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Florida Center for Peace



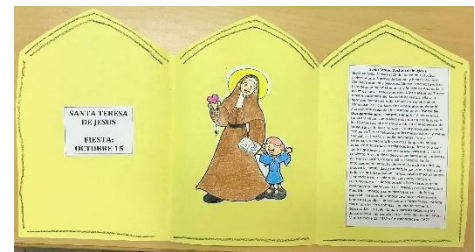
### St. Teresa of Avila, Doctor of the Church

She was born in Avila, Spain on March 28, 1515. Her parents, Alonso Sánchez de Cepeda and Beatriz Dávila Ahumada were very religious. Alonso Sánchez had 3 children with his first wife, and 9 with Beatriz de Ahumada. At 7 years old, Teresa loved to read the life of the saints. She and her brother Rodrigo thought a lot about eternity admiring the victories of the saints in conquering the eternal glory and repeated constantly: **"Enjoy God for always, always, always."** At 14 years old, she takes the Virgen Mary as her mother when hers dies. At 15 years old, her father sends her to be educated at the Convent of Augustine's in Avila because he was worried about changes in her caused by bad books and company. A year and a half later, Teresa gets sick and her father brought her home. She began to think seriously about the religious life. Her father told her she would have to wait until he died to enter the convent. At 20 years old, she decided to stay at the Convent of the Incarnation without her Father knowing. Finally, her father accepted. Her prudence, kindness, and charity won the esteem of those around her. She spent much time receiving guests, disregarding prayer. Soon after her father's death she returned to prayer and never again stopped. God started to communicate with her in a special way. After 25 years, together with St. John of the Cross, they founded the Discalced Carmelites with strict cloister, silence, and poverty like the first hermits at Mount Carmel, who followed the example of the prophet Elijah. She also effected a reform of the original Carmelites. She died October 15, 1582 and was canonized in 1622.

**ST. TERESA  
OF AVILA**

**Pray for us.**

**FEAST: OCTOBER 15**



FLORIDA CENTER FOR PEACE

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