



WE ARE
ONE

OUR VISION XVIII GENERAL CHAPTER
SOCIETY OF SAINT TERESA OF JESUS





SOCIETY OF
SAINT TERESA
of Jesus

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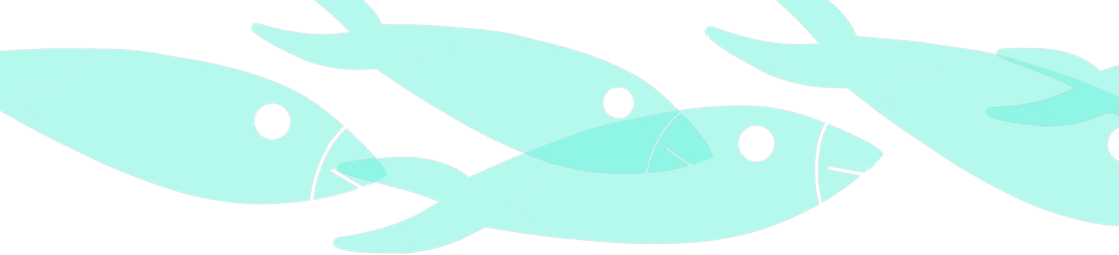
PRESENTATION

Our Vision and Chapter option 2023 - 2031 that we offer today is the fruit of the shared discernment of lay people and sisters that participated in the preparation of the Chapter and of the sisters that were present in the XVIII General Chapter held in Tortosa from September 1-30, 2023.

As we begin this new time, we thank the sisters and lay people of the Teresian Family that during the Chapter year accepted the invitation to travel a path of conversion towards a new awareness of our community identity. This journey of listening and discernment has been a process of personal and communal conversion: **We are one and we only understand ourselves in connection with others.**

Living the Chapter during this time that the Church lives the Synod on synodality has enlightened our experience. We are happy to offer this Final Document to the entire Teresian Family knowing that we have lived an authentic synodal experience: walking in communion, discerning in co-responsibility, participating in the creation of a future full of hope, and committing ourselves to a love that humanizes relationships and the world.

We have experienced the newness that comes from embracing vulnerability. We have recognized the voice of God in the whisper of what is small and fragile. We have been visited by Sarah and Hagar, Ruth and Naomi, Mary and Elizabeth, women who, with hope and trust, set out on a journey supported by the certainty of God's presence and companionship.



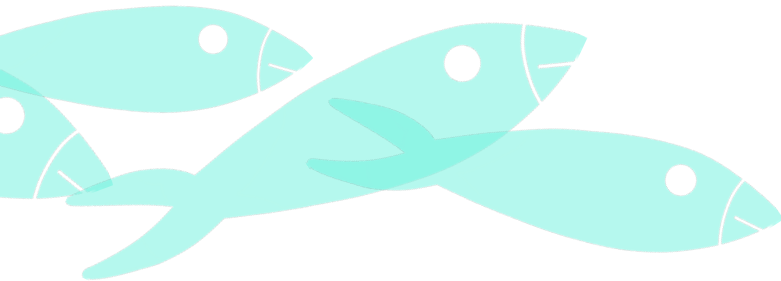
In continuity with the previous six-year period, we recognize that *“To care for the world in which we live means to care for ourselves. Yet we need to think of ourselves more and more as a single family dwelling in a common home.”* Fratelli Tutti invites us to seek out others and embrace the world as it is, without fear of pain or a sense of inadequacy. We are called to not do this alone as individuals, and to unite as a family that is stronger than the sum of small individual members¹.

As we begin this new period, the Spirit impels us:

- to continue to deepen our community identity, so that as one family, we assume responsibility for the realities where life is most threatened.
- to walk in synodality, open to listening, to respectful and contemplative dialogue, to welcoming and valuing interculturality and diversity, acknowledging that each of us is holy ground.
- to collaborate with others in the search for the common good and in building global citizenship so that this wounded world which is thirsty for justice, peace, and inclusion may recognize the God who acts in our midst, unfolding in each person and in all humanity the best of what is human².

1 Cfr Fratelli Tutti n.78, n.17

2 Alvarez de los Mozos, Patxi. *For a spirit of citizenship and a citizenship with Spirit*. Alboan-2019



The future towards which we are journeying asks each of us who form the Teresian Family of Henry de Ossó, to walk steadily and with the determined determination to continue enlarging our tent and sharing our loaves and fishes with others. The Lord Jesus, seeing the hungry and needy multitude, will take what each of us can offer and, raising His eyes to heaven, will give thanks, bless them, and multiply them so that they become food and nourishment for many.

