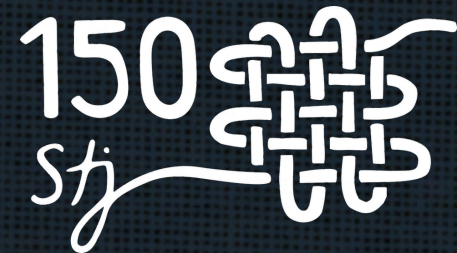


OUR HISTORY

150 years of the Society of Saint Teresa of Jesus

t i m e l i n e



This document offers a **structured overview of the 150 years of the Society of Saint Teresa of Jesus**. It is a **historical summary** that covers the key moments that have marked the life of the institution over the course of this century and a half.

The aim is to offer a contextualized reading, allowing the reader to **place each event in its geographical and temporal framework**, in order to better understand **the responses that the Society has given to the challenges of each era**.

We would like to express our sincere gratitude to **IDEO** for producing this material. We thank you for your work in **organizing and visually presenting** this educational resource for us to share and enjoy together. We hope that this effort will be a significant help to those who wish **to deepen their study of our charism and keep alive the grateful memory of the Society**.

In the summer of 1872, Enrique de Ossó, in the hermitage of Santa Teresa in the desert of Las Palmas, in Castellón, Spain, had **an unprecedented experience that focused and centered his life and mission.**

Teresa of Jesus burst into his life with a force that, even for himself, was inexplicable. From that moment on, everything he did and said was and would be Teresian.

In Enrique de Ossó's heart, **the charism and spirituality of Teresa of Ávila began to take shape**, and he launched works and projects dedicated to spreading the writings and spirit of the Saint of Ávila: **Santa Teresa magazine, the Archconfraternity of the Daughters of Mary and Teresa of Jesus, and Rebañito del Niño Jesús** (Little Flock of the Child Jesus).

The Teresian charism began to take shape.



1872

Teresian grace

Desert of Las Palmas

Founding experience.

- Santa Teresa Magazine
- Archconfraternity
- Little Flock of the Child Jesus



1875

Unfolding the Teresian charism

Enrique de Ossó, revealed in the early hours of April 2.

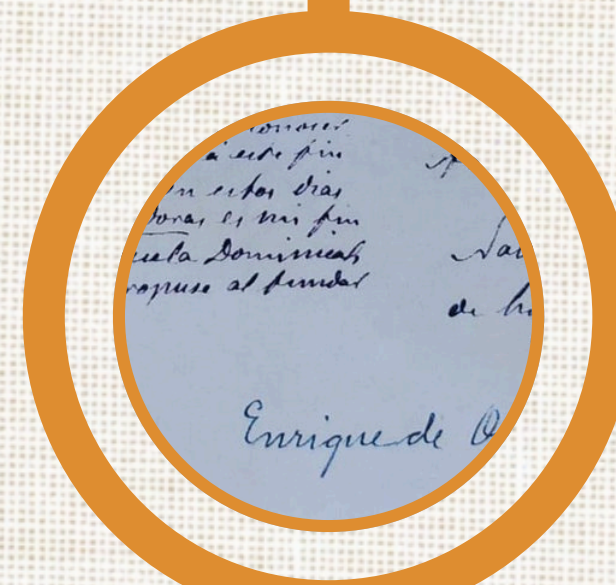
"At dawn, **she lay awake thinking** again about the situation of young women, and she came up with the idea of an association of teachers to regenerate the world by educating in the spirit of Saint Teresa of Jesus. (...)

It made such an impression on her, and feeling that God is very fond of those who do not put limits on his works, **she got out** of bed and **wrote** a draft on a double sheet of paper in a horizontal direction horizontal."

How can we give momentum and permanence/solidity to the Teresian work that is emerging with such force?

Reading the "signs of the times" of the Restoration of Alfonso XIII and the new Constitution of 1876 (opening up to Catholic associations), she gathered a small group of teachers and founded the Society on June 23 (Sacred Heart), in the Church of La Enseñanza (Tortosa–Tarragona).

It was founded with the aim of **evangelizing through education**, especially of women, with Teresian spirituality, and regenerating society.



