

International Leading Team's Letter – Satellite Teams, 2013

Dear Friends,

Our names are Edgardo and Clarita Bernal Fandiño and we coordinate the Satellite Teams. From now on, from this Letter onwards, each couple in the International Leading Team will give you news and details about their particular task in the Movement, so that all team members can get a clear idea of what is involved in terms of responsibility and can better understand how the Movement is organised.

We are from Columbia and have been married for 27 years. We are in the Teams Movement for 16 years. We have two children: Santiago, who is 21 and is in his last year of Industrial Engineering at the University of Los Andes de Bogotá (Columbia) and Silvia, who is 18 and is studying French Language, Culture and Civilisation at the Lumière University, Lyon 2 (France).

After the International Gathering in Brasilia in 2012, we were called to join the International Leading Team (ERI) with the specific task of coordinating the work developed by the Satellite Teams. We in turn called upon Father Silvio Cajiao, a Jesuit priest, to accompany and guide us with his ministry and friendship as Spiritual Counsellor of the Satellite Teams.

The Satellite Teams are teams who are directly linked to the International Leading Team and are made up of couples and spiritual counsellors from different parts of the world. They aim to work on the in-depth study of specific subjects and topics that are important to the Movement. These subjects are determined by the International Leading Team and stem either from desiderata expressed by the Super-Regional couples at the International College, or from a reading of the realities of the world, or from the orientations of life in conformity with the Church's directives.

Throughout this past year, and indeed since we accepted this service, we have spent time defining the Satellite Teams' objectives which were recently approved by the International College at Bordeaux, France, this summer. The Satellite Teams comprise the following teams:

Team for Christian Training made up of:

- Mariola & Elieu Calsing from the Brazil Super-Region & the coordinating couple for this team
- Ginette & Martin Bergeron from Canada, Regional Responsible Couple
- Graça & Eudardo Barboas Wetzel from the Brazil Super-Region
- Stella & Germán Mahecha from Colombia, Hispano-America Super-Region
- Vee & René Pols from Australia, Oceania Super-Region, liaison couple
- Father Silvio Cajiao who, besides being the Spiritual Counsellor of all the Satellite Teams, will work very closely with this team

Pedagogical Team made up of

- Florence & Jean-Philippe Joubert from the France-Switzerland-Luxembourg Super-Region, coordinating couple for this team
- Agostinha & Manuel Carvalho from the Portugal Super-Region

- Masu & Xose Manuel Dominguez from the Spain Super-Region
- Mary & Robert Jones, from England and the Transatlantic Super-Region
- Emilia & Roger Agbozoh, from Togo, French Africa Super-Region, liaison couple

Reflection & Research Team made up of:

- Maria Graciete & José Rebelo from the Portugal Super-Region, coordination couple for the team
- Elisabeth & François Hatey from the France-Switzerland-Luxembourg Super-Region
- Brigitte & Hubert Wattelet from the Belgium Super-Region
- Maryves & Cristoforo Codrino from the Italy Super-Region

America Group for Reflection on the Theology of Sexuality made up of:

- Olga Lucía & Antonio Arango from Columbia, Hispano-America Super-Region & coordinating couple for this team
- Ellen & T.J Holt from the USA Super-Region
- Márcia & Luis Carlos Nogueira from the Brazil Super-Region,
- Pascualina & Jeff Hoford from Trinidad & Tobago, Transatlantic Super-Region
- Father Flavio Cavalca de Castro from the Brazil Super-Region

Europe Group for Reflection on the Theology of Sexuality made up of:

- Olga & Secundino Gonzáles from the Spain Super-Region
- Dominique & Jean Arondel from the France-Switzerland-Luxembourg Super-Region
- Anne-Michelle & Patrick Lovens from the Belgium Super-Region
- Penny & Peter Cahalan from Australia, Oceania Super-Region & liaison couple

AMERICA GROUP



- Meeting for the America Group in Bogota. Front row from left to right: Mariola et Elizeu Calsing, Luiz Carlos Nogueira; second row: Maria Teresa Liévano (translator), Clarita Fandiño, Ginette Bergeron, Olga Lucía Arango, Stella Mahecha, Pasqui Hoford, Ellen Holt, Marcia Nogueira; back row: Edgardo Bernal, Martin Bergeron, Antonio Arango, Germán Mahecha, Jeff Hoford, T.J Holt, Father Flavio Cavalca, Father Silvio Cajiao.

