

BULLETIN



OF THE FRIENDS OF FATHER CAFFAREL

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CONTENTS

- Editorial: Synodality, A Path envisaged by Father Caffarel
Edgardo & Clarita Bernal Fandiño p. 4
- A Word from the Editor of the Cause of Canonisation
Update on the State of the Cause p. 7
Presentation of the new Roman Postulator,
Father Zdzislaw Kijas p. 8
- News from the Association of the Friends of Father Caffarel
France: A Programme about Father Caffarel on the
French Catholic TV Channel KTO p. 9
- News from the Association of the Friends of Father Caffarel
The Association's Correspondents' Report of Activities
in Brazil 2022 p. 10
- News from the Association of the Friends of Father Caffarel
The Association's Correspondents' Report of Activities
in Spain 2022 p. 12
- From Father Caffarel's Archives
Father Henri Caffarel's Vocation: Three Excerpts
where He refers to that Day in March 1923 p. 16
- Prayer for the Canonisation of Father Caffarel p. 23
- Honorary Members of the Association of the Friends
of Father Caffarel p. 24
- Membership Renewal Form p. 27

EDITORIAL

Clarita & Edgardo BERNAL FANDIÑO

*(Responsible Couple in the International
Leading Team of Teams of Our Lady)*



SYNODALITY: A PATH ENVISAGED BY FATHER HENRI CAFFAREL

Dear Members of the Association of the Friends of Father Caffarel,

Since October 2021, more than a year and a half ago, the word "synodality" has entered the language of all those who profess the Catholic faith, because it was then that the "Synod on Synodality" officially opened. This synod seeks to listen, along with all of the people of God, to what the Holy Spirit is saying to the Church, so that from the reflections and conclusions that this listening arouses, we can build the Church of the third millennium. A Church that will be more participatory, more human, and at the same time more divine, where the Holy Spirit is the true driver of renewal, inspiring and speaking through each and every one of its members and not only from a hierarchical fraction of the people of God.

Without having opportunistic pretensions or forcing wild notions, we can identify in Father Caffarel another of his prophetic characteristics: he was indeed motivated in his actions by a clear concept of synodality, always seeking that the Spirit be revealed in its discernment and in its actions without leaving the laity aside and without considering them as second-rate members of the Church. Indeed he considered them as co-responsible protagonists in the construction of the kingdom. Perhaps we are oversimplifying, but in a more practical way, we can identify three such clues left by our Founder that allow us to deduce what we are asserting:

- From the origin of the Teams of Our Lady movement, Father Caffarel demonstrated to the couples who invited him to accompany them in the adventure of conjugal spirituality, that it was not he who would lead them on this path, but the co-participation of everyone to enable the will of God be revealed through what his Spirit would inspire in them, by discovering this path together. Hence his phrase "*Let's seek together...*"

- For Father Caffarel, it was clear from the start that the Teams of Our Lady movement had to have its own life as a lay movement, accompanied indeed by priest advisers and counsellors who, through their ministry, brought Christ's living presence into the small domestic *ecclesias*, but did not take on managerial responsibilities within the organisation. He was concerned from the start that the identity of Teams of Our Lady would not be associated with him personally and that a dependence on him would not be created. As soon as he saw that there was a real charism to be preserved, and not only a fleeting momentum, and that the couples had reached sufficient spiritual maturity to walk alone, he stepped aside and entrusted the leadership to the d'Amonville couple.

- Father Caffarel never ceased to urge Team members to be active players in the Church. Here is one of the many writings in which we, as lay people, are called to be apostles, *"The extension of the reign of Christ in our contemporary world, which is overwhelmed by materialism, requires that Christian couples - and families - do not content themselves with being beneficiaries of the apostolic action of the Church, but become aware that they too must be "active subjects" of the apostolate, instruments of redemption, in line with their specific mission, with their own means and grace. No doubt they have never been more ready than today to hear this call. Let them respond in very large numbers, let them come and place the human and divine energies of conjugal love and the sacrament of marriage at the service of the Church, and we will see the latter acquire a power of persuasion, a force of penetration and expansion unknown until then."*¹

