

ORDER OF SANTIAGO

The Military Order of Santiago was founded in 1160 by Ferdinand II of León and 12 gentlemen who decided to form a religious congregation attacks against Muslims and protect pilgrims to Santiago de Compostela.

His teaching was a distinctive cross-shaped sword. The Lion King Ferdinand II is recognized as the first knight of the order to be father and founder, ceding lands in Cáceres in 1170, then border with the Muslim kingdoms.

The first military monks Hermanos de Cáceres, or Lords Congregation of Cáceres Cáceres is called taking possessions and spread through the rest of Extremadura, Astorga and Tagus riverfront.

It seems, though not confirmed the story, which fell out with the king of León Fernando II, former founder and first gentleman and banished from his kingdom in 1170. They decided therefore to go to the king of Castile.

His first Master was Pedro Fernández whom the king of Castile Alonso IX (son of Ferdinand II of León) gave them Atalaya Castle to be his main convent.

Alfonso VIII in the year 1174 they gave the monastery of Uclés to defend the border and since then the population of Uclés hosted the this Order.

Participated in the battle of Las Navas de Tolosa in 1212, but motivated by the accumulation of wealth and political power, the Order deviated from its original mission and the Catholic Monarchs in 1493 by the Master and his possessions were made.

Since then the title of Knight of Santiago is purely honorary.

MONASTERY OF SANTIAGO APOSTLE OF TOLEDO, SINCE 1502

In the General Chapter of the Order of Santiago, meeting in Ecija (Sevilla) in 1485, it was agreed to move the female monastery of Sancti Spiritus from Salamanca to Llerena (Badajoz), the Santa Eufemia of Cozollo to Ocaña (Toledo) and male San Marcos de Leon Guadalcanal in the

province of Seville. For this authorization to be asked Pope Innocent VIII. The reasons were understood in that historical context.

The monasteries were cited in areas where the Order had no great territorial power, which would cause problems of control and defense of the Communities and their property. However, the move to Extremadura, Andalusia and Castilla la Nueva resolved these difficulties, and favored compliance with the Rule, the periodic removal of the friars knights and optional retirement wives and daughters of knights in the female. In 1486 Pope Innocent VIII (1432-1492) granted the transfer Maestre Alonso de Cárdenas (1477-1493), but the project communities and economic difficulties with large expenses as opposed paralyzed. Only the transfer of the Convent of Santa Eufemia was conducted by the generosity of Queen Isabel the Catholic, but moved to Ocaña, but to Toledo.

In Toledo possessed the Military Order of Calatrava part of the Palaces of Galiana with a priory; but the Catholic Monarchs demanded Order your barter for a major synagogues of the Jews who were in the parish of Santo Tomé, Santa María la Blanca today. They made the change in 1494 with the permission of Archbishop Don Pedro González de Mendoza and Chapter of Toledo.

Thus, all arranged and prepared, the Nuns of Santa Eufemia of Cozollo year 1502 came in number 28 and stayed at the Monastery of San Pedro de las Duenas, chaired by the Mayor Comendadora María de Castañeda, sister of Mr. of Hormazas. Then they went to the Monastery of Carmen Calzado, as recorded by royal charter shipped in Alcalá de Henares on February 28, 1502. The donation was Queen Elizabeth. It was called the church of Santa María de Alficén was the primate church when the Moors conquered Toledo on May 25, 1085 by King Alfonso VI (1065-1109).

The construction of the Santa Fe is projected in 1505 by a royal decree giving the mints and taken to Children's Hospital foundling homes of the Owners of San Pedro. Another Real certificate, dispatched from Medina del Campo (Valladolid), ordered the treasurer of the mints vacate sending factory elsewhere and start the Convento de Santa Fe. This Holy Virgin, born in Agen (France), suffered martyrdom of fire in a grill on 6 October Daciano 303 per order, together with San Caprasio, St. Primus and

Felician. Queen Isabella was very devoted to the Virgin, the owner called his monastery and gave this name to a town in the province of Granada. Santa Fe is celebrated on October 6.

The monastery was within the royal palaces and the name of Santa Fe. In it held for many years Purses Toledo two feasts, the day of Santiago, July 25, and the day of Santa Fe, October 6.

Following the style of the era, the monastery began to collect private donations with which the nuns and worship of the church is held. This was build 1527. Among the donations listed some houses in the parish of San Justo and other grants made by Don Alvaro de Luna, a descendant of that famous Constable of Castile and Master of Santiago who was beheaded in Valladolid in 1453. that Don Alvaro agreed with his wife, Dona Ines Quemada, who paid into Santa Fe-de Toledo her three daughters Teresa, White and Sancha. Two daughters also entered the fourth Earl of Fuensalida Catalina and María. This was on June 23, 1594. The founding of a chaplaincy is also noted on 26 August 1622 by Dona Guiomar de Cepeda, Apple Eugenio woman.

The spiritual path Monasterio de Toledo is praised in the biography of the Infanta Dona. Sancha:

"The great honor that the divine and the human saved. The authority preserved in all their actions. The glory that possess the assistance of the sacraments. The frequency and devotion Choir. The care and concern in divine worship. The authority in their government. The gravity on his suit. The charge in the fulfillment of his Institute. Holiness in his works and the many religious distinguished under that have flourished in this convent »

Among many, quoted Sister Maria Bautista, which in 1664 wrote his biography Sor María de Santa Isabel. It was a religious whom the Lord lay heaped extraordinary graces. He died in Toledo on December 31, 1663 after having reached the heights of contemplation. His funeral was conducted with the assistance of the Knights of Santiago with his long white habits and santiaguista red cross. For a story writer makes us recall

the liturgy of the time. It is the same vision as El Greco, some years before, be the expression masterfully in Burial of Count Orgaz '.

