

December 2015

From December 4th to 9th, the members of the International Leading Team (ERI) met in Paris to pray and reflect together on the Movement's orientations, to prepare the next College and to work on the outline and preliminary preparations for the big Gathering in Fatima in 2018.



December 8th at Troussures, France

On December 8th, Father Jacinto Farias, Spiritual Counsellor to the ERI, celebrated the mass for the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Virgin Mary in Troussures (north of Paris), where Father Caffarel spent the last years of his life.



This pilgrimage to Troussures meant that we could return to the source of our founding charisma: a long moment of prayer and communion of the ERI with Team members throughout the world.

The ERI was tremendously lucky to have Jean Allemand, Father Caffarel's former secretary, with them for the whole day. He shared our founder's life over many years and gave a magnificent account of that time.

The day continued at Massabielle, "The Couples' House," a property owned by the Teams of Our Lady of France-Luxemburg-Switzerland, and a place for retreats and seminars.

Jean Allemand reminded us of Father Caffarel's life and message and showed how that message is still terribly topical in today's world...



Jean Allemand

Life of the Movement

The assessment of the Rome Gathering of last September is very good. According to the satisfaction questionnaires, there was a global mark of 90/100, going from 76 for food to 92 for the themes treated and 95 for the closing mass... The Papal audience was a great moment of communion with the Church that will mark the history of the Movement.

The **Intercessors** appealed to the ERI to help them progress in the expansion of their movement. An ERI couple (*Mahassen & Georges Khoury*) will now be in charge of the liaison between the ERI and the Intercessors.

The problem of **translating documents** into the Movement's 5 languages was broached: as agreed in Rome, the SR will ensure a better quality of translation, either by taking charge of certain translations or by financially underwriting in the more complex cases. An explanatory letter will be sent to the relevant SR.

In order to advance the **Cause for Canonisation of Father Caffarel**, the Association of the Friends of Father Caffarel is thinking of organising a new Colloquium, at an international level, on the life of Father Caffarel. The writing of a book on his life is also being scheduled. L'ERI took part in the most recent meeting of this association and it was an excellent opportunity to establish friendly links between the two entities.

Marriage Workshop: members of this workshop submitted an 80-page document to the ERI, who will study it and give their opinion in March 2016.

A **Communication Plan 2015-2018** was discussed in order to map out the path to Fatima. It will be finalised at the next meeting...

Update on Work in Progress or Finished Work

The **Sit-Down** document, distributed in Rome, is now to be circulated. Upon completion of the **Private Prayer** booklet, the document on **Married Prayer** will follow and will be widely distributed by the SR & RR.

The **Christian Formation** virtual platform is being finalised, but the translations into the Teams' 5 languages remains to be undertaken. Certain SR will be asked for a financial contribution to enable this.

Work on the **Elder Teams** is moving ahead nicely. The inquiry questionnaire has been analysed and has revealed the following topics for exploration: an in-depth study of Father Caffarel's thinking, the pedagogy of the Endeavours, further utilisation of the work done by various SR on this theme.

Work on the **Spiritual Counsellors and Guides** continues and is integrating the remarks and suggestions of the different responsible couples on the ground.

The writing up of an **Information Couple's Guide** continues: the ERI has validated the first preliminary document. The definite text will be adopted by the ERI at its next meeting. The **Responsible Couple for the Team's Guide** must now be distributed by all the SR/RR, as agreed in Rome.

The writing up of the **2016/2017 Theme** is being done by the Italian SR. The preliminary elements have been studied by the ERI, who made suggestions for its continuation. It will be ready for distribution by the SR/RR in April 2016.

Future Perspectives

In preparation for the Fatima Gathering, the **2017/2018 Theme** will be entitled "**The Mission of Love**" and will be drawn up by the Spanish SR.

The next **International Colleges** will take the following Gospel verses as their central themes:

For 2016 "*I am the Way, the Truth and the Life*" (Jn 14:6)

For 2017 "*Without me, you can do nothing*" (Jn 15:5)

For 2018 "*Remain in my love*" (Jn 15:9)

The theme of the 2016 College will have to do with Mercy.

Diary

Next ERI meeting: 8-12 March 2016 in Barcelona (Spain)

Meeting with local Team members: March 12th (afternoon)

International College: 23-28 July 2016 in Swanwick (England), Hayes Conference Centre

ERI Meeting: 19- 23 July 2016

Zone Meetings: July 28th (afternoon) & July 29th (morning)

Meeting with local Team members: July 29th (evening)

Future Meetings:

ERI: March 2017 in the German-speaking Region

ERI & College July 2017: Brazil

ERI & College July 2018: Fatima (Portugal)

☞ SR/RR are asked to send Pedro Bobone their annual statistics before the end of January...



International Gathering
Sunday, July 15th to Friday, July 20th, 2018
In Fatima (Portugal)