

# WOMEN DOCTORS OF THE CHURCH

“Doctor of the Church” is a title conferred by a variety of Christian Churches to individuals of recognized importance, particularly in the fields of theology or Christian doctrine. It can be granted to illustrious men and women who, for their sanctity, for the orthodoxy of their faith and, mainly for their eminent theological knowledge, are honored with this title by design of the Church.

The first proclamations of this title were made by Pope Boniface VIII in 1298, proclaiming Doctors of the Church, Saint Gregory, Saint Ambrose, Saint Augustine and Saint Jerome. The Church defines three preconditions placed for the proclamation: **1. *Eminens doctrina*** (importance of doctrine); **2. *Insignis vitae sanctitas*** (high degree of sanctity); **3. *Ecclesiae declaratio*** (proclamation of the Church). This third condition consists of a declaration by the Supreme Pontiff or a general council of the Church.

To date, the Catholic Church has proclaimed 37 doctors. Until 1970, no woman had been named a Doctor of the Church, but since then, four have joined the list:

**SAINT TERESA OF AVILA** and **SAINT CATHERINE OF SIENA**, proclaimed by Paul VI in 1970, **SAINT TERESA OF LISIEUX**, proclaimed by Saint John Paul II in 1997 and **SAINT HILDEGARD OF BINGEN**, proclaimed by Benedict XVI in 2012.

Teresa of Avila.



Hildegard of Bingen.



Catherine of Siena.



S<sup>te</sup> THÉRÈSE DE L'ENFANT-JÉSUS  
dans sa cellule, écrivant l' « Histoire de son Âme »

Teresa of Lisieux.

## THE PLAN

1. SAINT CATHERINA OF SIENA
2. SAINT TERESA OF AVILA
  - 2.1. Master of Spiritual life
3. SAINT TERESA OF LISIEUX
  - 3.1. The "little carmel flower"
  - 3.2. The Basilica Sanctuary
4. SAINT HILDEGARD OF BINGEN

1. SAINT CATHERINA OF SIENA



Dominican religious, Catherine of Siena, was born in Italy, was baptized with the name of Caterina Benincasa and lived between the years 1347 to 1380. According to Pope Paul VI, she received the title for the "peculiar excellence" of her doctrine.



Kingdom of Italy, 1866. Traveled letter from Siena, city where Catherina lived, to Pescia in Tuscany.



Italy, 1948. Registered express traveled cover, partially franchised with commemorative stamps of the 6th centenary of the birth of Catherine of Siena.

Printing error on the upper part of the stamps, causing slanted white lines.



Catherine of Siena was also marked by her work in defense of the Church and the Pope, especially in the late Middle Ages, when numerous conflicts arose against the Supreme Pontiff. Traveling from city to city, Catherine intervened to restore peace, thus becoming a staunch supporter of the Papacy.

Italy, 1980. Internally traveled card returned to the sender and franchised with multiple commemorative stamps to the 600 years of death of Catherine of Siena.



In addition to the title of Doctor of the Church, Saint Catherine of Siena was proclaimed patroness of Italy on June 18, 1866, along with Saint Francis of Assisi. Another important title was granted to her on October 1, 1999, when pope Saint John Paul II named her one of the six patron saints of Europe, along with five other saints.

Italy, 1963. Registered internally traveled cover, franchised with commemorative stamps of Catherine of Siena.



## 2. SAINT TERESA OF AVILA

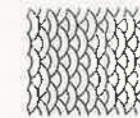
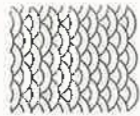


Saint Teresa of Avila, also known as Teresa of Jesus, lived between the years 1515 to 1582. Born Teresa Sánchez de Cepeda y Ahumada, she was a Carmelite nun, mystic and Catholic saint of the 16th century, important for her works on life contemplative and spiritual, and for its work during the "Catholic counter-reformation". She was also one of the reformers of the Carmelite Order and is considered a co-founder of the "Order of Discalced Carmelites", together with Saint John of the Cross.

