."

Narrator: On December 9, the twins had a surprise visit to a huge statue of the Immaculate Conception on top of San Cristobal Hill. It was a day after Her Solemnity. The visit made their afternoon a glorious one. Luz proclaimed December 8 as a school holy day in Sea and Sky College, San Fernando City, La Union, Philippines. It is a school she founded in 1994 on top of a hill overlooking the West Philippine Sea.

Santa Lucia Hill is a small hill in the centre of Santiago, Chile. It has an altitude of 629 meters and a height of 69 meters over the surrounding area. It is the remnant of a volcano 15 million years ago.



A SONG FOR ST. TERESA OF AVILA

to the tune of "If You Love Me, Really Love Me" by Édith Piaf

1. Oh how great that we chose to be like you
A Carmelite who lives and works for God
St. Teresa, we love Him
Everything we do is for God

2. Close to Jesus, close to Mary and Close to You
Is the path to God and happiness in heaven
St. Teresa, we love Him
Everything we do is for God, for God

We go around the world— to the coldest part of the earth
To proclaim our love for God
He loves us in return and reveals Himself to us
Through the people that He sends us on our way

3. We go on in the journey of our faith
Towards heaven to be with God and you
St. Teresa, we love Him
Everything we do is for God

St. Teresa, we love Him
Everything we do is for God, for God



AUDIO	VIDEO
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V. ANTARCTICA

Narrator: It is the expression of brotherly love that the twins cherish with their brother Steve. He sponsored the twins' immigration to Canada.

After spending two and a half fruitful years working and travelling there, the twins visited 10 European countries on their way back home to the Philippines in 1977, again sponsored by their brother.

That travel that brought them to Rome ignited their desire to go back again and again, bringing themselves to the Eternal City five times. Perhaps the long standing tradition of standing with your back to the Trevi fountain and tossing a coin over your left shoulder guarantees a return trip to Rome.

Antarctica was included in the twins' Fatima 100 Pilgrimage upon their brother's suggestion.

King George Island is located at the northern end of the Antarctic Peninsula. This is one of the most remote places on earth; therefore, it is hard to reach. This unique and fascinating destination presents special challenges; it is difficult to find modern life comforts and the weather is highly unpredictable.

On the day of their departure to King George, the group was advised that their flight was postponed. The airline offered an alternative program free of charge. The visit to Cerro Condor was a great relief from the disappointment of the postponed trip.



Narrator: The following day, the weather was fine and the twins' "unique adventure at the End of the World, a special area of planet Earth, was an unforgettable and magical journey, a place where few people have ever set foot" set off.

Two tour guides brought the group to Villa Las Estrellas, then to Ardley Island on a zodiac boat coming close to penguins going in and out of the sea onto rocky shores, and around the Collins glacier.

The twins were guided to St. Mary Queen of Peace, a Catholic Chapel at King George Island where the twins left a statue of St. Teresa de Jesus of Avila. They were awarded a Certificate and Luz' passport now bears the stamp of Antarctica.

Luz: This is the blessing card we prepared for our pilgrimage. And we are now on the fifth continent, Antarctica. We are here at King George Island and at Las Estrellas Villas. We thank very much our guide for bringing us here to the chapel.

Narrator: Twins admired the palace, and the staircase brought back memories of the Don Joaquin Ortega—Francisca Lacsamana Ancestral Home in San Fernando, La Union.

Along the way to the airport, the twins pass by places of interest and get to see a replica of Magellan's Noa Victoria. A replica of the Spanish ship La Victoria sits grounded in Punta Arenas.



VI. OCEANA

16. NEW ZEALAND

Narrator: New Zealand is a country in the southwestern Pacific Ocean consisting of two main islands, both marked by volcanoes and glaciation.

The twins are grateful to Eleanor, a worker at the Discaled Carmelite Monastery at Christchurch for arranging their stay with the Sisters of the Sacred Heart.

Narrator: At her house, the twins were impressed with the beautiful garden and they enjoyed looking and singing along with her unique Christmas decors.

Rare Maori artefacts and the stories behind them fascinated the twins. It brought them back in time with the sights and sounds of pioneering days.

Nila : Very nice.



VII. ASIA

17. INDONESIA

Narrator: It is a Southeast Asian nation made up of thousands of volcanic islands, and home to hundreds of ethnic groups speaking many different languages.

Kupang, Indonesia

The twins were glad with the unexpected welcome of an OCD friar. Fr. Aloysius Deeney, OCD, in-charge of Secular Carmelites in East Asia including the Philippines, received the 7th and last statue the twins brought for their Fatima 100 Pilgrimage at the monastery of Kupang, Indonesia. Luz was so thrilled that in a gesture of respect had a blessing by the hand or “mano” to Fr. Deeney. The twins successfully fulfilled their mission of giving the 7 Pilgrim statues of St. Teresa of Avila in each of the 7 continents of the world.