Recently the Team for Christian Training and the America Group for Reflection on the Theology of Sexuality met in Bogotá, Columbia, October 11-13, 2013, while the Reflection & Research Teams as well as the Europe Group for Reflection on the Theology of Sexuality met in Fátima, Portugal, October 8-10, 2013.

EUROPE GROUP



Meeting for the Europe Group in Fatima. Front row from left to right: Graciete Rebelo, Dominique Arondel, Florence & Jean-Philippe Joubert, Agostinha Carvalho, Mary Jones, Isabel Baptista (translator), Masu Dominguez, Maryves & Cristoforo Codrino; second row: José Rebelo, Jean Arondel, Hubert & Brigitte Wattelet, Clarita Fandiño, Manuel Carvalho, Elizabeth Hatey, Olga Gonzalez, Robert Jones.; third row: Anne-Michèle Lovens, Edgardo Bernal, Patrick Lovens, François Hatey, Secundino Gonzalez, Xosé Manuel Dominguez, Father Silvio Cajiao.

We are not going to go into great detail right now about each team's or reflection group's work, but let us just explain their goals:

- **Christian Training:** to draw up a basic catechetical training plan that can be used by all Teams members and all those who wish to deepen their knowledge of our religion and our Church, its fundamental principles, its documents, its sacraments, its liturgy, using all means of communication available
- **Pedagogy:** to continue deepening and updating all aspects that deal with the pedagogy and mystique of the Movement, by offering practical tools to help couples interiorise and practice each Endeavour
- **Reflection & Research:** to deepen the research and knowledge of the material that every Super-Region and Regional Responsible Couple prepared over time for its members, by organising and archiving it a way that makes it known and that can benefit the whole Movement; recommending material to the International Leading Teams that might have universal interest
- **Reflection Groups on the Theology of Sexuality:** to put together a reflection document with a Christian outlook that invites couples in the Teams Movement to discover sexuality as a gift from God and a means of sanctification relevant to their lives

With great emotion (and we are sure each of the teams felt this too), we would like to convey to you the fact that these meetings constitute a mini-Pentecost. Think about it for a moment. Think about all the difficulties involved in getting couples and priests who do not know each other together for a weekend. Think about their linguistic and cultural differences, their varied professional backgrounds. Think about the fact that in a short space of time, over a weekend, they must form a community, draw up a working document, establish and attribute tasks to each of the team members. It's a huge task, isn't it? In fact, it isn't! From the first moment that we placed our work in God's hands, we had no doubt that the Holy Spirit was going to be present every step of the way, at every meeting, and that the work would be accomplished in a climate of love, cordiality and seriousness that incites us shout out MAGNIFICAT!

Here is what we told the couples and priests at the beginning of these meetings. *"In the work that is about to begin today, it is easy to bank only what we are sure of and what we know, only listening to our own voice that shuts out the voice of God. It is important that our work always be guided by a deep prayer that makes us humble and small so that, by emptying us of ourselves, by weakening our safeguards so that we can welcome the power of God. When we do not know how to approach the work, when we do not have an answer to everything, we become weak, we will stop counting only on our knowledge and what we are sure of, and that is when the opportunity emerges to rely on Him, because, as St Paul said, our weakness makes way for his powerfulness. When we stopping listening to our own voice, the Lord will begin to speak through another person and his Spirit will start to be obvious in the strength of the community and in the voice of collegiality. We hope that this thought will always be present."*

Dear friends, as we said at Bogotá and at Fátima to our Satellite Teams family: our greatest desire is that this work that WE ARE DOING FOR GOD becomes, with our docility and devotion, A WORK OF GOD in which we can let HIS will take over from ours. For that we ask that you accompany us with your prayers to console and encourage us.

With all our heart, this is our wish for all couples and spiritual counsellors in the Teams of Our Lady Movement: that this Christmas, the Family of Nazareth shines with all its love and hope upon your houses and families.

Clarita & Edgardo