



***"Let us march always, always forward,
until we become the likeness and image of God;
always go forward" (Evv I, 3)***

From the city of Novelda (Alicante), an endearing place for the Palautian family because in it lie the remains of Sr. Teresa Mira García, I address a fraternal greeting to all those who come to this space to know a little more about Father Palau, his life and the rich heritage bequeathed to his religious family and to all those who connect with his ecclesial experience of unconditional dedication to the cause of the Kingdom.

His tireless seeker spirit led him to place at the center of his life and work the interests of the Church: God and neighbors. A person often misunderstood and persecuted in his path of creative fidelity to the Gospel and later seen as a visionary, a mystic, a prophet.

To remember and celebrate the anniversary of fr. Palau's definitive encounter with his Beloved Church is to feel and share the joy of being the depositary, together with many other people, of a gift, a charism, a way of being and doing that, with the power of the Grace of God, makes us transforming agents of reality when we are creators of communion; when we proclaim the beauty of the human being and restore, from commitment and care, his face disfigured by the pain caused by evil, in its different expressions; when we listen to the needs of humanity and respond moved by the power of the Spirit and the interpellation of witnesses of the Gospel such as Fr. Palau who, with boldness and determined determination, guided by the light of the Word, always sets out on the road and rises one and a thousand times from the falls. With the mission received engraved in his bowels, this son of Teresa of Jesus invites us to unconditional surrender for love in terms that continue to resonate strongly: *"Let us always march, always forward, until we become the likeness and image of God; always go forward"* (Evv I, 3).

To celebrate today "150 years of encounters" in a Palautian key is to commemorate his great encounter with the beloved Church and an infinity of successive experiences that have taken place in the "interior cellar", where only the heart of God and his creature meet; in the streets, where the mission of restoring the beauty of the human being becomes urgent; in fraternal spaces, where communion is forged; in the bed of pain, where accompanying with a Samaritan spirit opens to hope; among young people, encouraging the search for meaning; in nature and common home, taking care of life in all its expressions. Encounters that have had as their ultimate goal the realization of *God's dream for humanity: that we love one another as He has loved us.* (cf. Jn 13:34)

With immense gratitude for having received the gift of vocation to the Teresian Missionary Carmel, I invite those who empathize with Palautian spirituality to be weavers of encounters from the appreciative gaze that values the other as someone worthy of being loved and, from the contemplative gaze of the one who feels inhabited by the Trinity God who is relationship, diversity and communion.

To Mary, Lady of All Virtues and Mother of the Church, I entrust this new stage of our history.

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