

Venerable Anna of Saint Augustine

1555-1624

Anna was born in Valladolid on December 11, 1555. In 1577 she was accepted at the Carmelite Monastery of Malagón where in 1578 she professed her final and solemn vows.

She was favored by extraordinary mystical experiences and these were examined and authenticated by St. Teresa of Avila herself. She charged her with the foundation of the monastery at Villanueva de la Jara and made her its Prioress. She was later sent to the monastery of Valera of Abajo. In 1616 she returned once again as Prioress of the Monastery at Villanueva where she spent her remaining years.

From her infancy, Venerable Anna was favored by extraordinary communication and mystical graces with God. Particularly unique was her rapport with the Infant Jesus, her teacher and her consolation. Thanks to her autobiography, written in obedience to the wishes of her spiritual director, Father Joseph of Jesus and Mary, we know of all these supernatural experiences, including all those with the Angelic orders. When, for example, she was nominated Prioress of the Monastery at Villanueva against her will, Our Lord appeared to her accompanied by two angels of unsurpassed beauty. Our Lord then asked her: Why are you so troubled? I am giving you these two angels to assist you! They were her own Guardian Angel and an extraordinary one. One day, this extraordinary Angel appeared to her, carrying an immense cross upon his shoulders. The cross signified the trials awaiting her. Seeking some consolation, she then paid a visit to the Blessed Sacrament where Our Lord appeared to her, standing

and surrounded by Angels in adoration, radiant with such light that the entire Chapel was completely illuminated.

These two Angels assisted her for the duration of her term as Prioress. And they continued to visit her long after her term of office as Prioress was over.