Narrator: Indeed, it was a Journey of “Great Faith”. The statue is a symbol of their love to St. Teresa. Sr. Redempta, OCD, the mother prioress and a nun of Dutch origin at the monastery received the twins on December 24, at the parlor and offered breakfast. At 5 pm, they attended the Christmas mass with Fr. Nando, OCD. Again, the following day, December 25, after the Christmas mass, they had breakfast with the mass celebrant, Fr. Jacob, ocd and two policemen.

Narrator: Faith in God is very evident in Indonesia, just like in the Philippines. The twins were glad to have witnessed the flock of the faithful in the Church to pay homage to Jesus. The twins were waiting for a ride to bring them to Church. A lady told them to ride on a motorcycle. Unmindful, the driver took them to a Muslim Church. A couple saw them who brought them to the Cathedral. The 7 a.m. mass was officiated by the Bishop of Ende-Flores, Indonesia. It was a great celebration in commemoration of the Feast of St. Stephen. After mass, Luz kissed the ring of the Bishop. The twins spent Christmas morning in the home of their tour guide’s family friend. The family has a grocery store in front of the hotel where the twins stayed.



AUDIO	VIDEO
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EPILOGUE

Narrator: (Female) “Personally, I have no doubt that the Spirit is also breathing among ourselves in our own Carmelite family. There are desires, unrests, dreams that want to become an experienced reality. I believe that we should favour such experiences, even at the risk of making mistakes. By far the worst mistake would be to remain static and closed to the future.....this is precisely what we too must do: listen to the voice of the Spirit and draw very concrete consequences for today, in obedience to the Word of God which, for us, is the word of our vocation.” Very Rev. Fr. Saverio Cannistra, OCD, Superior General of the Carmelites (2009-2020)

Narrator: (Male) Twin Luz was amazed at how similar she and Lucia, the visionary, looked alike in their childhood. Lucia’s picture was taken when she was 9, while Luz was 12 years old.

Narrator: Through divine intervention, during the twins’ Marian Pilgrimage 2002 to Europe, they were able to enter the Coimbra monastery where Sr. Lucia lived. Although they were not able to see her, they spoke to Mother Maria Celina of Jesus Crucified, the present day Prioress of the Carmelite Convent of Coimbra.

Narrator: In an article written about Sr. Lucia, Mother Celina had described her as a woman religious who “emanated joy.”

Narrator: (Female) “I lived with her for 28 years and I saw a person who, the older she got, the more she developed an evangelical childhood. She seemed again to be the child who had the apparitions in the Cova de Ira. The heavier her body became, the lighter her spirit became.”

Narrator: (Male) In the Fatima 100 Pilgrimage, upon setting foot at the colonnade, Luz received a personal revelation from God.

Narrator: (Female) “There were people moving towards my direction. Someone was pointing at me with a joyous greeting saying – “I knew that lady is somebody special...I took a portrait of her.” Then there were flashes of cameras.”

Narrator: (Male) This memorable encounter at Fatima is a manifestation of what Luz claims that since 2002 or 15 years ago, she looks like Sr. Lucia. Coincidentally, at the airport in Greece, a co-passenger sketched Luz’ face and later gave the portrait to her before embarking for Turkey. It is a great gift which Luz treasures a lot. Sr. Lucia, ocd, truly led us in attending the Centennial Anniversary on October 13, 2017.

Narrator: “St. Teresa of Avila as a teacher, does not want us to stick to her words, nor with her experiences. She encourages us to have our own unique experience of God. God, eternally new, challenges us to give Him our lives.” 84 days around the world, is a Journey of Faith.

On the road, in the air, on a water adventure, it is not something theoretical or imaginary, it is an experience of the Lord’s favor.

Narrator: (Male) St. Teresa sums it up -

Narrator: (Female) “You pay God a compliment, by asking great things from Him.”

Narrator: (Male) Indeed, the faith stories of their Pilgrimage, Sightseeing has turned to a Journey of Joy. How awesome God is – only if we have eyes to see. Let our lives be a manifestation of Christ’s life to others. For the Ortega twins’ their Evangelization work continues.

Feedback

July 4, 2019

The documentary is not only for religious pilgrimage to view particularly those who are devotees to the Blessed Virgin Mary under her different titles but as I was translating the script, as an educator, I saw the value and various utilization of the documentary.

