CHALLENGE
Internacional

STAGE 9 – ORAN
A HEART WITHOUT BORDERS



Message from Juan Bautista Altés

Dear pilgrim:

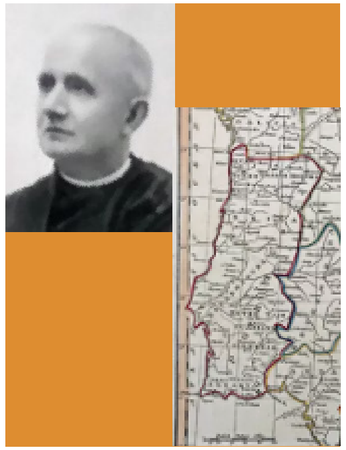
Today our journey takes a particularly surprising turn: we depart from Alba de Tormes, a land marked by the austere footprint of Teresa, and we head—guided by our beloved Saint Henry—beyond the borders of Spain. We will cross Portugal, a beloved country where Henry would also sow the Teresian seed, until we reach the shores of Oran, in Africa, the first international foundation of the Society. Look at his audacity: from the bosom of Castile to distant lands, crossing borders with a heart filled with the Gospel.

I have been fortunate to accompany Henry's dreams and efforts very closely. Know, my fellow pilgrims, that within him burned a desire that knew no geographical or cultural boundaries: he wanted the light of Teresa and the Teresian charism to cross oceans, deserts, and mountain ranges. "The world is too small for my desire!" he would sometimes say to me, with a smile as full of confidence as it was of humility. It was the Spirit that drove him.

As you walk through this stage of the pilgrimage, I invite you to look at your own horizon and ask yourself: how far am I willing to take the best of myself? Henry always encouraged us to dream big, not to be content with what is easy or close at hand, but to build bridges and cross borders. These were not journeys for vainglory, but faithful responses to the missionary call: "Wherever there is a need, we will go; wherever a single person needs to know Christ and Teresa, we will be there."

When Henry said goodbye to the sisters who were leaving to found new communities in distant lands, he was moved. His tears may well have been due to vertigo and anguish, for while these foundations were being established, Henry had to deal with other uncomfortable matters, such as the lawsuit with the Carmelites over some land in Tortosa, which we will discuss in the next stage. However, his eyes shone with gratitude as he saw how the Gospel makes all things new. His steps, his letters, and his prayers sustained those who were venturing into the unknown, because he knew that the Teresian family has no borders.

May you discover in this stage the joy of stepping outside yourself, of allowing yourself to be sent into the new, of trusting that God always enlarges our hearts when we open ourselves to his will. I too continue to walk beside you, carrying your intention in the silver heart that all of us pilgrims on this long journey share.



United in Teresa and in Jesus, let us set out on our journey. Henry's dreams continue to await our steps today.

With all my affection and hope,

J.B. Altés

TODAY WE ARRIVED AT...

ORAN



In the heart of Saint Henry

Carmen Patricia Castilla is a Teresian sister from Nicaragua, and for several years her mission has been focused on accompanying educational processes in schools. She currently lives in Costa Rica and is the director of the Teresian School of St. Henry de Ossó.

She describes herself as an educator by vocation, convinced that through education it is possible to influence personal development and processes of social transformation, as projected by the Teresian Charism. Today, she accompanies us in the expansion of the Company outside Spain, to Portugal, North Africa, America... bringing the Teresian charism of educating women, young people, and children.



Charismatic keys of yesterday… and today

Graça Verónica de Lima is a Brazilian Teresian sister. She is currently the delegate for education in her province and coordinator of the pedagogical area of the Teresian Education Network. She is a great communicator and always open to learning, sharing ideas, and contributing positively.

She shares with us the different areas of mission in which the Society works in the places where it is present: spirituality, social action, education, and ecclesial work.



Prayerful proposal

STEP 1. PREPARATION

Today you are invited to pray in front of a window, or on a balcony, or in a high place from which you can see the wide world. You could also place a map or a landscape in front of you that can expand your heart. Today we open ourselves beyond our comfort zone.