The Synod's conclusions, which concern every Church member, whether ordained, religious or lay, will certainly lead to a revision of the ecclesial organization, so that synodality does not become a passing slogan, but a way of life for the people of God, in which we all have an active role based on our own particular charisms. *"The Church is not a social form which presupposes communion, but the opposite: "a communion which presupposes a social form." The founding principle is communion, social structures have changed and can change. The Church is born of the mission to evangelise which the Risen One entrusts to it. The mission constitutes its profound identity and its*

¹ Henri Caffarel, « The apostolic mission of the couple and the family », 8 september 1965.

raison d'être. *For the accomplishment of the mission, the Spirit distributes a variety of charisms, which are exercised in various functions and services. Since the mission belongs to the whole of the ecclesial body, synodality is the best expression of the active and real participation of all subjects in the one mission. As Pope Francis reminded us, according to a principle dear to the 'Church of the first millennium,' "what affects all must be treated and approved by all."*²

Dear friends, may we embrace this synodal moment in the Church, because as members of the Church and as heirs and beneficiaries of Father Henri Caffarel's great spiritual heritage, it is our duty to participate in the change which, with great humility and courage, the Church has undertaken. The purpose of the Synod is not to produce yet another document, but rather to awaken our conscience to the co-responsibility that concerns us. This is the appeal that Pope Francis makes to us, *"It is precisely this path of synodality which God expects of the Church of the third millennium."* *"By journeying together and reflecting together on the journey that has been made, the Church will be able to learn through Her experience which processes can help Her to live communion, to achieve participation, to open Herself to mission."* For this, we must evaluate the ways in which we participate in our Church and discern the processes that we must initiate or improve.

As always, entrusting our mission to the intercession of Our Lady, we remain united in deep communion with the Lord of life.

Your friends,

Clarita & Edgardo BERNAL FANDIÑO
Responsible Couple of the International Leading Team,
Teams of Our Lady,
June 23, 2023

² Mgr Raúl Biord Castillo, « Co-Governance and accountability in dioceses and parishes », *Catholic Magazine*, n° 1217, march 2023.

In Service

News from the Association of the Friends of Father Caffarel Update on the State of the Cause

Father Paul-Dominique Marcovits, o.p.
Editor of the Cause of Henri Caffarel

Update on the State of the Cause



The *Positio* was deposited at the Dicastery for the Causes of Saints on June 24, 2022 by Father Angelo Paleri, the Roman Postulator.

Once printed by the Dicastery's printers, it was transmitted to the Dicastery's Theologian Consultors for reading and examination in 2023.

Father Angelo Paleri, OFM Conv, informed the President of the Association of Friends of Father Caffarel that, in accordance with what he had explained when he was appointed to Zambia, he was stopping as Roman Postulator for the cause of canonisation of Father Henri Caffarel at the end of the drafting of the *Positio*.

Father Zdzislaw Józef Kijas, OFM Conv, of Polish origin, was contacted by the President of the Association of Friends of Father Caffarel and agreed to become Roman Postulator of the cause. The official steps were taken and resulted in his appointment on November 9, 2022.

We sincerely thank Father Zdzislaw Józef Kijas for agreeing to become Roman Postulator of the cause, which he already knows, since he was the Relator within the Congregation for the Causes of Saints, after the Cause's dossier was submitted to the Congregation in November 2014.

Father Paul-Dominique Marcovits and Marie-Christine Genillon will go to Rome in October 2023 to meet him and Father S. T. Praskiewicz, Relator of the cause at the Dicastery for the Causes of Saints, and to work with them.

Father Paul-Dominique Marcovits, o.p.

Father Zdzislaw Jozef Kijas, OFM Conv



Father Zdzisław Józef Kijas, OFM Conv, is of Polish origin. He was ordained a priest in 1986 and obtained a license in dogmatic theology at the Gregorian University (1987), a doctorate in Dogmatics at the Catholic University of Louvain-La-Neuve (1990) and then was Professor of Theology in Lublin and Krakow (1991-1993). He became Rector of the Pontifical Theological Faculty of Saint Bonaventure in Rome (2005-2010).

He was a member of the International Committee that studied the Medjugorje apparitions (2010-2014) and a member of the Commission for the Bologna Process (2007-2017) representing the Congregation for Catholic Education. He is currently an expert for AVEPRO (Agency for the Evaluation and Promotion of Quality in Ecclesiastical Faculties).