1876

Inspiration
April 2



1876

Society Foundation
June 23, Tortosa
Evangelizing through education.

Teresa Guillamón, Dolores Llorach, and Josefa Teresa Audí founded the first Teresian school. The early days were characterized by a warm welcome, positive results, and financial hardship.

Amidst setbacks, the novitiate and college of the Society were built next to the convent of the Discalced Carmelites founded by Enrique de Ossó in Jesús, Tortosa. On October 12, the house was inaugurated and some sisters began to live there.

What began as a great Teresian project, driven by the enthusiasm of friends and associates, gave rise to strong tensions and led to a long process (the lawsuit) **that accompanied Enrique de Ossó for the rest of his life.**



1878

First school in Villalonga
September 1st, Villalonga

1879

Head Office, Jesus
Tortosa, Tarragona

With the election of the first superior general, Saturnina Jassá y Fontcuberta, the perpetual vows of the eight founders, and the printing of the Constitutions.

Enrique considers the Society to be consolidated.

On May 12, they travel from Maella, Spain, to start a new foundation in the **Diocese of Viseu, Portugal**: "It is a wide field to work in, and I believe that the Society will do Portugal good."

On February 1st, six sisters and the Superior General left the port of Barcelona on the steamship Montserrat, **bound for Oran, Algeria**.



1882

First Superior General

1884

Diocesan approval of the Constitutions

1884

The Fraga Portugal

1882

Presence in Africa
February 1, Oran (Algeria)



Antonio Gaudí was commissioned by Enrique de Ossó in 1888 for the Mother House of the Society, a "**pilot**" school and student residence for the sisters once they had completed their novitiate.

The central allegory: **THE CASTLE of the Teresian Moradas**. All the Teresian symbols take on exceptional richness: anagrams of Christ, of Teresa, coats of arms of the Society, battlements, doctoral caps, the wrought ironwork of the grille and the beautiful iron gate that he forged himself.

The Society crosses the Atlantic, responding to a reality of religious persecution and educational need; its simple style allows it to work in hostile contexts. The "outgoing" character of the charism is inaugurated. Enter **IDEO** and discover more about the first foundations in America during the lifetime of Enrique de Ossó.

Once again, nine sisters crossed the Atlantic by steamship from Catalonia **to reach the southern part of the American continent**.

At the request of Mariano Soler, bishop of the diocese, the Society founded the Spanish Society of Ladies of Saint Teresa of Jesus and its president in Montevideo.



1888

Enrique commissions a building for the Society from A. Gaudí.
Barcelona, Ganduxer

1890

Inauguration
April, Ganduxer (Barcelona)



1888

First presence in America
Puebla, Mexico



1891

Arrival in Montevideo
Uruguay

After difficult months (lawsuits and internal difficulties in the Society and in Oran and La Almunia), **Enrique de Ossó dies in the convent of Sancti Spiritu**. The Society experiences this event with restrained silence and gratitude for his life of fruitful apostolate and dedication to his work.

On June 14, the feast of the Sacred Heart, the new novitiate of the Society of Saint Teresa of Jesus is inaugurated in Jesús-Tortosa. The old one was demolished to its foundations, and the land was given to the Carmelites.

July 12. Transfer of the Founder's remains to the Jesús-Tortosa novitiate in the presence of Saturnina Jassá, Teresa Blanch and Rosario Elías.

On December 18, Rome definitively approved the Constitutions.

The Society enters the 20th century with a clear legal identity and a pedagogy that integrates science, humanities and religion to transform society.



1896

Death of the founder
January 27, Gilet
(Valencia)



1901

Inauguration of the new novitiate
Tortosa



1908

Approval of the Constitutions

The Society began to publish its own publications with the aim of **spreading the Teresian spirit**. This work was first carried out under the auspices of the General Prefecture of Education and later as an independent publishing house: **Editorial STJ**.

Within this framework, **textbooks, prayer materials, newsletters, and new editions of Cuarto de hora de oración** (Quarter Hour of Prayer) were published. Likewise, the magazine Jesús Maestro was published, continuing the Teresian magazine started by Enrique de Ossó.

