

Dear Friends,

Paris, March 20th, 2017

The next International Gathering of Teams of our Lady will take place in Fatima, Portugal. This choice was a consequence of a consultation “Zero Kilometre” done in the Rome Regional Gathering in September 2015.

Since then, the ERI (The International Leading Team) has been thinking and working to prepare this great pilgrimage. The journey begins when we start thinking and preparing it. A time of waiting begins with the announcement of the event which is practically already at our doorstep.

Let’s then leave all together to the Gathering

- Place : **Fátima.**
- Date : **16 to 21 July 2018.**
- Chosen Gospel as theme: **The Prodigal Son** (Luke 15: 12-32)
- **LOGO of the Gathering:** The image created for this purpose will accompany us during next year. It is the work of a Portuguese artist and it was chosen after analyzing many other proposals. It is a very pretty image with many symbolical meanings: we invite you all to discover them on the attached explanatory sheet.
Keep it in your heart as this is the image which will unite us on our way towards Fatima, where Our Lady will be waiting for us to lead us to the Father.

We invite you Teams members throughout the world to start preparing for the journey that will lead us to the XII International Gathering of our Movement . Undoubtedly not everyone will be physically present in Fátima, but all will be able to participate in the lead up stages and share the experience of conversion which is always lived each time one undertakes a journey of the heart and soul.

We sincerely wish that everyone could have the greatest possible participation in the Fátima Gathering. That’s why we expect each of you, Teams members from countries of the whole world to feel the need to make an effort to truly participate in this exceptional event which only happens every 6 years.

The Movement’s Internationality will have the face of thousands of Teams couples coming from all corners of the earth, who have set out to meet around the banqueting table and at the feast to which the Lord himself calls us.

We would like to stress that the whole International Leading Team and ourselves, are personally convinced that this International Gathering in Portugal will give us an answer and a possible reading of the signs of our times

Living still in the spirit of the Year of Mercy, we are sure that Fatima will be a Gathering place, for both the couple and the team, so that we may all together celebrate as a FEAST.

God's mercy, the Spirit of renewal and a strong desire to return to the roots of our faith, at the site where Mary chose to meet the little shepherds.

We are sure that many of these thoughts are shared by you and that each member, each team, each sector, each region and each super-region, will do their utmost so that the next International Gathering has the largest ever participation of teams members.

The XII International Gathering in Fátima, in July 2018, starts today, the moment you are invited to participate. The anticipation also starts today, a time that if lived in-depth and with faith will be a time of renewal and richness for all the Movement.

However, this International Gathering includes all Teams members of the world and not just those who can attend. Only through the community marching together, with attendees from each country, can the Gathering in Fátima become a strong moment of faith and encounter with God.

In Portugal 8 service teams, coordinated by Joana and Samuel Sanches have been working for months so that this great event turns out in the best possible way. Our special thanks to Joana and Samuel and to all the other couples who with a lot of love have been devoting themselves to this service.

Your Region and Super-Regional Responsible Couples will have all the information in due course. Please visit the website created for this event where you will be able to find all information and up-dates.

Have a Good Journey, Courage and may God bless you all!

The International Leading Team

Tó and Zé Moura Soares

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