On January 28, 2010, Benedict XVI appointed him Relator to the Congregation for the Causes of Saints and he remained so until 2020. In this capacity, he was in charge of the Father Caffarel's cause for canonization, before being replaced by Father S. T. Praskiewicz. Since 2020, he has been the General Postulator for causes from his own Order of Conventual Minor Friars. He resides in Rome at the Convent of the Holy Apostles.

In Service

*News from the Association
of the Friends of Father Caffarel*

*France: A Programme about Father
Caffarel
on the French Catholic Television
channel KTO*

Father Henri Caffarel was the subject of a show on May 14, 2023, on the French Catholic television channel KTO, on the programme entitled "La foi pris au mot", at 8:35 p.m., and hosted by Régis Burnet. Father Paul-Dominique Marcovits, editor of the cause of Father Caffarel, took part, as well as Camille and Antoine Renaud, a young couple from Lyon, who were responsible for a Sector within Teams and who had taken the initiative to name their (*Scouts Unitaires de France*) scout group "Father Henri Caffarel". We had reported on this in our Bulletin of the Friends of Father Caffarel, n° 30.

If you want to watch the show in replay:

<https://www.ktotv.com/video/00413440/pere-caffarel>

<https://youtu.be/e7KZC0lp8gl>

In Service

News from the Association of the Friends of Father Caffarel

The Association's Correspondents' Report of Activities in Brazil 2022

Here is a summary of the main activities carried out in the Brazil Super-Region during the year 2022, which aimed to promote and disseminate the Father Henri Caffarel's thinking and the promotion of his cause of canonisation.

1. *National Meeting of New Sector Responsible Couples.*

From April 22 to 24, the National Meeting of New Sector Responsible Couples was held. After two years absence due to Covid, this meeting took place again and more than 170 couples attended. A presentation was made about Father Caffarel, emphasising his message, his books and the cause of canonisation.

2. *The Monthly Letter.*

The Monthly Letter continues to be the ideal medium for disseminating and promoting the ideas of Father Henri Caffarel and the cause of canonization. The themes of this period were:

- CM 544 Reading and Re-reading Father Caffarel
- CM 546 Henri Caffarel ordained a Priest
- CM 549 A Brief Bibliography of and on Father Henri Caffarel

3. *A Kit of Books for Seminaries.*

With the aim of making Father Henri Caffarel's life, thinking and works known to future priests in Brazil, an 18-book kit by and about the founder of Teams

of Our Lady was sent to 163 seminaries across the country. It was an opportunity to send all the bishops and rectors a letter on the objectives of the Movement, on Father Henri Caffarel and on Teams of Our Lady in Brazil.

4. *Other Activities.*

Throughout the year, various activities were organised by Team members to celebrate and pray for Father Caffarel.

September 18, as in other years, is the National Day of Prayer for his canonization. Various reflections, prayers and the celebration of masses marked the day.

At another moment, one of the Regions organised an event entitled “Around the table with Father Caffarel,” during which several important events in his life were recalled, such as the first meeting in Paris, and quotes were taken from his message.



For 2023

From November 10 to 12, 2023, the First National Henri Caffarel Day will take place in Brazil, at the end of a week of studies and reflections which will have presented the founder of the Teams of Our Lady as a man, who experienced an intense relationship with God, who became a man committed to the Church and who left an immeasurable legacy to so many people, starting with couples, his main objective. On this occasion, the three trips that Father Caffarel made to Brazil will be recalled, highlighting his heritage there.

Afra & Hubertus (Beto)
Correspondent Couple for the
Association of the Friends of Father Caffarel in Brazil

In Service

News from the Association of the Friends of Father Caffarel

The Association's Correspondents' Report of Activities in Spain 2022

THE 2022 REPORT FROM "TEAM CAFFAREL"

1. CREATION AND ESTABLISHMENT OF THE TEAM

At the Super-Regional college of January 23, 2021, a "Team Caffarel" was created with the aim of making the life and work of the Teams of Our Lady's founder more obvious and visible to Team members in the Spain Super-Region, and also to continue to increase the number of members of the Association of Friends of Father Caffarel.