Prayerful proposal

STEP 2. WE LISTEN TO ONE OF THESE SONGS

Missionary soul



Leave your land Olive Shoots



Prayerful proposal

STEP 3. PRAYERFUL READING

LETTER FROM FR. HENRY DE OSSÓ TO THE SISTERS OF ORAN (JUNE 26, 1885)

Long live Jesus and his Teresa in their daughters of Oran:

I have received all your letters and accounts of conscience, and I thank the Lord because he is testing you with contradiction. This is a good sign. The devil will not cease to wage war against great works. Wait and you will see great things. You have entered Oran unseen ("enter as you can," as the Lord said to the Holy Mother). The rest will come later. And this rest will be the extension of the reign of the knowledge and love of Jesus Christ throughout these African lands, which are in such need of it.

Hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, behold, my daughters, what you must repeat and ask for most in Oran for everyone, especially for Africans. You will achieve such happiness if you are faithful to the grace of your vocation, if you fulfill the holy Rules, because with this you will obtain abundant grace from heaven, as you ask of the Lord.

On Wednesday, Fr. Catá leaves with Margarita and two Sisters by steamboat from Portvendres. More will follow later. In a short time, 13 have joined, and we expect many more. We have fourteen new foundations requested.

Prayerful proposal

STEP 3. PRAYERFUL READING

LETTER FROM FR. HENRY DE OSSÓ TO THE SISTERS OF ORAN (JUNE 26, 1885)

Make good use of your time with continuous prayer and the loving presence of God. Pray to your Guardian Angels and to your Mother Saint Teresa that they may fill you with their spirit of faith and zeal for the glory of the Lord.

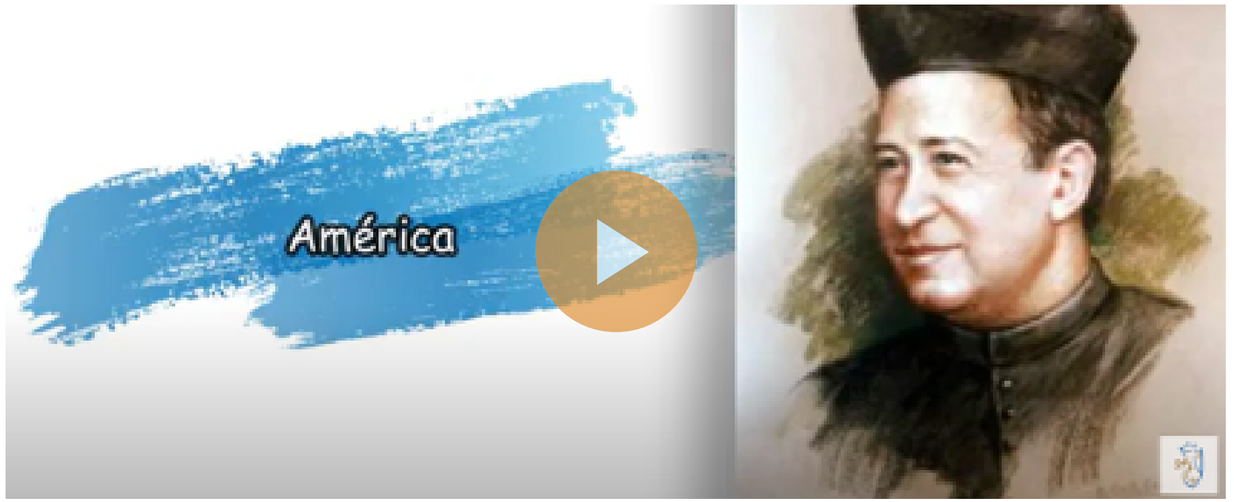
Everything passes. Keep in mind that you only have today. Great docility and obedience, truth and clarity, and the Lord will do the rest. Watch over those girls and fear nothing, being right with God.

I bless you from my heart and hope to see other Teresas of Jesus, your Father and Chaplain, Henry de Ossó, Pbro.

- ***Which phrase resonates with you most after reading this letter? Let it resonate without reflecting on it. Let it act within you like background music throughout the day.***

Prayerful proposal

STEP 4. SONG: “AMERICA”



Prayerful proposal

STEP 5. FINAL SONNET

Beyond the homeland, across the sea,
where the horizon breaks into light and foam,
your voice, oh Henry, like a faithful perfume
the new land that God wanted to conquer.

The ocean was not a wall, but an altar;
nor was distance a shadow that consumes the soul.

With Teresa's fire, your word calms
and builds a bridge of faith, without faltering.

From the Peninsula to the sister continent,
and to the heart of Africa, touched by love,
your fruitful spirit, sower of wheat,
carried the seed on a sovereign flight.

A man without boundaries, driven by the sky,
today your work is universal, and I dwell in it!