Zaragoza, October 15, 2023

Ángela Cuadra

Pilar Liso

Teresa Katumbu

Clarice Suchy

OUR VISION



"One day Naomi said to her daughter-in-law Ruth, "Daughter, my desire is to find you a place where you will be happy."

(cf Ruth 3:1)

I came so that they might have life and have it more abundantly.

(John 10, 10)

"The world exists for everyone because all of us were born with the same dignity.... As a community, we have an obligation to ensure that every person lives with dignity and has sufficient opportunities for his or her integral development."

(Fratelli tutti 118)

"To care for the world in which we live means to care for ourselves. Yet we need to think of ourselves more and more as a single family dwelling in a common home."

(Fratelli tutti 17)

"Behold, the Lord invites all. Since He is truth itself, there is no reason to doubt...I hold as certain that all those who do not falter on the way will drink this living water. May the Lord, because of who He is, give us the grace to seek this living water as it should be sought, for He promises it."

(Way of Perfection 19, 15)

"God has made all nations capable of healing, and among the weeds of evil he always leaves fertile seeds of good, which, if cultivated, can once again save the world. One of these seeds is undoubtedly the teaching and education of youth...according to the spirit of St. Teresa of Jesus."

(RT 65 1878, p. 144 – 147)

These texts help give light to the **VISION** that we have discerned for the Society of St. Teresa of Jesus in the coming years.

WE RECOGNIZE the presence of the Spirit throughout the Chapter process that invited us, sisters and laity, in continuity with our option for the Ethics of Care, to undertake a journey of conversion toward a new awareness of our community identity.

Today we onlyt understand ourselves in life and mission **WITHOUT OTHERS**. We have shared our loaves, and our tent³ has been enlarged through: the reorganization process, sharing our charismatic identity with the Teresian family, a growing appreciation of cultural diversity, and collaboration with others with whom we share common goals. We continue to create space in our tent with the desire to learn from the wisdom of our older sisters, of youth and young adults, and of native peoples.

The Spirit reminds us of **JESUS' WAY** of embracing human vulnerability, the poor, and people's suffering and hunger. She inspires an active, prophetic, and creative **HOPE** as we listen to the cries of our reality and our earth.

We recognize that our Teresian spirituality restores the beauty and dignity of every person and nurtures our awareness of being sisters and brothers to all. It heals us and moves us to care for and heal others. It is the bread we, as the Teresian Family, want to offer so that it can be multiplied and transformed into blessing and nourishment for all.

Like Ruth and Naomi, companions of hope in times of fragility and uncertainty, we discover the call to continue walking towards a new community identity. They are two women of different generations who discover the possibility within vulnerability. Like so many migrant, foreign, and excluded women, they offer each other who they are and what they have. With courage, they believe in a different future, and they help us to live an active hope that creates abundant life for all⁴.

3 Cfr. Is 54, 2-4 and Mk 6, 41-43

4 Cfr. Book of Ruth

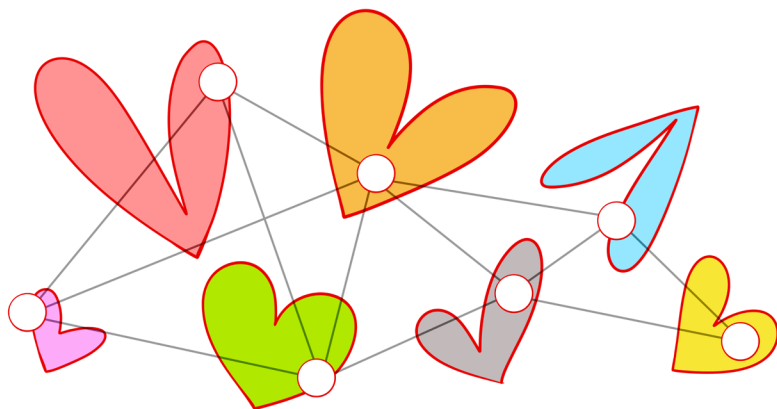
CHAPTER OPTION



WE COMMIT

We are part of creation and of the human community, which is vulnerable and in continuous movement. We recognize that we are companions on the journey and sisters of all. On this journey, as we listen to reality and the Word and are enlivened by the Teresian spirituality that awakens an active hope in us, we commit ourselves to:

- Grow in the new awareness of our community identity, learning to live in interculturality and promoting a synodal way of living out our relationships, our mission, our processes of discernment, our ways of leading, and our structures.
- Work with others in the search for the common good and in building global citizenship as an alternative to a world that has been wounded by injustice, individualism, and polarization. We care for those whose lives are being threatened, especially migrants and those who are excluded and displaced.