The Caffarel Team is made up of five couples and a Spiritual Counsellor:

- Coordinators: Eduardo Conejo & Maelvi García (Málaga)
- Correspondents of the Association of the Friends of Father Caffarel: José Antonio Marcen & Amaya Echandi (Pamplona)
- Bibliographic Works: Alvaro Gómez-Ferrer & Mercedes Lozano (Valencia)
- Communication: Paco López & Rocío Orta (Las Palmas, Grand Canary Island)
- Secretariat: Hermenegildo Puchades & Sandra Grau (Valencia)
- Spiritual Counsellor: Fr. Juan José Hernández Torres (Grenada)

Once created, the Team held its first meeting by videoconference on January 30, 2021 with the managers of the Super-Region, their secretariat and the EDIP coordinators (Dissemination, Information and Steering Teams). Subsequently, the Caffarel Team met regularly by Zoom each month, with a report drawn up by the Team coordinators, also distributed to the managers of the Super-Region. The first "face-to-face" meeting took place in January 2022 when the Team participated in the Super-Regional College in Madrid, at

the Capuchin convent of Cristo de El Pardo; then the team met again in full for the "Pilgrimage in the Footsteps of Father Caffarel" in France in July 2022.

2. ACTIVITIES' PROGRAMME FOR 2022

Hereafter the programme approved by the Super-Regional College in January 2022 (Madrid)

MONTH	DAY	THE CAFFAREL TEAM'S ACTIVITIES
JANUARY	21-23	'Face-to-face' meeting of the team during the Super-Regional College
MONTHLY		Working Meeting of the Caffarel Team
MONTHLY		Sending selected writings of Father Caffarel's to Association members
MONTHLY	the 18th	Publication of a short message accompanied by one of Father Caffarel's texts, on the founder's "day" [he died September 18, 1996]
Continuously		Availability of team members to participate in events where we are asked to provide information & training on Father Caffarel
Continuously		Development of materials on Father Caffarel that can be used in training days and other Movement events. We will start with the supports for the Gatherings of New Teams.
Continuously		Updating and improving the super-region's web page for everything related to Father Caffarel: the beatification process, the Association, activities, writings, etc.
JUNE		Having at least one copy of each of Father Caffarel's books published in Spanish to create a consultation library
JUNE		Reissuing of the study theme on Father Caffarel (post-piloting)
JULY	20-24	Pilgrimage to France to visualize and know the places related to Father Caffarel and to spend several days there in prayer & team building

SEPTEMBER		Informing the Sector managers on the Caffarel Team's approach & projects; running a common stand to promote membership of the Association
SEPTEMBER		Presentation of the book <i>The Holy Marriage of Father Caffarel</i> , translated by Mercedes Lozano, PPC Editorial
NOVEMBER		Debate cycle on Father Caffarel

3. THE CAFFAREL TEAM AT TEAMS OF OUR LADY EVENTS

Under "Availability of team members to participate in events where we are asked to provide information and training on Father Caffarel", Team members participated in and led discussions at the following Teams of Our Lady events:

Eduardo Conejo & Maelvi García participated in the following sessions:

- 14/2/2022: *Family week*, organised by the Málaga diocesan delegation of family pastoral care: "Father Henri Caffarel, Founder of Teams of Our Lady"
- 14/3/2022: Team of Seville "elders": "Father Caffarel's Life and Message"
- 30/3/2022: "Siempre" Team from Málaga: "Father Caffarel's Life and Message"

José Antonio Marcen & Amaya Echandi participated in the following sessions:

- 22/1/2022: The Spain Super-Region College in the Cristo de El Pardo convent (Madrid): "Meeting, Spending Time with, Discovering Father Caffarel"
- 16/10/2022: National Training Days for Pilot Couples, organised by the Spanish Super-Region in Saragossa: "Listening to Father Caffarel"
- 19/11/2022: Days for New Teams in the North and North-East, organised in Zamarce (Navarre): "Father Caffarel for new Teams"

Paco López & Rocío Orta participated in the following sessions:

- 17/12/2022: Christmas meeting of the Canary Islands Sector in Las Palmas (Grand Canary Island): "In the footsteps of Henri Caffarel"

