

Upon hearing of his death, a friend, Father Francisco Marsal, wrote, *The servant of God, Henry de Ossó, was the most faithful model of Jesus Christ that I have ever seen. His speech, conduct and actions always made me think: That is how Christ acted.*

On the day that he died, several persons in Spain and America reported that Henry de Osso had appeared to them. He was buried in the Franciscan cemetery in Gilet, Spain where his body remained until 1908, when his remains were transferred to the chapel of the Society of Saint Teresa of Jesus in Tortosa, Spain.

On October 16, 1979, he was beatified by Pope John Paul II. After the approval of a miracle in Uruguay, Fr. Henry was declared Saint by Pope John Paul II in Madrid, Spain, on June 16, 1993.

**Prayer** - Lord God, you wonderfully joined in your Priest, Saint Henry de Osso, a life of continual prayer and untiring apostolic activity. By the help of his prayers, may we persevere in the love of Christ and serve your Church by word and deed. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, One God forever and ever.  
*Saint Henry DeOsso, pray for us!*

### For Reflection

- What stood out to you about his story?
- Fr. Henry wanted to transform families. What are ways the head of the household today can inspire faith with family and/or friends?
- His motto was, "I will always belong to Jesus." What is your motto of life, and how does it relate to being a disciple of Jesus?

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**Join the Discussion!** Listen to our new Socials with the Saints podcast, an audio program where our staff discusses what we learned about this role model of faith, and how we can apply these lessons in our daily lives:  
[PilgrimCenterOfHope.org/Socials](http://PilgrimCenterOfHope.org/Socials)

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Excerpts from: [teresiansisters.org](http://teresiansisters.org), [homeofthemothor.org](http://homeofthemothor.org), [carmelourladysdovecote.com](http://carmelourladysdovecote.com)

### Socials with the Saints – PILGRIM CENTER of HOPE

*Guiding People to Christ*

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## **St. Henry De Osso**

*Priest, Founder, Missionary, Preacher, Teacher*

**Born:** October 16, 1840

**Died:** January 27, 1896

**Beatified:** October 14, 1979

by Pope John Paul II

**Canonized:** June 16, 1993

by Pope John Paul II in Madrid, Spain

**Entombed:** Society of St. Teresa of Jesus  
Convent, Tortosa, Spain

**Feast:** January 27

**Patron of:** Catechists, Teachers, Students, Home Visitation Ministries,  
Pilgrim Center of Hope.

Henry de Osso was born on October 16, 1840, in Tarragona; a port city in northeastern Spain's Catalonia region. He was the youngest of three sons. His parents were good Christians and educated their children in the faith and in prayer. His mother wanted her youngest son to be a priest one day, and she expressed this desire to Henry. He, however, was convinced of his vocation to be a teacher. His father's idea was very different; he wanted his son to work in commercial business.

When Henry was 12 years old, his father sent him to be with his uncle Juan, who had a textile business in Zaragoza, eastern Spain, so that he could learn the trade. During the months that he spent there, he did learn the skills needed for the fabric business and became very familiar with the accounting side, as well. While there in Zaragoza, Henry contracted a fever that almost caused his death. His uncle and aunt were very worried about his health, and commended Henry to the Virgin Mary under her title of Our Lady of the Pillar and asked that he be administered the sacrament of the last rites, also called the Sacrament of Anointing. It was during this time; he also received his First Communion. Here he was at the age 12, on his death bed; his family asking the intercession of Our Lady of the Pillar. It wasn't long after that Henry recovered, and everyone attested his recovery to the prayers of the Blessed Virgin Mary – Our Lady of the Pillar! Despite the notable recovery, his uncle decided to take him back to his parents' house.

His aunt had given him a book titled *The Works of St. Teresa*, that introduced him to St. Teresa of Avila and ignited a love that would last a lifetime. St. Teresa of Avila, a Carmelite nun from Avila, Spain, lived in the 16<sup>th</sup> century.

