

Dear Friends,

Our names are Françoise and Rémi Gausse and we are members of the International Leading Team, in charge of communication and liaising with young couples. We completed our previous mission as Responsible Couple of the Responsible Team for France-Luxembourg-Switzerland in August 2013. We have been married for the past forty-six years and have two children and seven grandchildren.

The international nature of our movement is a source of great richness, as the last gathering in Brasilia demonstrated once again. It is therefore important that team members throughout the world can be in communion. In order for that to happen, we need to know more about the everyday realities of our lives, our cultures and our ways of being members of the Teams. Communication plays a very important role here. As Pope Francis said, *“Good communication helps us grow closer, to know one another better...”* Our access to modern media makes this easy. The Movement’s Internet site is, in this respect, a useful tool that must be constantly improved, updated and made more attractive. An editorial committee will be put in place to oversee its renovation and a watchdog will also be organized so that the different sections are regularly brought up to date and enriched. Correspondents in different zones will be asked to keep us informed of events that ought to be brought to the attention of all. The part dedicated to Father Caffarel and his work will be reviewed, extended and illustrated. Furthermore, in an effort to evangelise and remain faithful to the founding charism of the Movement, meditative and reflective texts on marriage and couples will be posted. Gradually, the international site will become a site of reference.

Since Christian marriage and the family, society’s basic cell, are currently going through a serious crisis throughout the world, it is very important that Teams of Our Lady think seriously about how to make itself better known. The founding charism and precepts of our Movement can be a source of help to a great number of young couples who are worried about such an evolution and who wish to make their union last and be entrenched in Faith. Indeed Pope Francis, in his last apostolic exhortation, invited us *“to go forth from our own comfort zone in order to reach all the “peripheries” in need of the light of the Gospel.”*

Moreover, the mission of our Movement, which is based on spiritual conjugality and the sacrament of marriage, is to evangelise intensely those young couples, who are already team members. We must therefore bear witness to marriage, look with faith on this noble institution and demonstrate that to last is not utopic, but that with the help of the Lord and a firm will, it is not only possible, but also thrilling! More than ever, helping couples experience strong conjugal spirituality in order to discern is essential, especially when they are faced with a society that disseminates a certain number of counter-truths and advocates superficiality. It is important to reconcile introductory and in-depth knowledge, a gradual and a demanding approach, all of which requires a certain amount of imagination and creativity. Since the daily realities are not the same in each country of the world, it is important to think about the evolution of the Movement and how it adapts according to place and circumstance. It is the International Leading Team’s responsibility to outline a united approach and to open up new ways to allow couples’ unions to be lasting. The first act of fraternal love is to facilitate these young people’s encounter with the Love of God by bearing witness to the Good News that Jesus came to tell us. *“The Gospel,”* said Pope Francis at the World Youth Day 2013 in Rio, *“is for everyone... it is not only for those who seem to be closest, most receptive, most welcoming of it, it is for everyone.”* The Teams of Our Lady, with the help of the Spirit, must assume this wonderful challenge.

Françoise & Rémi Gausse
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