Alvaro Gómez-Ferrer & Mercedes Lozano participated in the following sessions:

- 5/11/2022: Training sessions for Sector leaders in Mexico: “Father Henri Caffarel and Teams of Our Lady”

In addition, it should be noted that since April 2022, Alvaro Gómez-Ferrer and Mercedes Lozano have run the “Diploma for the Formation of Priests as Spiritual Counsellors” at the Catholic University of Pereira (Colombia); the Teams of Our Lady Colombia Super-Region provided teachings with the support of 20 tutorial videos (45 minutes long) on the following five themes:

- “An approach to Father Henri Caffarel’s Life”
- “Father Henri Caffarel’s Thinking about the Marriage Sacrament”
- “Father Caffarel, Teams of Our Lady and the Church”
- “Father Caffarel and Prayer”
- “Father Caffarel and the Mission”

José Antonio Marcen & Amaya Echandi





FROM FATHER CAFFAREL'S ARCHIVES

FATHER HENRI CAFFAREL'S VOCATION,

Three Excerpts where He refers to that Day in March 1923

Father Henri Caffarel's participation in the French radio programme *Radioscopie* March 15, 1973

"I am a man of prayer. I am a man of prayer... in fact, I should have been a monk! When I was twenty years of age, just after the day I was telling you about a few minutes ago, the day of my conversion, I had a place reserved in a Trappist monastery; I wanted to spend my whole life praying because I thought that of all activities, prayer was the most efficient, the most decisive, the most universal! For the whole world! I believe that the people who pray are the lungs of humanity. Do you know the old story from the Bible, when the Lord was on the verge of destroying Sodom and Gomorrah, Abraham interceded for those towns. How many times did I get the feeling that the people who pray are those who keep up the relationship between humanity and God and who prevent Mankind from sinking into disaster. (...)

I feel nostalgia for monasteries! I can't leaf through a book about medieval monasteries or hear the word "monastery" without feeling in my heart of hearts a deep emotion at this unaccomplished calling; maybe if I had not heard this call, I would not have been a priest caring about daily prayer, maybe my priesthood would not have been very fruitful and maybe I would not have been capable of this faithfulness we were talking about a while ago. I am sure that I owe all my life to prayer!"

“Conversation with Henri Caffarel : Let us Free Prayer!”

Interviewed by Claude Goure in July 1978

In *Panorama aujourd’hui* Magazine

At the age of twenty, Jesus Christ, in an instant, became someone for me. Oh, nothing spectacular. On that faraway March day, I knew that I was loved and that I loved and that henceforth between Him and I it would be for life. That was it.



Father Caffarel with his parents

A Day for Sector Responsible Couples – 25 March 1973
A talk given by Father Henri Caffarel

In this talk, Father Henri Caffarel looks back on the founding of the Teams of Our Lady movement and establishes a link between this creation 35 years earlier and his own vocation 50 years earlier.

“So I would like briefly to try and tell you about the momentum at the beginning, the nature of this continuous momentum over the past 35 years. I speak of the momentum at the beginning, I speak of the continuous momentum. But I am not quite satisfied with that description, so let us put it in a more Christian type of language: I think that at the beginning there was the obvious will of God, and that for the past 35 years there has been this continual concern to discover day after day this will of God, which gradually became apparent, because it is not only a question of receiving an initial stimulus from the Lord, it is a question of day after day – and you know something about it in the tale of your couple – it is a question of discerning this will of the Lord day after day. Also by going back to this past, by trying to trace an itinerary, this is what I would like to try to say, with all the difficulty, the uncertainty that it contains, how gradually the will of God has guided the Teams movement, with the part too which is due to the mediocrity and the infidelity of those who have yet to discern this will of God and who have yet to respond to it. It is not easy, we fumble, and then sometimes we do not see because we do not pray enough, that is probably what you do sometimes, those who are elderly for example (I am even more so than you). When you are elderly, you sometimes try to discover this guiding line, this plan of the will of God, who writes straight but often with curved lines.

So, I place myself in this perspective. 35 years of history could keep us busy until tomorrow morning, and even until next year, so I will be brief.