As indicated in the history of the Monastery of Granada, the Santa Fe de Toledo suffered the same and perhaps hardest political impacts of the nineteenth century: the seizure with the secularization and the revolution of September 1868, commanded by General Prim. Because of this revolution was reduced to two nuns alone, Dona Francisca de Sales Davila and Fernandez, who served as Mayor Comendadora, and Dona Carmen Bermejo and Grill, sergenta or lay convent, which was prevented bed. This nun, Francisca Davila, despite being alone in the monastery, he continued to go to Coro and pray the Divine Office as if in Community. Rejected the proposal to go to a monastery of another Order, and aided by the Community Manager, Hon. Mr. Ramon Riu and Cabanas, lectoral canon of the S: I: P: and then Bishop of Solsona, secure the necessary support from the Monastery of Granada to subsist the Community.

Cardinal Miguel Paya and Rico (1811-1891), archbishop of Toledo, offered the Convent of Carmelite Fathers, then Seminario Conciliar. The project was not achieved by the death of Mayor Dona Florentina Sanchez Comendadora Matía. Thanks to the Monastery of Granada, which sends in June 1888 Dona Carmen Perez and Machicado and Dona Enriqueta Garcia Taboada and Candidate Carmen Alonso, Santa Fe de Toledo manages to overcome the very great test and prevent its closure.

In 1887 the Monastery ceded to the City of Toledo part of the belvedere for public adornment, receiving in return a good sum to defray the necessary repairs.

With the advent of the Second Republic on April 14, 1931, the Republican government imposed taxes so large that it was impossible to pay and were forced to sell the monastery. Acquired the Bank of Spain, but intervened Fine Arts and bought the Sisters of the Holy Family to a school, thus avoiding demolition and preserving the architectural riches of that monument which had been a royal residence with its beautiful coffered

ceilings, large rooms and stairs Monumental. By the 70s these religious sold it, by buying the state to expand the Santa Cruz Museum and Library. But they have not done the work and these almost thirty years the building has been in a sorry state.

The Republic filled with anxiety to the religious orders. Many of their monasteries, houses, possessions, files and religious art suffered because of him. In 1935 they were forced, by economic difficulties, to leave the Convento de Santa Fe, who had inhabited since the sixteenth century. Before Comendadoras had purchased a large area of Santiago del Convento de Santo Domingo el Real and the refectory of the Dominican.

Initially the Community held a provisional corito sharing the church of Santo Domingo. After the civil war in the former refectory was the church choir which opened on July 25, 1942. In the church two side altars with baroque altarpieces brought from Santa Fe were placed: the Christ of the Good Death and the Virgen de los Dolores, 1743.

The altarpiece of Santa Fe Abbey was sold to Dona Josefa Renilla, who donated it to the people of Navalmorales, the organ to the parish of Navahermosa and the bells of the parish of Manasalbas. In the present altarpiece, which is modern and simple, is the image of Santa Fe and little angels holding the cross of Santiago from the former altarpiece.

In today's Choir, which has a coffered ceiling, walnut stalls other Renaissance monastery with 25 chairs are placed. The part of the Monastery of Santo Domingo gained by Comendadoras of Santiago was badly damaged and the difficult years of the war and postwar do not allow restoration needed and the July 18, 1946 overnight roof collapsed cells being most of the nuns under the rubble; but the Lord watched over them and no personal misfortunes, the beams were great, they were supported by the cots of beds and no glasses sister who appeared under the table broke; Firefighters were pulled from the rubble by gaps to move from one cell to another and the next morning the whole Community could participate in the Mass dusty though it took to make it disappear.

The transfer is being made Comendadora Mayor M. Adela Gonzalez Perez, a native of La Nuez de Arriba (Burgos), who died at 90 years 10 April 1957. This mother was a model and teacher Comendadoras; living compliance, their brotherly love brought her to offer God one eye to another sister not lose sight entirely.

She lived 10 years blind, the other Sister, Sister Mercedes Anton, died more than 90 years preserving sight until the end of his life. He died on 1 March 1986.

High upon the wall and with views of the valley, the current convent is like a watchtower, from this great balcony sunrises clear days are contemplated, beautiful sunsets, the sky full of clouds and at night decked with shining stars and fields changing its appearance as the seasons; also contemplated the coming and going of cars and people for the new quarters of the expansion of the city, between the highways of Madrid and Ávila. On the opposite side is the Plaza de Santo Domingo and the Shed, silent and quiet places and sides convent of Santo Domingo el Real, Santa Clara and PP. Carmelites; all provide an environment conducive to the contemplative life.

The so-called faculty of the Mona is the primary nucleus of the convent, is an important example of clasicista style and desornamentado the last third of the sixteenth century, designed by Diego de Alcántara, disciple and collaborator of Juan de Herrera; has double Tuscan columns and balustrade railing and arches and paneled ceiling with rich decoration; It has a base of Talavera tiles protruding above it and alternating coat of Santo Domingo and flower vases, and has a triptych in each of its angles valuable but very deteriorated paint.

This monastery known since 1502 in Toledo Monasterio de Santa Fe, today is called "Monastery of St. James", because in both ecclesiastical government agencies and civilians has been given this name no longer reside in the building of Santa Fe .

Today the Community life is replete with a number close to 30 religious and a school of young children, and looks to the future with hope reaffirming their consecration by santiaguista charisma