→  
Color  
proofs.



33661



1.0.3-3

*solo Dios basta*      *teresa de Jesus*



Prephilatelic cover from the 19th century, with an illegible date on the postmark, circulated from Avila to Madrid, Kingdom of Spain, territories that perpetuate Teresa's religious, mystical, spiritual and intellectual legacy.

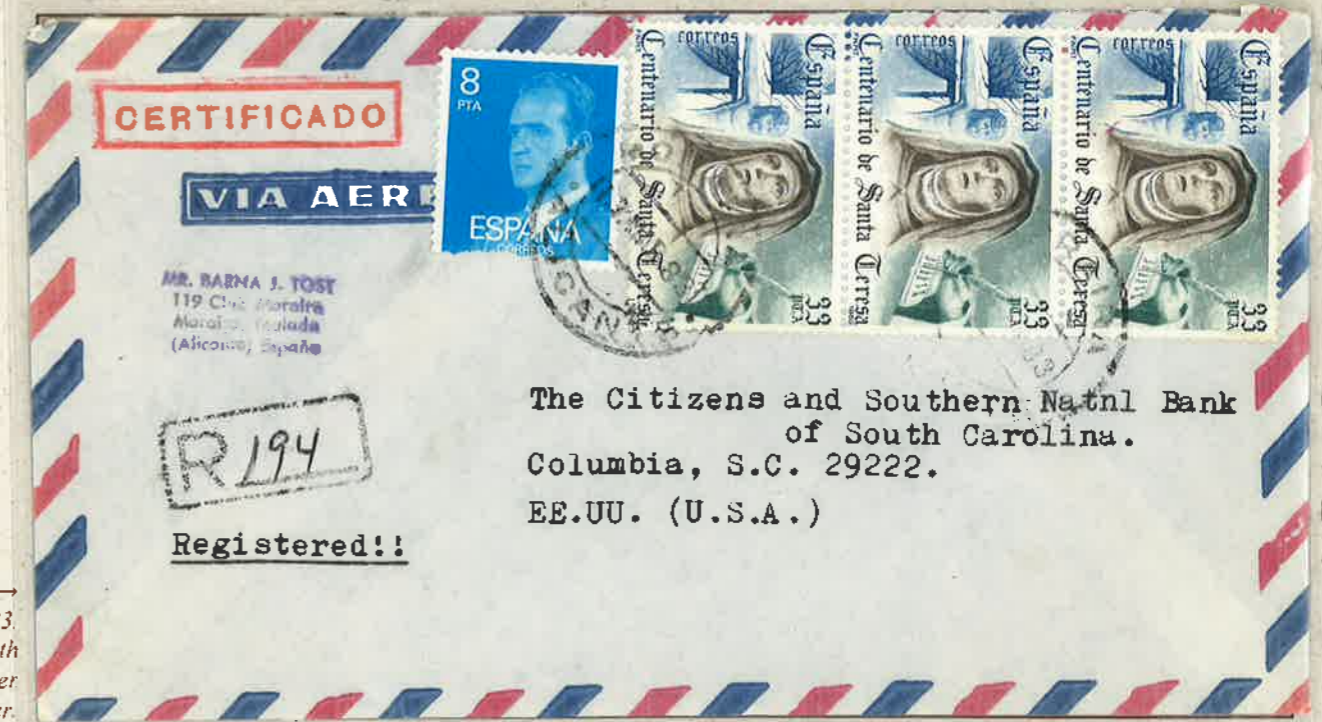
↑ Strip of imperforated stamps of Teresa of Avila with one of her most famous phrases: "Only God is enough for me".

Teresa was born in Gotarrendura, a town located in the province of Avila, in the Kingdom of Castile (now Spain), where she lived almost all of her 67 years of life.



→ Spain, 1983.

Registered cover traveled to USA partially franchised with the stamp of Saint Teresa of Avila, venerated as the Mother and reformer of Carmel and also the Teacher of prayer.