I will talk about the beginnings. In essence, the beginnings of the Movement go back well beyond these past 35 years. They go back 50 years, because in the month of March 1923, exactly 50 years ago, one day I became aware of Christ's existence, Christ's life, Christ's love, the relationship of love between Christ and man that makes up Christian life, and for me that was the moment of the parting of the waters. For me, there was a before that month of March 1923 and an after that month of March 1923. I was marked by that and, from that day onwards, I had a desire: to enter more closely into that intimacy with Christ and another desire to bring others to the same, because it was vital to my life, it gave me "la joie de vivre", the grace to live, a motivation to live. And equally, I could only wish that others too would have this encounter with the living Christ; this discovery that God is love.

This is why from the beginnings of my commitment to the priestly life, I have always been stimulated to help those I meet to make this encounter and to progress in this intimacy. And so, when 35 years ago – I am getting to the beginning of the Teams movement – I met some couples who asked me exactly that, to help them discover Christ and join Him not alongside, not on the fringes of their marriage, but in within their marriage, through their marriage, this renewed desire to help people make this discovery sprung up in me. But it was very new to me. What I was being asked was not how a Christian should journey, but how married Christians could make this discovery, how men and women, inhabited by very beautiful human love - we must never forget that Teams of Our Lady began with young couples in whom love had a spring-like, bounding, joyful aspect, full I will not say of illusions,

but of hope. When these men and women experiencing very joyful, very beautiful human love, came to me, the question that arose was not so much how to reconcile this human love with the very real love of Christ that they had, but how make it one and the same thing. They were much more concerned with growing in the love of Christ than with growing in human love, even though they had a very strong desire to do so, but it was this search for God, this desire to respond to the call of Christ's love that prompted them to ask me to work with them.

If we therefore look for the charism of the beginnings, there is that, incontestably. It was not a question of discovering the human laws of love and marriage, of better knowing conjugal and family morality, terms I did not hear them pronounce, of seeing what the social role of the family is. It was not about that, there was at the start a very lively, very vehement spiritual desire. That is why all those early years were about deepening love. It is very curious. We immediately focused, as the subject of our attention, on the search for love: what is love? This was how Lacordaire put it: there are not two loves. If we know marital love, we will know God's love better; if we know God's love better, we will know marital love better. And this is what the passionate, fascinating search of these beginnings was about: what is love? At that time, I would have liked to have written a philosophical treatise on love. It really seemed to me the key to the universe – Claudel says that somewhere – *“I understood that there was the key to the universe, the key to the human and the key to the divine, the key to everything”* – what is love?

And I think, after 35 years, that this meditation on love should never end, because it is the only reality there is: God is love - man is love - we do not understand anything outside of love.

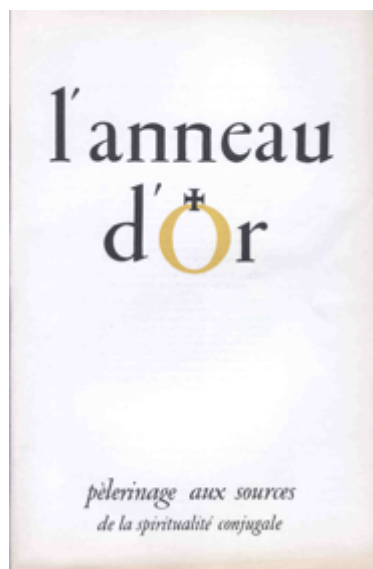
And then the Lord allowed the terrible ordeal to occur, and this is what explains, I believe, why Teams of Our Lady did not remain the preoccupation of a few privileged couples, but developed. The terrible ordeal of war, its five painful, threatening years, of anxiety often in a country occupied by its neighbours. It was a blessing for Teams. Because at that time it was not necessary to speak of asceticism: it was practiced inevitably. I believe that Teams of Our Lady would not have started without it. And I think that - I am not saying the misfortune of the following years, that there was no longer this misery into which we were immersed, this threat that we knew, these couples

who were always expected the unusual visit of someone at 5 am coming to call away the father or the eldest son - I would not dare say what a shame - but it is certain that Teams of Our Lady owe a lot to these difficult years. Because everything was hard, because everything was difficult, because we did not have the luxury of endless discussion, we did not have the luxury of recriminations and disputes: we had to live and we went straight to the basics. And we prayed, we prayed a lot. I remember these nights of prayer; Sometimes it was when a head of the family asked for it, where hour by hour, in a home, in a room, we took turns to pray to Christ for the one who had been kidnapped that morning, for the wife and for the children ... You must never forget that. And insofar as Teams of Our Lady couples forget the great law of asceticism - I am wrong in speaking of a law of asceticism: these are the requirements of love, it is something else altogether, the jealous love of God, this love that does not admit compromise, that is asceticism. When we forget about it, Teams alter, fall back, the trajectory tends to fall away.