We want to recreate our sense of life and mission, directing our steps towards this vision in the coming years. To do this we need to:



Strengthen, in all our areas of mission, a transformative **TERESIAN EDUCATION that forms for **GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP, COMMUNITY AWARENESS, and THE SEARCH FOR THE COMMON GOOD** by fostering:**

- 1.** The development of critical thinking, which includes the ability to analyze reality and search for ways to take constructive action towards sustainable development and community well-being.
- 2.** A communitarian education that promotes encounter, dialogue, inclusion, participation and a culture of peace.
- 3.** Interculturality, which requires understanding and appreciating different perspectives and visions, and establishing positive interactions with people of different ethnic, religious, social or cultural backgrounds.
- 4.** The development of an interior life, which awakens compassion and commitment to the most vulnerable based on the example of Jesus.
- 5.** Care for our common home, developing concrete and sustainable actions.



6. The integration of global competencies into our plans and projects.

7. Networking, sharing what we are learning, and supporting projects that promote and defend life.

8. Involvement in actions that promote civic-social commitment and group action, allowing ourselves to be affected by the pain of our peoples (migrants, the excluded, displaced, etc.).

9. The development of the Teresian volunteer program, at the provincial and international levels, for sisters and lay people that will help to strengthen the awareness of vocation, take care of life that is threatened, and foster interculturality.



Live our TERESIAN SPIRITUALITY connected to the Source⁵ and WITH A SENSE OF MISSION, that invites us to:


- 1.** Cultivate a spirituality that listens to reality, sparks Jesus-like encounters, and transforms itself into an ointment that heals wounds.
- 2.** Rediscover the value of silence and contemplation, fine tune our listening, perceive the Divine Presence in all creation, and live from a place of wonder and gratitude.
- 3.** Embrace our vulnerability and that of our world as an opportunity, and collaborate in the healing of the wounds left by conflicts, the pandemic, and migration.
- 4.** Create conditions for a more peaceful and balanced life..
- 5.** Offer opportunities for charismatic formation and experiences for both sisters and lay people.
- 6.** Ensure a constant dialogue between the charism, reality, and diverse cultures in our communities and in our mission.
- 7.** Strengthen the area of spirituality as a mission of the Society and a key component that sustains its life and mission.

⁵ "It should be kept in mind here that the fount, the shining sun that is at the center of the soul, does not lose its beauty and splendor; it is always present in the soul, and nothing can take away its loveliness." (IC 1M 2,3)



Advance in a **SYNODAL WAY that is reflected in:**

- 1.** Open and inclusive communities that foster listening, discernment, participation, reconciliation.
- 2.** Our way of walking together as sisters and laity, sharing life and mission, in joint processes of discernment and decision making.
- 3.** Our way of living out shared leadership.
- 4.** The balanced distribution of power that we all exercise for the common good.
- 5.** Our organization and structures: flexible, open, inclusive, participatory....
- 6.** The creation and strengthening of provincial and international networks in and between the different areas of mission..
- 7.** Involvement in ecclesial, intercongregational, or civil platforms and projects that foster the search for meaning, communion, and the pursuit of the common good.
- 8.** Economic practices that are centered in the common good, place the person at the center, and promote human, sustainable, and holistic development.