2.1. MASTER OF SPIRITUAL LIFE



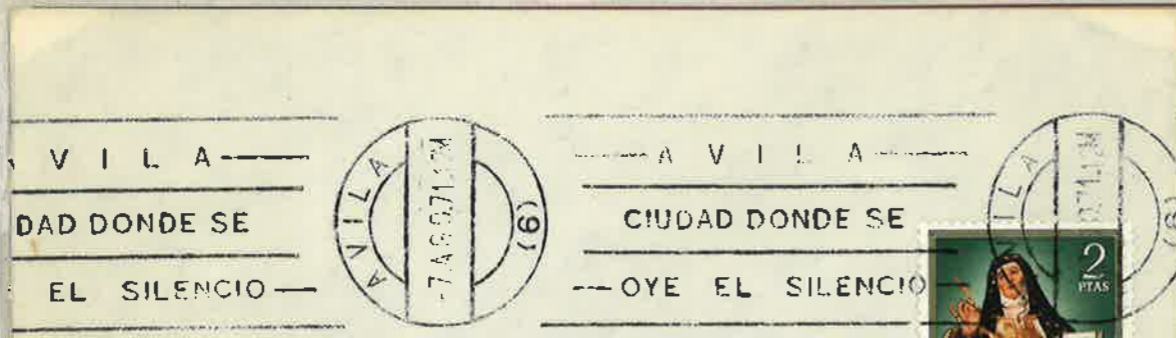
Pope Paul VI emphasized that the most important characteristic that made her worthy of the title of Doctor of the Church was her unique contribution as a mother and teacher of the spiritual life. He also recalled that Teresa was an exceptional woman who radiated exceptional human vitality and spiritual dynamism to the world.



Italy, 1998.  
Fragment: "Ecstasy of Saint Teresa".



Vertical perforation shifting.



Self-adhesive stamp.



ENRIQUE CAMPS  
Sepúlveda, 186, pral.  
BARCELONA-11 (Spa-Fra)

Spain, 1971.  
Internally traveled cover with mechanical postmark with the message – "Avila, the city where silence is heard." and commemorative Stamp of Teresa of Avila – Doctor of the Church.

Colombia, 1979.  
Fragment with Stamp and postmark of Teresa of Jesus.



The works of Teresa are among the most remarkable in mystical literature in general and also in the entire Catholic Church. Among them, we can highlight her "Autobiography" written around the year 1567.



### 3. SAINT TERESA OF LISIEUX



Marie-Françoise-Thérèse Martin, known as Saint Teresa of the Child Jesus and the Holy Face, was a French Discalced Carmelite nun known as one of the most influential models of holiness for Catholics and religious in general, mainly for her practical and simple way of approaching the spiritual life. Along with Saint Francis of Assisi, she is one of the most popular saints in Church history. She was born in Alençon, France, on January 2, 1873, and had a very brief life, dying at just 24 years old. She was the daughter of Saint Marie-Azélie Guérin, an embroiderer, and Saint Louis Martin, a jeweler and watchmaker, both devout Catholics. Teresa is the youngest Saint among all the Doctors of the Church.

Color proofs.



Imperforate Stamp.

Registered cover traveled from Brazil to Venezuela and returned to the issuer due to probable address failure.

At the age of fourteen, Teresa already knew that her vocation was to pray for the priests of the church, to be an "apostle of the apostles". In September 1890, at her canon examination before professing her religious vows, she was asked why she wanted to enter Carmel. Her response was: "I want to save souls and especially pray for priests". Throughout her life, Teresa prayed fervently for them and corresponded with many others. She believed, as she wrote to her sister, that "our mission as Carmelites is to train evangelical missionaries who will save thousands of souls to whom we will mother."



Surcharged stamp.

France, 1873. Traveled cover posted in the city of Alençon, in the same month and year that little Marie-Françoise-Thérèse was born in the city.



Deluxe final proof.