It was after this painful period the expansion, as if after winter spring burst forth: Teams leapt over borders, spread everywhere. But I think that it was precisely during this long painful winter that this spring was prepared. So, I was very struck – as were the members of the Responsible Team – that when Teams started in Belgium, Brazil, in such and such important French city, we noticed that there was always a sacrifice at the start. In one such a place, I remember that it was the husband dying on his return from captivity, in another place it was something else, and from this sacrifice at the beginning Teams grew and emerged in a city, in a country. It was very impressive at that time. It struck us because it happened so often.

It was the leap beyond the frontiers, it was the development, it was the moment when we spoke a lot about conjugal spirituality, that is to say the science and the art of sanctifying oneself, not in spite of marriage, but within marriage. That was when *l'Anneau d'Or* (The Golden Ring magazine) was founded, 25 years of *l'Anneau d'Or*, and after that time I thought, like for Teams, it was time to retire and to leave room for young people, and in any case, not to let the magazine fade away, fall away, because it has to be renewed. When a magazine has existed for 25 years, it has to be renewed from top to bottom. It was a joyful inventory, a joyful discovery of all these chapters of marital and family spirituality, but I do indeed speak of spirituality. It is the same as what I told you at the start, this ulterior motive in me, as in those who

collaborated with me, this ulterior motive of leading people to discover life with God, the joy of God, to live in the love and joy of God, that was our obsession. With probably a bit of naivety in our enthusiasm. And I recognise it now and I will talk about it later.



And then came the time of the discovery of a mission within the Church. Humbly moreover, but with the feeling that what we felt, what we lived and experienced, what we discovered, what we prayed, it all could be useful to others. There was a very important moment, where I believe we were not able to fully draw on the richness, probably our Teams would have gone further if we had known how to exploit this richness. It was when we studied and then made known all this spirituality, that has been called the little Ecclesia, these groups of couples, the mystery of this Ecclesia, the spiritual reality of these groups of couples where Christ is present in their midst, and which owes to the example of the first apostolic community, being simultaneously open to the spirit of Christ and at the same time inhabited by an explosive force... We could have drawn more benefit from it. »

Henri Caffarel

Prayer for the Canonisation of the Servant of God, Henri Caffarel

God, our Father,
You planted deep in the heart of your servant, Henri Caffarel,
A fountain of love, which bound him totally to your Son
And inspired him with a wonderful capacity to speak of Him.

A prophet for our time,
He revealed the dignity and beauty of the vocation of every person
In the words Jesus addresses to each of us: "Come follow me."

He made couples enthusiastic about the greatness of the sacrament of
marriage,
The sign of Christ's fruitful love for the Church and of His union with her.
He showed that priests and couples
Are called to live a vocation of love.
He was a guide to widows: love is stronger than death.
Prompted by the Holy Spirit,
He accompanied many Christians on the path of prayer.
Seized by a devouring fire, he was a dwelling place for you, Lord.

God, our Father,
Through the intercession of Our Lady,
We ask you to hasten the day
When the Church will proclaim the holiness of his life,
So that people everywhere will discover the joy of following your Son
In accordance with their particular vocations in the Holy Spirit.

God our Father, we invoke the intercession of Father Caffarel for.....
(Indicate the particular favour being sought)

Prayer approved by Monsignor Andre Vingt-Trois – Archbishop of Paris.
"Nihil obstat": 4th January 2006 – "Imprimatur": 5th January 2006.

*In the case of a particular favour obtained through the intercession of Father
Caffarel, Contact: The Postulator,
Association "Les Amis du Père Caffarel"
49 rue de la Glacière – F 75013 PARIS*

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