Religious persecution struck homes and works, but charity and discreet service continued. Among the martyrs, **M. Mercedes Prat** (†1936), beatified in 1990, stands out as **a witness of serene faith and an educator until the end**.

The Society took on the task of **reformulating its lifestyle and mission in light of the Second Vatican Council**. Working committees were formed, and changes were experimented with in common prayer, community life, government, and mission. Thus, the special General Chapter held in Rome in May-June 1967 was prepared for from within the life of the Society. The renewal was finalized at the General Chapter of 1969.



1912

STJ Publishing



1936

Spanish Civil War
Martyrdom of M. Mercedes Prat

1939



1967

General Assembly for renewal
May-June, Rome

Officially recognized by the Church, the **MTA**, in continuity with the Archconfraternity, **articulates the Teresian lay vocation and spreads the charism to families, young people, and educators.** The founder's work is explicitly "of all and for all."

Saint **Juan Pablo II** canonizes Enrique de Ossó on June 16, 1993 (Madrid, Plaza de Colón). The Church confirms the holiness of the founder and encourages the Society to renew its educational and missionary charism.

With the canonization and successive chapters, **the charismatic identity, participation of lay people, option for the vulnerable,** and the Society's own curriculum **are deepened: evangelizing through education, with quality and spirituality...**



1977

MTA Recognition

1990

Identity and shared mission



1993

Canonization of Enrique de Ossó
June 16, Madrid

With the new millennium approaching, **the Church called on religious orders to become missionaries in Asia.** In response to this call, and as a tribute to Enrique de Ossó on the centenary of his death, **the Society sent eight sisters to Manila, Philippines.**

The XIV General Chapter entrusted the Government and General Offices with the task of reviewing and **updating the formation program, Teresian pedagogy, the ideology of Teresian schools, and the constitutions.**

The Society, entering the new millennium and facing the uncertainty inherent in the change of era that the beginning of the millennium brought, launched international and participatory processes—today we would call them synodal—from which to begin updating the Constitutions based on **critical reflection and a profound charismatic re-reading.**

The reformulation of the educational project **involved Teresian sisters and lay people from all the works and presences of the Society.**



1996

**Foundation in Asia
Filipinas**

1999

**Looking towards
the new millennium**

2000

Identity and shared mission

Under the motto "**Behold, I make all things new,**" the sisters gathered at the General Chapter approved the **new text of the Constitutions, the formation project, and the Teresian educational proposal.**

At this year's Chapter, the Constitutions were approved after a participatory process—today we would call it synodal—and the **Formation Project and the Teresian Educational Proposal were also approved.**

On the occasion of the 5th Centenary of the birth of Saint Teresa of Jesus and as a result of the profound and transformative experience of this anniversary in the provinces, **the first international meeting of the Teresian Family of Enrique de Ossó took place in Tortosa and Ávila.**

More than 1,000 people (sisters and lay people) gathered under the slogan "**The Power of a Dream**" to relive that other Teresian pilgrimage of 1879 and experience how the encounter with Jesus of Teresa and with Teresa of Jesus transforms us **pilgrims into apostles eager to evangelize the world.**



2005

XV General Chapter

Approval of:

- New Constitutions
- Training Project
- Educational Proposal



2015

First International Meeting of the Teresian Family Tortosa and Ávila

The ethics of care, conversion to an integral ecology, care for our common home, and Pope Francis' call to **rebuild the social fabric through education** have marked the last ten years of the Society's life.

Sisters and lay people **continue to welcome the invitation** to create humanizing spaces where the call **of Fratelli tutti** becomes a reality: **we need to become inhabitants of the common home.**

We celebrate 150 years by looking to the past to propel us toward the future, aware that, today as yesterday, **time is of the essence and circumstances are pressing.**

From deep listening and sustained by Hope, we renew our commitment to regenerate the world through education; we move forward with determined resolve to respond to the challenges facing humanity and, once again, **get down to work!**



2017

XVII Chapter General Rome

The Society committed to the great causes of the Church

2023

XVIII General Chapter Tortosa

2026

We celebrate 150 years of Society



ideo