

A Brief Biography of Sor Maria de Jesus
by
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Sor Maria de Jesus began her life on April 2, 1602 as Maria Coronel Arana in Ágreda, Spain. She was born to Mr. Francisco Coronel and Mrs. Catalina Arana. Her parents had 11 children, but only 4 of them survived, Francisco, Jose, Geronima, and Maria.

She began having visions and mystical experiences at a very young age. At age 8, she took on vows of chastity and at 12 decided to join the Holy Orders.

In 1615, her mother had a vision that she should turn their home into a Franciscan Convent of the Immaculate Conception and become Conceptionists of the contemplative order. Three years later, Mrs. Coronel, Geronima, and Maria took the habit. Maria took the name Sor Maria de Jesus. Mr. Coronel, Francisco, and Jose became Franciscan monks.

She focused her life in the monastery to spiritual growth toward mysticism. These years were marked with paranormal activity. She would enter a state of ecstasy and levitate. Her face became brilliant and as many of the members of the church described, "her face looked like a seraphim". Her confessors asked her to stop this activity because people were going to church only to watch her levitation. She said that she could not control the levitation. They asked her to pray to God that this phenomenon stop. Her request was granted, however, it was replaced with the gift of bilocation. Bilocation is the gift of being in two places at the same time.

After Don Juan de Oñate's colonization, the evangelization of Nuevo Mexico was difficult for the Franciscans. The indigenous were hostile, the languages unknown and dialects were difficult to understand, and the distances were great. She became concerned with the Franciscans' missions and their safety. Her passion was to save souls for God. In 1622, at age 20, Sor Maria de Jesus began bilocating to Nuevo Mexico, meaning that she was physically present behind the walls of her convent in Ágreda and also, physically present in Nuevo Mexico ministering to the indigenous people.

In her diary, she wrote: "One day after having received our Lord, His Majesty showed me the whole world and I came to know the variety of things he had created. How admirable is the Lord in the university of the earth. He showed me with much clarity the multitude of creatures and souls that there were. And among those souls, how few could profess the purity of faith and would walk through the door of baptism to become children of the holy church. The heart would break to see that His copious redemption fell but on so few. The Gospel showed us that many are called but few are chosen."

She continued by saying, "Among so much variety of those that did not profess or confessed the faith, He told me of his creation that had the best disposition to

convert and where His mercy was more inclined was to those of Nuevo Mexico and other remote kingdoms in that area. His Highest manifested His will in this, He moved my spirit with new affection for the love of God and neighbor, and to cry out from the depths of my soul for those souls.”

From 1622-1625, she evangelized the natives in the the provinces of the Quiviras, Jumanos, and other areas of Nuevo Mexico, now known as San Angelo, Texas, Albuquerque, New Mexico, and Arizona. They called her “The Lady in Blue” because of the sky blue cloak of the Conceptionists that she wore over her white habit. The Jumanos said that where her cloak touched the ground, a particular blue flower grew. That flower is now the State Flower of Texas, the Bluebonnet.

Her fame, once again, brought her suffering and in a way a particular martyrdom. She prayed that this gift be taken away and her wish was granted.

She wrote several books, the most popular was, The Mystical City of God, The Life of the Virgin Mary, and others that were dictated by angels and the Virgin Mary, herself.

She celebrates her ‘birthday’ into heaven on May 24, 1665. Her body is incorruptible and may be seen in the chapel at the Convent of the Concepcionistas in the town of Ágreda, Spain. Incorruptible is a term given by the Roman Catholic Church and Greek Orthodox Church meaning that a dead body, usually a saint’s body does not go through the natural decomposition that other bodies experience as a sign of holiness.

She is in the process of sainthood and has been awaiting this since 1680. You may pray for Sor Maria de Jesus to intercede in any need. Testimonies are being accepted.