



The Interior Castle
ST. TERESA OF AVILA

THE METHOD

The Order study of Saint Teresa will be to chart the interior journey of the disciplined life.

In the second quarter of the year 1968/69 an exhaustive charting of the Interior Castle was done as well as being the Order study for two full quarters in that year. The charts of the whole book and of the seven mansions will be made available to the Congregations. These charts will be examined and refined in light of the Order's study of the Other World charts, the St. John studies, and the Sanctification triangles

The method for Saint Teresa will be to analyze the spirit journey with the methods which were found effective in the study of Saint John of the Cross. Saint Teresa's analogies and practical hints for living in a religious order are important clues for the Order's "turn to the world."

In order to being a 20th century description of the phenomenon of the spirit journey, each seminary time will conclude by writing a paraphrase of the key sections. These paraphrases will be given to the Research centrum, who will compile the Order's work on the Interior Castles. Each ecclesiola will need to appoint a scribe for the quarter

STUDY METHOD: Wednesday Preparation

I. Chart the assigned section of a mansion by paragraph, including summary sentences for each section of the chart and for the whole section.

II. List analogies for this mansion. "It is like..."

A. Saint Teresa's

B. Others

1. Literary

2. Historical

3. Contemporary

4. Other World

III . Paraphrase the assigned section in each mansion.

SEMINAR METHOD (90 minutes)

I. Lecturette (5 min.)

A. Overview of the seven mansions

B. Brief context of this mansion in the total Spirit Journey

II. Chart (20 min.)

A. Go over the chart of the mansion locating tonight's selection

B. Get out the corporate chart of the assigned selection from the group.

III. Corporate Study (40 min.)

A. List the key analogies Teresa uses and get out your own. Discuss the great thoughts, feels and resolves here.

B. Ground the sections of the chart using the study preparation work on analogies.

IV. Paraphrase(25 min.)

A. Read several paraphrases. Get quick responses.

B. Indicate how paraphrase should be changed and assign two people to refine the paraphrase and turn in.

THE TIMES OF ST. TERESA

What Events took place during the time when St. Teresa lived?

Spanish Inquisition	Copernicus
Renaissance	Medicci Family
Jacques Cartier in Canada	Jamestown (1607)
John of the Cross	Printing PressCutenburg
Don Quixote Cervantes	St. Augustine
Luther Galileo	Magellan
50 years previously Columbus discovered America	Shakespeare (1592 Hamlet) Phillip the Second
Leonardo de Vinci	Jesuits/Colleges (Cambridge, Oxford)
Spanish Armada (1588)	Music of Palestrina
Pit and Perdulum (written later) describes this period	English language solidifying Protestant reformation
Spain at height of conquest	Michaelangelo
CounterTransformation	Peasants Wars (revolt)
Vasco de Gama	ErasmusHolland (writer)
BaIboa	Calvin
John Cabot	Spencer (The Fairie Queen)
Cortez, Pizarro	Teresa read Augustine's Confessions
Coronado	Controversy order reform & controversy
Pirateering	Sir Francis Drake

Teresa's dates: b. Mar. 28, 1515; d. Oct. 15, 1582.

What trends did you see going on?

	New excitement - new sights
	Emerging vision of globe (round)
	Church crisis
Individual freedom and creativity	Interior reflection
Pol. tyrant/ Cul. ally/ Eco. collapse and shift	Early medicine - scientific investigation
Real humanism (belief in man) blossoming	Disaster and treachery
Scientific breakthrough	Towns (walled cities) emerging
Discovery of new land	History emerging as way you relate to present
Loss of sense of divine right of kings	Man's conscience over against law
Split in church and state	(Thomas More)
From land to sea	New moralism emerging
TURMOIL breaking through of the new	
Man worth studying about	

What would a God lecture in the 16th Century look like?

ESCAPE:

EXTERNAL SITUATION:

Push into legalism/look for certainty

New reality from 2 to 3 dimensions

Farfetched fads/hedonism

Physical expansion

Urge to rationalize

This world come alive

Retreat to history for stability

INTERNAL CRISIS:

Subjectivism (own exp. Of nature)

Mancenteredness

EXISTENTIAL QUESTION

Restlessness/dissatisfaction/yet fear

What is worth striving after

How is man significant

What is real?/ What can I trust

What is human life about?/ What guides me?

THE TIMES OF ST, TERESA (CONTINUED)

How does Teresa fit in?

Own autobiography in street language

She was unlettered/originality

Dealing with existential question (what be I?)

Religious in midst of secular

Strong individual

Romanticism transformed (imagery of the day)

Humility in individualism

Refocused space issue from center of universecenter of being

Brother a wealthy Spanish conquistador who wrote her letters from Latin America

"Great" Teresa not the more popular St. Teresa of Southern France who was also known as "Little Teresa" or "Little Flower"

What is a soul?

Conscious relationship to life

Your interior

Incredibly beautiful

Center of consciousness

Connecting rod to All That Is

Essence of being within yourself

Ground of your being

When have you experienced soul?

Hand separate from me yet me.

That part of you which takes in the awe

Vitality Be being fully

Who are people of Soul?