When Henry was 13, his mother died. After her death, he remembered her desire that he become a priest, and so he began to think seriously about the priesthood. Since his father would not agree to it, he wrote a farewell letter to him, and secretly left for the Monastery of Our Lady of Montserrat to dedicate his life to God. This Monastery of Our Lady of Montserrat is located in Barcelona, not far from his hometown.

Upon seeing that Henry was determined to become a priest, his father gave him permission to enter the seminary. During his years there, his love for God grew even more. Henry's greatest desire was to know and love Jesus, and to make Him known and loved. He worked tirelessly to help others as his love for God burst into dedicated ministry.

Once ordained to the priesthood, Henry exercised his priestly ministry everywhere among all social classes—preaching, encouraging, giving retreats, teaching religion to the children and classes in the seminary. He began founding different groups for every age and station in life, all based on the spirituality of St. Teresa of Avila, that Carmelite nun whose writings inspired him deeply.

Some of the groups he founded include:

- The Friends of Jesus Club for children, to teach them to love Jesus, to talk to Him every day, and to do whatever He asks
- The Teresian Apostolic Movement to form youth according to the spirit of St. Teresa
- The Brotherhood of Saint Joseph, a pious association for men
- A monastery of Carmelite nuns
- The Society of St. Teresa of Jesus, his greatest accomplishment in life which he was inspired to found while at prayer during the night of April 2, 1876. They are also called the Teresian Sisters.

With the approval of his spiritual director and the blessing of the bishop, the new Society of St. Teresa of Jesus began on June 23, 1876. Fr. Henry was a young 36-year-old priest at this point. Eight young women did respond to the invitation to join this new Society of St. Teresa of Jesus.

In his lifetime, this Society spread throughout Spain, Portugal, Africa, as well as the Americas. Today, the Teresian Sisters minister in 21 countries throughout Europe, Africa and the Americas. Their ministries include education and evangelization in a variety of settings with people of all ages and walks of life.

One of those locations is here in San Antonio, Texas. They did move out from their convent which is now the location site for Pilgrim Center of Hope. They moved into another smaller convent in the city; some of the Sisters who retired moved to their motherhouse in Covington, Louisiana.

In addition to his many apostolic works, Fr. Henry also spent much time writing and inspiring others to know and love Jesus. He founded and edited *Saint Teresa's Magazine* until his death. He wrote a *Manual for Catechists*, books for children about St. Teresa of Avila and on St. Joseph. He told two Sisters shortly before his death, "Jesus is loved very little. Let the three of us write a booklet on how to increase the love of Jesus in the world."

These words of Father Henry mean a lot to us at Pilgrim Center of Hope, because that has been our mission from the beginning – bring people to Jesus to experience His love and, in turn, increase the love of Jesus in the world. We were blessed to find the building that once housed many Teresian Sisters. Thanks to many friends and benefactors, Pilgrim Center of Hope was able to purchase the property from the Teresian Sisters. Of course, the statue of St. Henry De Osso remains on the property. Knowing his story and seeing this statue – it is as if he welcomes all to know Jesus!

In addition to this blessing, we were given a first-class relic of St. Henry de Osso by one of the Teresian Sisters. It can be found in Pilgrim Center of Hope's Chapel. We invite you to visit us and venerate this relic, see the statue of St. Henry de Osso, and see this unique place that is reaching out to thousands with the message of Jesus.

Those who knew Father Henry were inspired by his apostolic zeal and his passionate love for Jesus. He worked tirelessly to help others know the love of the God whom he had come to know, and his goal was to allow Jesus to so transform his life that others would see Christ in him.

In January 1896, at the age of 56, Father Henry wrote the following words in St. Teresa's Magazine: *My Jesus and my all. Let me love you or die, rather, to live and die loving you above everything else. Do not let me leave this world without having loved you and made you known and loved as much as I can. My Jesus and my all. Praised be Jesus my love.*

These words summed up his life's desire and were somewhat prophetic. Later that month, on January 27, 1896, he went home to His Heavenly Father, after having made a retreat at the Franciscan monastery.