

St. Teresa of Avila

St. Teresa, a reformed Spanish Carmelite, founded monasteries and convents and wrote perhaps the most definitive works in history of mystical prayer. Here she is shown with her eyes fixed on the Holy Spirit, who she called “the beloved” and is symbolized by a white dove. The towers of Avila are in the background. She is dancing with tambourine and castanets to her beloved. Besides being historically accurate, this gesture is testimony to her *duende* - a Spanish word for the ineffable, soulful passion and mystery in Spanish music and art. The two fires were a description she used for her soul mingling with God in prayer. “Since my beloved is for me and I for my beloved who will be able to separate and extinguish two fires so enkindled?” She is next to St. Joseph for whom she had a particular devotion.

The Carmelite Sisters of St. Teresa of the Infant Jesus from Kerala, India, established its first foundation in the United States in Pratt at the invitation of Bishop Eugene J. Gerber. The Sisters taught at Sacred Heart School in Pratt from 1980 to 1995 before relocating.

