



Henry and Inez Casolani
- Icons of the True Meaning of Christmas -

Christmas! The very word makes our hearts rejoice.

“I live for Christmas!” Inez used to chant in her enthusiastic, bubbly way. For both Henry and Inez Casolani Christmas meant much more than the warmth which enfolds our heart and homes. For them the Birth of Jesus brought with it overwhelming joy. Like Mary and Joseph, like the humble shepherds from the hills around Bethlehem, and like the Wise Men from the East, Christmas brought to Henry and Inez the lasting joy that no one could ever take away from them.

The true meaning of Christmas permeated every activity and aspect of Henry and Inez Casolani’s life. They embraced the Christmas spirituality in a simple way all the year round by carrying out their daily work out of love for Our Lord, by giving of themselves and their worldly possessions without counting the cost, by losing no opportunity to practice love and kindness.

Love is the essence of the birth of Jesus. Henry and Inez loved and adored the Child Jesus with all their strength. They saw Jesus in every person, in every situation; not only, but they also constantly allowed themselves to be guided by “Jesus is love incarnate.”¹ By the way they lived their life of commitment to God and to one another both Henry and Inez Casolani remain a joyful inspiration to the families of today: they nurtured each other in spiritual growth, they gave their

¹ Pope Francis, 25th Dec. 2013

daughter a Christian formation both by word and by example; they embraced their marital responsibilities in a faithfully and zealous way offering each other the greatest mutual love, trust and respect; they valued others and appreciated their work; they reached out lovingly to support those in need not forgetting their extended families; they were active in their parish. They were also Tertiary members of St. Augustine's Order. Above all they daily set time aside to pray together. Inez often quoted: "The family that prays together stays together"

The Church tells us that human love can be a journey of sanctification and an encounter with Our Lord. Henry and Inez Casolani united themselves with Our Lord in marriage on the 19th April 1944 and did their utmost to live saintly lives. The way they lived in harmony together and the way they brought up their daughter made people who knew them remark that by seeing them they were reminded of the Holy Family of Nazareth. 'Their home was a cradle of love'². Their generosity went to the extreme of blessing their one and only daughter to leave home to become a religious. Both were known for their constant faith in God, their deep devotion towards the Virgin Mary and their unfailing abandonment to the Will of God. Inez Casolani died in 1992 at the age of 76 and Henry died seven years later at the age of 81.

Last Christmas Pope Francis told us "Let us allow our hearts to be touched, let us allow ourselves to be warmed by the tenderness of God; we need his caress." Like Henry and Inez Casolani may we, this Christmas, allow our hearts to be touched by the love and goodness of God and to be warmed by His tender, loving care.



² Fr. Martin Caruana O.P., 30th December 1999