Kahlil Gibran (motivity)

Nikos Kazantzakis

Everyone

ORDER STUDY INTERIOR CASTLE

Quarter II, 197374 St. Teresa

PEDAGOGY RECOMMENDATIONS

Session 2

1. As the analogy is fairly complex, either the pedagogue needs to prepare a grid of the fountains and basins and of associated happenings with each part; or, be prepared to draw the data from the group illustrating on the board.
2. Some 2 X 2 chart of the illustrations for each fountain, allowing dialogue aimed at comparing the two types of experiences is needed.
3. Pedagogy needs to be on top of basic structure of analogy, dynamics of facilities, dynamics of soul, and Teresa's running witness to the truth of what she says.

4 WHERE THE GROUP SPUN:

little shepherd boysgrid

satisfaction through own skill

when experience interior dilation ineffable blessings

1. WHERE PEOPLE NEEDS ENABLE GROUP TO GET OUT INSIGHTS AND STRUGGLE WITH ISSUES:

deep secrets in self that cannot fathom

difference between humility and detachment

6. OTHER SPIN: What is the reality being described by this analogy?

Humans are receptacle or containers which are infused or become full.

Two dynamics: one is human and one is "of God" or divine which brings or allows us to arrive at knowledge of God (Teresa is consolation) and participate in his being.

Reality is relatedness: active/passive.

Try to gain insight and "unpreparing".

How a human being meets the mystery midst of life.

1. Symbols: insights life (struggle)

(2) Mystery: everywhere life In the midst of a breakthru to the meaning of life, a man experiences himself as experiencing only a minuscule portion of reality and yet is consoled, that there is more to experience and says yes to being limited.

14 OCTOBER 1973

St. Teresa

Task Force

St. Teresa Commentaries

Week I.2

Oct. 14, 1973

MAJORITY - OABO) CAP MANY (DYNAMICAL) DIMENSIONS of a person's interior being (depth \rightarrow to the mystery)

ANNOTATION (FAVOR) - "SOMETIMES IT HAPPENS, SOMETIMES IT DOESN'T"

SPIRITUAL (CON)DITATIONS - strange peace of vitality that "enters" a person's inner being, seemingly from outside, in midst of life + often manifests itself externally in a person's mood, emotions, etc.

HUMILITY - Decisional \rightarrow to allow life when I stand present w/ my total being (\neq just w/out mind) to the fact that we can't grasp the mystery in life.

DETACHMENT - Decisional \rightarrow to life of not *schmelzen* + we (rather \neq deciding to be open to wonder that is already there).

PARAPHRASE

(THE CONTEXT IS (LIVING MY LIFE): the strange peace of vitality that cannot be manipulated by my efforts. Sometimes or oftentimes I feel my (sense of) full-fulfillment, "come in" to my life when I stand present (am open) with my entire being to life in all its dimensions at every moment. This strange "sense" (whatever poetry you use) is a gift in the midst of life. Sometimes it happens, sometimes it doesn't. **THE MYSTERY IS IN CONTROL.**

Sometimes, **(PERSONAL)**
1. When I see a brilliant orange sunrise, I sense awe + feel small + am motivated to "get going" into the day.

ILLUSTRATION

(SOCIOLOGICAL)
1. Singing of the Halleluiah can sometimes leave an audience w/ sense of exaltation, wonder, etc.

IMPACT

FINAL COMMENTARY (FREEDOM)

This fulfillment, peace, motivation (whatever you call it) flows into my being if only I decide to stand present (be open) with my whole being to the mystery that is just there at every moment. Of course, it is a gift - sometimes it happens, sometimes \neq . The mystery is in control. (God \neq obliged).

ISSUE - Men and women today are asking: How do I experience fulfillment (joy, etc.)?

[This section addresses this deep existential urge.]

INSIGHT - The way you experience fulfillment is deciding to be like contentment one you are, by deciding to remain open and present to the mystery that is just there at every moment.

* Teresa assumes throughout that Jesus Christ is a living reality in a person's life. St Teresa, Session 2, pg. 11

ORDER STUDY INTERIOR CASTLE

Quarter II, 197374 St. Teresa

LAWYER'S BRIFF

Session 2

EXPLANATION/IMAGES

In the ongoing experience of life, every person experiences or can experience a strange vitality or peace that seems to come from without and permeates to his inner being. Sometimes this experience can happen by means of life's wonder by using devices of our human rationality, for example carefully created and used Psalm conversation can unlock the deeps and enable awe to break loose in a group. Or other times in the midst of everyday living, I can decide to stand present in the deeps to the wonder that is already there to be seized at each moment; when I do, new life, peace in the midst of struggle, rushes into me. For example when I say YES to the excitement of the future, in these dreadful times, I am given new possibility living in the here and now.

EXPERIENCE

Everyone in the 20th century can experience fulfillment. This experience arises in the midst of expansion of inner space as new worlds are broken open and embraced. It is attended by increasing sense of relatedness to all that is, and a grateful acknowledgment of the manifold blessings in the midst of nittygritty mundane events of life. Fulfillment which originates within the interior deeps is not caused by senses, but it does activate the senses. It is not, in the first instance, a doing experience, although doing may be present. For example, an art museum director who sees the possibility of his art impacting the local community with styles, designs, and imagery from across the globe and through history might experience fulfillment.

STANCE

Like tiny ants, we creatures experience our not knowing and the fact that all our knowing amounts to nothing at all. Like Freshman college students, we discover that our knowledge is only a minuscule part of all of life. In this we are present, more than at other times, to the knowing which is otherwise secret or hidden from us, and this may manifestly increase our style of detachment and openness which is the treasure.