Enigma Challenge

Throughout this Teresian route, you will receive a series of clues that will lead you to the enigma of this Challenge.

To guess it, you must first look for a contemporary of Saint Henry de Ossó.

CLUE OF THE DAY

As a good friend of Henry, I helped him raise funds for various projects that we invited people to join. I was a bridge between Henry and the people.



Stamp for the next stage

Answer the following quiz in order to obtain the stamp for your credential so that you can sleep in the hostel and continue on to the next place.

1. What did Saint Henry say to Juan Bautista Altés about his desire to expand the Teresian charism?

a. "The world is too small for my desire."
b. "Where a single person needs Christ, there we will be."
c. "The Teresian family has no borders."
d. "Today my work is universal."

2. What obstacle did St. Henry face while establishing international foundations?

a. Health problems
b. Lack of resources
c. A dispute with the Carmelites
d. The sisters' lack of faith

3. What does St. Henry tell the sisters of Oran to do to make good use of their time?

a. Continuous prayer and loving presence of God
b. Read the Word
c. Singing songs
d. Dream big

4. What did Sister Saturnina do?

a) She founded the order in Mexico
b) She led the foundation in Portugal in 1874
c) She supported the foundation in Portugal in 1884
d) She was the last sister to arrive in Oran, but she had to close that foundation.

5. What was the first school founded in South America?

a) Montevideo
b) Tierra del Fuego
c) Cali
d) Buenos Aires



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We'll accompany you on this journey!

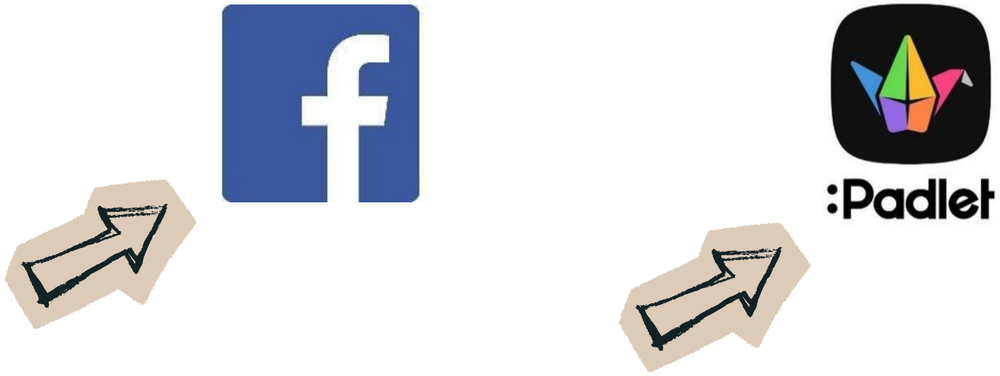
- Would you like a Teresian sister to accompany you on this journey through the places of Saint Enrique de Ossó in writing (email, Whatsó…) or through a conversation (telephone/online) to share what this itinerary is generating in you?

- Sharing life multiplies life and deepens the experience. Simply write here to request it:

