

I WAS BORN FOR YOU

St. Teresa of Avila
March 28, 1515 – October 4, 1582
Doctor of the Church, Virgin

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Our Discalced Carmelite Order founded by St. Teresa of Avila in Spain is orienting the entire 6 years from October 2009 to October 2015, to the celebration of the 5th centenary of her birthday on March 28, 1515. She is the Mother of Spirituality and was the first of the only three women Doctors of our Catholic Church. Besides thanking you for your kindness to our community with our prayers, we feel obligated at this historical event to also introduce to your our Church's great treasure, our Carmelite heritage – the teachings of our Holy Mother St. Teresa – especially on prayer – so that you may deepen your relationship with God, with a rich prayer life, to find serenity, true joy, peace and love in the midst of all the toils and snares of our earthly life. May we achieve contemplation and divine union which God so greatly desires for all his children. (Note: We encourage you to do further readings of her writings for they contain in them a wealth of inexhaustible treasure for the knowledge of God and of our self.)

We desire that this period will be a source of grace and renewal for the entire Carmelite family and for all our friends, so that all may walk in truth before God and man. Our Order recommends us to read and meditate on St. Teresa's writings, assimilate her doctrines that show us the way to holiness and to share her doctrines with others, hence, achieving life-giving, transforming and liberating effects in our own lives. May we have our own personal encounter with her, while entering into conversation with her in her writings, and learn anew how to share our faith with others.

Our Carmelite martyr St. Teresa Benedicta of the Cross (Edith Stein) attested, "Her effect extends beyond the frontiers of her people and her Order and even reaches those who find themselves outside the Church. The power of her language, the sincerity and simplicity of the style of her writings open hearts and disposes them to divine life. Only on the day of the last judgment will it become known the number of those who, thanks to her, have found the way of Light."

St. Teresa's own words: "I was Born for You" is used by our Carmelite Order as the theme to focus on all the activities of this six year celebration. Recommended reading of Sts. Teresa's writing for the 2015 Jubilee celebration:

Year 2010: - The Book of Her Life

(Focus: Our own encounter with Christ in faith and prayer through scripture, trusting in God's mercy)

Year 2011 – The Way of Perfection

(Focus: A way of Eucharist and of prayer to encounter Christ that leads to service following the example of the Blessed Mother)

Year 2012 – The Book of the Foundations

(Focus: Have a sense of the Church, of communion and mission, harmonizing contemplation with apostolic activities)

Year 2013: - Shorter Writings: Meditations, Soliloquies, Spiritual Testimonies

(Focus: St. Teresa's biblical life and her spiritual experience of the Blessed Trinity)

Year 2014 – The Interior Castle

(Focus: The way of Christian holiness and maturity)

Year 2015 – Letters and Jubilee Celebration

(Focus: Mysticism within the reach of everyone)

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**I WAS BORN FOR YOU**  
**5<sup>th</sup> Centenary of the birth of St. Teresa of Avila 1515 – 2015**

**I am Yours and born of You,  
What is your order for me to do?**

Majestic Sovereign,  
Unending wisdom,  
Kindness pleasing to my soul;  
God sublime, one Being Good,  
Behold this one so vile.  
Singing of her love to you:  
What is your order for me to do?

Yours, you made me,  
Yours, you saved me,  
Yours, you endured me,  
Yours, you called me,  
Yours, you awaited me,  
Yours, I did no stray.  
What is your order for me to do?

Good Lord, what is your order for me to do,  
What is this wretch to do?  
What work is this,  
This sinful slave, to do?  
Look at me, Sweet Love,  
Sweet Love, look at me,  
What is your order for me to do?

In Your hand  
I place my heart,  
Body, life and soul,  
Deep feelings and affections mine,  
Spouse – Redeemer sweet,  
Myself offered now to you,  
What is your order for me to do?

Give me death, give me life,  
Health or sickness,  
Honor or shame,  
War or swelling peace,  
Weakness or full strength,  
Yes, to these I say,  
What is your order for me to do?

Give me wealth or want,  
Delight or distress,  
Happiness or gloominess,  
Heaven or hell,  
Sweet life, sun unveiled,  
To you I give all.  
What is your order for me to do?

Give me, if You will, prayer;  
Or let me know dryness,  
And abundance of devotion,  
Or if not, then barrenness.  
In you alone, Sovereign Majesty,  
I find my peace.  
What is your order for me to do?

Give me then wisdom.  
Or for love, ignorance,  
Years of abundance,  
Or hunger and famine.  
Darkness or sunlight,  
Move me here or there:  
What is your order for me to do?

If you want me to rest,  
I desire it for love;  
If to labor,  
I will die working:  
Sweet Love say  
Where, how and when.  
What is your order for me to do?

Calvary or Tabor give me,  
Desert or fruitful land;  
As Job in suffering  
Or John at Your breast;  
Barren or fruited vine,  
Whatever be Your will:  
What is your order for me to do?

Be I Joseph chained  
Or as Egypt's governor,  
David pained  
Or exalted high,  
Jonas drowned,  
Or Jonas freed:  
What is your order for me to do?

Silent or speaking,  
Fruit bearing or barren,  
My wounds shown by the Law,  
Rejoicing in the tender Gospel;  
Sorrowing or exulting,  
You alone live in me:  
What is your order for me to do?

**Yours I am, for You I was born:  
What is your order for me to do?**