

ANNE OF ST. AUGUSTINE (Anne de Pedruja, 1555-1624)
Venerable (D)

Anne was born at Valladolid on Dec. 11, 1555, and died at Villanueva de la Jara (Cuenca) on Dec. 11, 1624. Accepted by St. Teresa as a Discalced Carmelite nun, she entered the monastery of Malagón in 1577 and there made her profession on May 14, 1578. Graced with mystical experiences, in 1579 she was examined by St. Teresa herself, who had come to Malagón for that precise purpose, and was completely vindicated. In 1580 the saint chose Anne as foundress of the monastery of Villanueva de la Jara, of which she was elected prioress in 1596. Later, during the years of 1600-16, she transferred to the new foundation of Valera de Abajo (Cuenca), which she herself established. Then, having returned to Villanueva in 1616 as prioress, she spent her last years in loving fidelity to the will of God and in continual prayer.

From her very first years the life of Anne was countersigned by sublime communications with God and by extraordinary mystical graces. Particularly noteworthy is her admirable intimacy with the Child Jesus, her teacher and consoler. Her Autobiography, written at the command of Father Joseph of Jesus Mary (1606) and preserved unpublished at Palencia, reveals, even through her deep humility, her elevated mystical life and her profound wisdom and knowledge of the mysteries of God. The heroicity of Anne's virtues was decreed by Pope Pius VI on Sept. 15, 1776.

BIBLIOGRAPHY: Alonso de S. Jerónimo, *Vida... de la ven. M. Ana de San Agustín*, Madrid 1668; G. M. Salvatori, *Vita delta ven. Anna di S. Agostino*, Rome 1777; Benedicto de S. José, *Vida de la Ven. Ana de S. Agustín*, Valencia 1928; Silverio Historia IX, c. X, pp. 260-293.

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