



Letter to the Teresian Family on the feast of Saint Henry de Ossó

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Dear Teresian Family:

Like every January 27, those of us who are part of this great family feel we are gathered together around St. Henry de Ossó. In any part of the world where we Teresians are, surely today, we recall some aspect of his life, the writings of the Solitary One, anecdotes about this apostle, feelings about this friend of the friends of God, confessions of this man of faith or lover of Teresa of Jesus, commitments made by this faithful son of the Church of his time...and together we celebrate it.

This year I paused while reading an article of the Solitary One that he wrote in the Teresian magazine three months before his death. Here, at the heights of his life, full of the fruits of his labor, of his seeking, of joys and of much suffering, Henry de Ossó shares with us the secret of that loving exchange between him and God, which has filled him with greatness of spirit, strength, resilience, daring and creativity. Those who discover this secret, St. Henry tells us, and daringly entrust themselves to its movement, ***"give to God and He returns their gift a hundredfold: they repeat the gift, and it is multiplied again, and in this quest of generosity they spend their lives as perfect lovers, until a fatal wound finally introduces them to the region of perfect love. O divine lovers! ... here you begin to live from that life above, which is true life... the life of love."***¹

As simply as this, three months before *finally being introduced to the region of perfect love*, Henry describes the dynamism of the FRIENDS OF GOD, which is the secret of the spiritual life of every believer. Whoever discovers this **"quest of generosity"** through **experience** will live in freedom and continuous gratitude for everything that happens to them, even if things don't turn out the way they want. Without this discovery, we live life blind and afraid to take steps in any direction.

In these challenging times we live in, as Teresa of Jesus would say, we once more celebrate the **spiritual experience of Saint Henry**, the root and solid foundation of all his works, which this man of faith, the great FRIEND OF GOD, gives us as a precious inheritance.

My wish today, for all of us who are part of the Teresian Family of Henry de Ossó, is that we have the experience of living **with limitless generosity** in this relationship of love and

¹ RT Sept 95 From La Soledad p.33





friendship with God. May we also experience our universal brother and sisterhood, which commits us to care for our people and cities and to enter into alliances and pacts that work to ensure peace and reconciliation, the inclusion of the most excluded and alienated, education for justice, and an economy at the service of the people.

Today I desire that our charismatic family **generously renew** the commitment to embody a deep, contemplative, liberating and loving spirituality which is connected with life and with the hopes and suffering of all people, a spirituality where, accompanied by Jesus, we become more human and more like Jesus.

Finally, I hope that we wouldn't create these paths alone, but rather, enlightened by the ecclesial movement that we are experiencing, in our Teresian Family we would also learn to WALK TOGETHER, to live our diversity as a rich gift, to

generously undertake new relationships, new ways of communicating and creating bonds of friendship, in order to continue discovering another way of being the Teresian Family in the world today.

Grateful for the immense gift of the Teresian charism of Henry de Ossó, I embrace each of you,

Assunção Esder