osso.challenge@stjteresianas.org



Share with other pilgrims Challenge



Extra material for the highly motivated

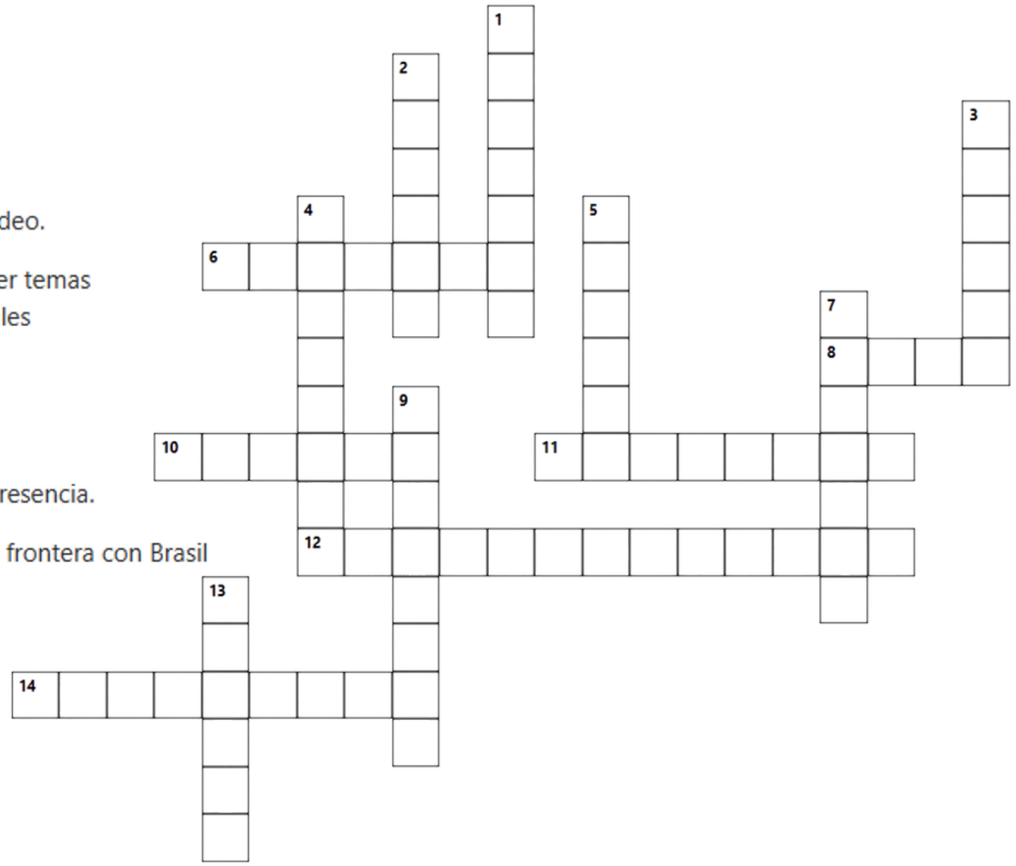
CROSSWORD

Horizontales

6. Primera palabra de un país de África Occidental sin salida al mar
8. País constituido por 4000 islas, siendo la segunda más grande la de la Juventud
10. Primer país al que llegaron las Hermanas Teresianas
11. País sudamericano cuya capital es Asunción.
12. La nación más grande de América.
14. País de América Central con costa en el Pacífico y el Caribe.

Verticales

1. País sudamericano cuya capital es Montevideo.
2. San Enrique tuvo que ir por allí para resolver temas complicados con otras instituciones eclesiales
3. Aquí nació y Murió san Enrique de Ossó
4. Isla compañera de Santo Tomé
5. País africano en el que la compañía tiene presencia.
7. País del norte de América del Sur que hace frontera con Brasil y Colombia.
9. País protegido por la Virgen de Fátima
13. El país más grande de América del Sur.



Extra material for the highly motivated

A STROLL THROUGH TODAY'S ORAN?



Extra material for the highly motivated

1. **REFLECTING WITH SAINT HENRY: "LET'S GET ORGANIZED"**

Familia Teresiana
de Enrique de Ossó



Extra material for the highly motivated

1. **WEBSITE FOR THIS STAGE: TERESIAN SCHOOLS IN AMERICA.**



Extra material for the highly motivated

GASTRONOMY IN ORAN: THE “CALENTICA”

At midday, the ovens where it is prepared attract crowds. Everyone is looking for a portion wrapped in paper or a sandwich to fill their stomachs at an affordable price, accessible to any pocket, no matter how tight. Carentica or calentica is the typical dish of Oran, Algeria's second city, and even its name has Spanish origins, a trace of the legacy that still survives in what many have nicknamed "Little Spain."

The Spaniards who emigrated to Oran at the end of the 19th century and the Republican exiles after the Civil War left a mark that is still alive today. "The recipe originated up there, in the fort of Santa Cruz, during a siege more than a century ago. They had nothing but chickpeas. They mixed them with a little water and oil. When they took it off the heat, it was burning hot. Someone tried to pick it up and shouted, 'Hot!'. And that's how it got its name."



The recipe

- Put 250 grams of chickpea flour in a baking dish about five centimeters deep.
- Add:

One tablespoon of oil (sunflower, corn, or peanut).
One egg yolk.
2 pinches of salt.

- Mix with one liter of water, stirring gently to obtain a smooth texture without lumps.
- Place the bowl in a hot oven (thermostat 5) and bake for 15 minutes.
- Move to the grill setting and continue baking for about ten minutes or more. (Until the surface turns dark).
- Remove from the oven and leave to rest for a quarter of an hour.
- Cut into pieces and serve after sprinkling with a mixture of: 4 parts salt, 1 part cumin, and half a part pepper.

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PARTICIPATE

Ossó Challenge