



Saint of the Week

John of the Cross

1542–1591

Memorial—December 14

A Doctor of the Church, John is also one of its great mystics and poets. Born Juan de Yepes de Alvarez in Spain, he was raised by his mother and entered a Carmelite monastery in 1563. He was ordained in 1567. Finding the Carmelites very lax, he joined with St. Teresa of Avila to reform the order. In 1568, he entered the first reformed house for men, taking the

name John of the Cross. He encountered severe opposition and was even imprisoned for nine months in a monastery cell, where he began writing poems. The *Dark Night of the Soul* is his most famous work. Only after his death was John recognized as co-founder of the Discalced Carmelites. He is the patron saint of mystics and poets.



“ We must dig deeply in Christ. He is like a rich mine with many pockets containing treasures: however deep we dig we will never find their end or their limit. Indeed, in every pocket new seams of fresh riches are discovered on all sides. ”

— St. John of the Cross



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