"The Story of a Soul" was her greatest written work. A collection of autobiographical manuscripts, published and distributed a year after his death, made a huge impact and was widely acclaimed.



Color proof.



In addition to her popular autobiography, Teresa also left texts, letters, poems, religious pieces and prayers. His last conversations were also preserved by his sisters. Paintings and photographs, mostly by her sister Céline, helped to further enhance Teresa's popularity.

France, 1873. Year of Teresa's birth - Internally traveled cover from Lisieux to Isère.



### 3.1. THE "LITTLE CARMEL FLOWER"

Teresa received her call to religious life early. After overcoming numerous obstacles, she was successful in 1888, at just fifteen years old, to become a nun, joining her two older sisters in the cloistered Carmelite community in Lisieux, Normandy region of France. In her nine years at Carmel, she held positions as sacristan and assistant to the mistress of novices.

The "Little Flower of Carmel", as Teresa was affectionately known, is one of the most popular Catholic saints since the apostolic age, and has inspired many through her devotion and faith.

*Gabon, 1975.  
Traveled air cover to France partially  
franchised with a stamp commemorating the  
birth centenary of Teresa of the Child Jesus.*



25.10.72

*Color proofs.*

As a Doctor of the Church, she is subject to intense theological debate and study, and as a charming young woman whose message touched the lives of millions, she is the focus of fervent popular devotion. Pope Pius X called her "the greatest of modern saints".



*Color proofs.*

*Imperforate stamps.*



*France, 1974.  
Internally traveled  
cover franchised  
with bisected stamp  
commemorative to  
the 100th Years of  
Teresa's birth  
(1973).*

*Monsieur J. Rogrand  
70, Avenue de la République  
76310 Le Havre*

*Color proofs.*



### 3.2. THE BASILICA SANCTUARY



On the initiative of the Bishop of Lisieux, a monumental Basilica was built in honor of Teresa of Lisieux. Begun in 1929, construction was completed in 1954, and was solely financed through donations and special contributions from many countries around the world. The Basilica has 18 smaller altars dedicated to the nations that contributed to its construction. It also houses a crypt inside, and is completely decorated with marble and mosaics that portray the Little Flower's life passages.



France, 1969. Fragment with mechanical postmark illustrating the Basilica of Lisieux, an important pilgrimage center for Therese's devotees.



Color proofs.



France, 2014. Self-adhesive stamps card with portraits of Saint Teresa and reproductions of excerpts from her texts, many of these with the originals that are part of the collection of the Basilica of Lisieux.



Die proof with engraver signature.

France, 1961. Traveled postcard with redmeter stamp model Satas "S" (Basilica of Lisieux).

Perforate stamp and progressive color proofs:



4. SAINT HILDEGARD OF BINGEN



Saint Hildegard of Bingen, was a mystic, theologian and German Benedictine nun, who lived between the years 1098 and 1179. A much cited personality but in fact little known by the great modern public, breaking the barriers of prejudice against women that existed in her In time, he became respected as an authority on theological matters, praised by his contemporaries in high terms. Today she is considered one of the most unique and important figures of the European twelfth century.

Germany, 1998. Meter stamp model Frama "MF" "CIVITAS" - one of her most important written works.



Fragment with commemorative stamp and postmark.

Bingen am Rhein, 1857. Letter traveled in the year the remaining ruins of Rupertsberg Monastery, founded by Hildegard in 1150, were demolished.



Germany, 2001. Registered traveled cover with commemorative stamp of Saint Hildegard of Bingen.

Her various and extensive writings show that she had a mystical and integrated conception of the universe, even though this conception did not exclude realism and encountered many problems in the world. The solution for them, according to her ideas, should come from a cooperative and harmonious union between body and spirit, between nature, human will and divine grace.

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Germany, 1998. Postal stationery with printed commemorative stamp of Saint Hildegard of Bingen.

Federal Republic of Germany, 1979. Registered traveled cover with commemorative stamp of Saint Hildegard of Bingen.



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