



XVIII General Chapter



To all the Teresian Family

Rome, October 15, 2022



Dear Teresian Family:

Once again I have the joy of contacting all of you to express my happiness for this immense gift that St. Henry de Ossó offered to us by giving us Teresa of Jesus as a teacher of life and a source of continuous inspiration on the path of following Jesus.

We never cease to be grateful for her life and her words, her actions and decisions, and her radicality on the path of seeking the will of God. We do not tire of repeating that we, too, live in difficult times, and, like her, experience uneasiness and restlessness. But we also recognize the movement of the Spirit within us, prompting questions and answers: What can we do for God? What can God do for our humanity where new life is being born, but with so many birth pangs? Through this woman we learn to recognize, again and again, the power and greatness of God, giving boldness and determination to an "ant" so that, in her desire to respond, her courage and hope will not fail (F 2:7).

This year, we are celebrating her feast on the occasion of two important events for our Family:

Throughout the year, the **Society** is preparing for the General Chapter that will take place in Tortosa during the month of September 2023. We ask you all to help us, through your prayer and/or participation, to travel a path of openness and conversion that will increasingly make us sisters of all, and more capable of sharing our "loaves and fishes" based on what we are and what we have, journeying with others, and learning to give and to receive.

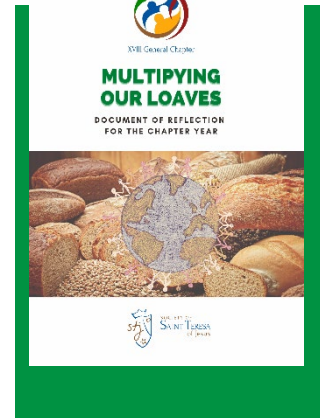
Throughout this year, the TAM is also preparing and celebrating its beginning by remembering with gratitude October 12, 1873, when St. Henry de Ossó gathered hundreds of young people in the Church of St. Anthony, in Tortosa, to found the Association of the Daughters of Mary Immaculate and Teresa of Jesus. Today we join in this thanksgiving for the life of so many lay people committed to fanning the flames and lighting up life in a world thirsty for solidarity, peace, justice, and love. OUR HISTORY MAKES US STRONG will be the motto of the celebration. And so it is, each testimony, each commitment, each initiative, together with the fidelity of prayer, has placed an enormous stone which has strengthened, day by day, this "building" of the TAM. Today



we pray that each one of its members becomes a new "foundation" of this history that we will continue to build together.

Finally, we are also pleased to present the working document **MULTIPLYING OUR LOAVES**, which will accompany our reflections and discernments during this Chapter year, offering us itineraries for our journey together.

The document moves between the two great invitations we have received from the Word: **"Widen the space of your tent" (Is 54, 2-3) and "How many loaves do you have... they all ate and were satisfied" (Mk 6, 32-44)**. It offers us guidelines for community discernment and the elaboration of the contributions for the Provincial and General Chapters. *The materials can be downloaded and will be available on the Society's website¹.*



From the beginning we have intended that it would be a joint project, developed with the participation of others, so that both the insights and dynamics, as well as the experiences that are offered, would reflect the rich diversity in the Society and in the Teresian Family.

We are very grateful for the great collaboration that we have received from sisters, lay people, and institutions that have made this possible. We are witnesses that everyone has offered "the little" that was in their hands: creation of content, testimonies and experiences, translations, web design and layout, video composition, etc. This has resulted not only in a document, but a network of audiovisual resources that can facilitate our work along the way.

Thank you Conchi, Patricia, Carmen, Fatima, Angelica, and Mariana for your contribution and service to the Commission, carried out as a team, joyfully and in a timely manner!

When questions and concerns reached Teresa's heart, she could not let go of them until she was able to respond to the desires that the same Spirit was stirring within her. This is how I see the Society and the Teresian Family today, restless to respond to the invitations she hears, with great desires inspired by the Spirit, and with determination to "do the little that is in her" - based on what we are and what we have - to bring light to life together with many others who seek the same thing.

Happy Feast of St. Teresa of Jesus to all Teresians around the world!

¹ www.stjteresianas.org

Asunción Cordero