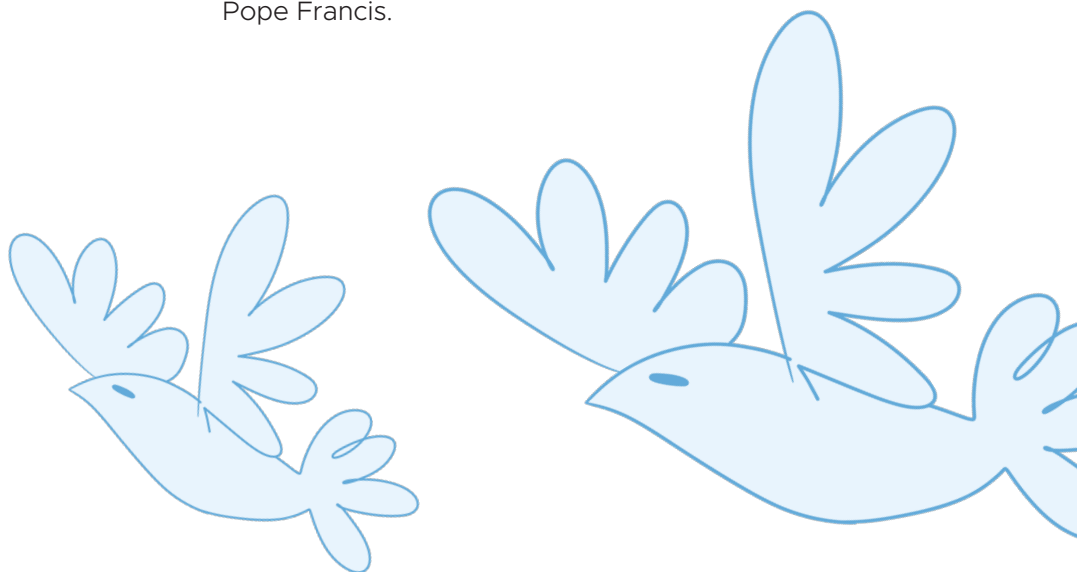


9. Continued collaboration with inter-institutional projects that support the care of the marginalized, displaced persons, and migrants.

10. Our search as sisters and laity for ways to energize the Teresian family and make it grow.

11. Highlighting the strength and contribution of women in the synodal movement of the Church and in the dialogue between cultures; continuing to support the networking of women and the defense and promotion of their rights in all its forms.

12. Participation in the movements promoted by Pope Francis.





Create INTERCULTURAL LEARNING PROCESSES IN OUR COMMUNITIES AND MISSION CONTEXTS:

- 1.** Value and respect different cultures, expressed through language, customs, values and beliefs, as an avenue to grow in welcoming diversity and fostering a community identity that is enriched by plurality.
- 2.** Encourage intercultural formation and commit ourselves to it.
- 3.** Learn from the wisdom of native peoples and those of African descent: their ways of life and communal living, their relationship with nature, their concern for wellness and our common home, the use of alternative and traditional medicine, their spirituality and sense of the religious dimension of all that has been created.
- 4.** Explore new ways in which laity and sisters can engage in cultural exchanges and reciprocal learning.
- 5.** Promote cultural immersion and the learning of languages in the Society.



Opt for a **TERESIAN YOUTH VOCATIONAL MINISTRY** that motivates us, engages us in a joyful dialogue with young people, and is realized in all areas of mission.

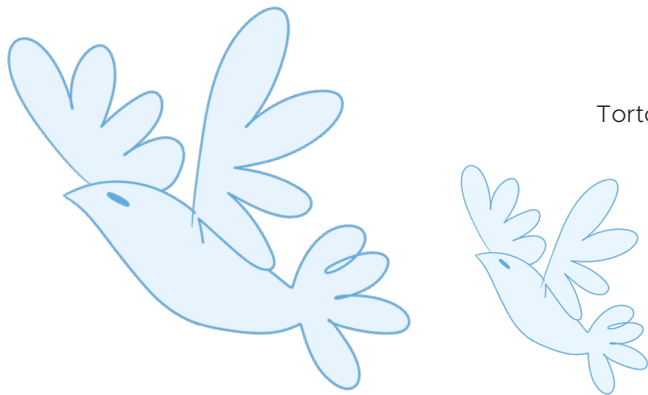
1. Revitalize our vocational identity, and by means of our spirituality, accompany young people so that they can find meaning and hope.

2. Draw closer to and open ourselves to understand the languages of young people, their ways of understanding life, of communicating and connecting. With them learn how to be with others, how to be committed, and how to live in solidarity.

3. Present the Teresian way of life as a joyful alternative and a possible life project.

4. Ensure the connection of the Teresian Youth Vocational Ministry with the dioceses and parishes where we are present and the connection between the intercontinental Teresian Youth Vocational Ministry with other areas and spaces of mission: volunteer programs, TAM, pastoral ministry in schools, spirituality, etc.

Tortosa, September 30, 2023





XVIII General Chapter
Tortosa, September 1-30, 2023