First, simply viewing one have a feeling like having gone there by themselves, perhaps even identifying themselves being with the pilgrims group.

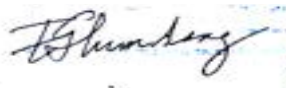
Second, for arts, here the architectural designs of churches and buildings reflect the Byzantine and Greek influences. Seeing part of historical European countries enriches ones appreciation of culture and knowledge of other countries.

Third, the documentation is a very good material in teaching world history as well as climate on the other parts of the world.

Fourth, since Sea and Sky College offers Tourism and Hotel Management, again, the documentary serves its purpose. The documentary also presents the financial aspects, coordination with travel agencies and other connections like relatives and friends.

Lastly, the documentary can be viewed by general public, across levels as well as school children. This inspires children to study, to dream, to appreciate the importance of travelling, and the experiences shared by the travelers themselves.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Ely G. Lumdang', with a light blue rectangular stamp or background behind it.

Ely G. Lumdang

Freelance Social Development Consultant

Synopsis

84 days around the world is a chronicle of the journeys of the Ortega Twins Maria Luz and Maria Nila to 17 countries in the seven continents of the world from October 5 to December 27, 2017. It features the Ortega Twins experiences as Carmelites and tell of their encounter with fellow Carmelites St. Teresa of Avila Lucia de Jesus Rosa dos Santos, O.C.D.

Fatima, known as Our Lady's mountain beckons the twins on their Fatima 100 Pilgrimage, for six consecutive days.

On arrival October 8, they join the nightly candle light procession of Our Lady of Fatima starting from the Chapel of the Apparitions after the Holy Rosary. The procession take in the large square between the Basilica of the Rosary Our Lady of Fatima and the Church of the Holy Trinity.

The three little shepherds namely, Lucia, Francisco, and Jacinta saw visions of Mary for six consecutive months beginning on May 13, 1917 and then again on the 13th day of five subsequent months. Blessed with such grace, being an Ortega themselves the twins got interested to make a pilgrimage on October 11, 2017 to pray before the ancient and miraculous image of Our Lady of Ortiga, "may our 'spiritual ears' be always open to hear the voice of God and our tongues loosen to sing the praises and proclaim his holy name."

On October 12, Luz with Spanish blood encounter the Spanish mystic St. Teresa of Avila. Luz on video shows her at the staircase pointing on the name of St. Teresa engraved on the wall of the colonnade. She discovers that on top of the colonnade were saints, almost all of them founders of religious orders, and that the first from left to right, is the statue of St. Teresa of Avila.

Then on October 13, 2017, which marks the 100th anniversary of the Miracle of the Sun at Fatima, twin Maria Luz namesake of Sr. Lucia, ocd recalls, upon setting foot at the colonnade to attend the culmination mass, she received a revelation from God. "People were moving towards me. Somebody pointing and with a joyous greeting said, "I knew that lady is special... I took a portrait of her." The twins are awed with the marble "hug" welcome one receives at the Sanctuary of Fatima.

Noteworthy in 'The 13th Day', the first major motion picture on the Miracle of Fatima is the remark of Lucia's mother_ "what makes you so special Lucia dos Santos"? Coincidentally, a man at the Greece airport sketched Luz's face and give it to her before embarking to Turkey.

They successfully left a pilgrim 20-inch statue of St. Teresa in all the seven continents of the world.

May this film be a testament that indeed, God works within and among us.



Cover design painted by father and son—Tony and Boyet Belleza, the local artist of San Fernando, La Union



June 21, 2019

THE ORGANIZER
ROME INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL
ROME, ITALY

Dear Sir/Madame:

Greetings!

It is my pleasure to endorse to your prestigious 14th Rome Film Festival the works of Sisters Maria Luz Bolong and Maria Nila Argel, OCDs entitled 84 Days Around the World. Also known as the Ortega Twins, they are from the Congregation of Discalced Carmelites.

84 Days Around the World is a chronicle of their spiritual journey in countries of the Seven Continents from October 5 to December 27, 2017. Each country they visited gives a glimpse not only of the beauty of nature but the kindness of hearts of people. God's handiwork. It was a miracle that the Sisters were able to cover the entire seven continents in 84 days from exciting. Europe and North America to the warm and sunny South America and to as far as the frigid zone of Antarctica, the blue seas of Oceania, the colourful Asia and the savannahs of Africa. Void of familiar actors and popular celebrities, the film captures candidly real people, real life, and real faith.

I hope this documentary film feature be worthy of your attention and acceptance for the world to see.

Thank you very much!

In Jesus and Mary,



MR. BERNARDO FACTOR CANABERAL
President - Signis Philippines