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Autore Apostoles Francisca de los

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Ahlgren

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Nota di contenuto Front matter -- CONTENTS -- Acknowledgments -- Series Editors'

Introduction -- Volume Editor's Introduction -- Volume Editor's

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of Francisca de los Apóstoles -- A. Theological Consultants'

Assessment -- B. Analysis of Accusations -- C. Cast of Characters: Biographical Notes -- D. Chronology of the Tr i a I -- Series Editors'

Bibliography -- Index

Sommario/riassunto Inspired by a series of visions, Francisca de los Apóstoles (1539-after

1578) and her sister Isabella attempted in 1573 to organize a beaterio, a lay community of pious women devoted to the religious life, to offer prayers and penance for the reparation of human sin, especially those of corrupt clerics. But their efforts to minister to the poor of Toledo and to call for general ecclesiastical reform were met with resistance, first from local religious officials and, later, from the Spanish Inquisition. By early 1575, the Inquisitional tribunal in Toledo had received several statements denouncing Francisca from some of the very women she had tried to help, as well as from some of her financial and religious sponsors. Francisca was eventually arrested, imprisoned by the Inquisition, and investigated for religious fraud. This book contains

what little is known about Francisca-the several letters she wrote as well as the transcript of her trial-and offers modern readers a perspective on the unique role and status of religious women in sixteenth-century Spain. Chronicling the drama of Francisca's interrogation and her spirited but ultimately unsuccessful defense, The Inquisition of Francisca-transcribed from more than three hundred folios and published for the first time in any language-will be a valuable resource for both specialists and students of the history and religion of Spain in the sixteenth century.