

Immaculate Conception

December 8

Hail to thee, O Mary,
the daughter of the Father.
Hail to thee, O Mary,
conceived without sin.



SOMETHING OLD, SOMETHING NEW CATHOLIC EXPERIENCE FROM TERESA'S VIEW

(Taken from the book, 'The Ascent to Truth' by: Fr. Louis, O.C.S.O., 1951)

"As for directors who do not know their business, Saint Teresa has something more to say about them. She hated to see a contemplative fall into the hands of such a one, with no chance to consult anyone else: 'For directors who cannot understand spirituality, afflict their penitents both in soul and in body and prevent them from making progress.' She advised all those who could choose their own director to take full advantage of their freedom. And she expressed her sympathy for those who had no recourse to any but one unenlightened guide who, besides laying down the law about the spiritual life in a way that made prayer a great burden, also arrogated to himself a tyrannical command over the soul.

"It is interesting to see what she gives as an example of stupid direction. A married woman is attracted to a life of prayer. Her confessor, instead of telling her how to carry out her household duties in a spirit of prayer, tells her to drop her work and to pray when she ought to be doing the dishes. Her life of prayer at once becomes an obstacle to her happiness as a wife, and her marriage at the same time, erects a barrier between herself and God." □