



Henri Caffarel, prophète pour notre temps
Colloque International – 8 & 9 Décembre 2017

COMMUNICATION ON THE STATE OF ADVANCEMENT OF THE CAUSE FOR CANONISATION OF FATHER HENRI CAFFAREL

Father Angelo Paleri

As postulator (official promoter), my remarks today are designed to bring you up-to-date with the state of advancement of the cause for canonisation of Father Henri Caffarel.

Before presenting you with the situation up until today, I wish to mention an apostolic letter published by Pope Francis on July 11, 2017, in the form of a *Motu proprio*, entitled *Maiorem Hac Dilectionem*, or On the Offer of Life. Numerous people have asked me if the letter changes anything for Father Caffarel's cause. This apostolic letter changes nothing for the cause of the founder of the Teams of Our Lady. It merely introduces another type of procedure entitled 'offer of life' that refers to people who could have avoided death, but who chose to remain at their post, even if it meant meeting death.

We know that the request to open the cause on the life, heroic virtues, reputation for holiness and for signs of Father Henri Caffarel came mainly from numerous Brazilian Teams. And so, in 2005, the Association called "Les Amis du Père Caffarel" was created in order to support this long process and it is the Actor of the cause.

Two documents were necessary to formulate the request for the opening of the diocesan inquiry, namely the validation by the Congregation for the Causes of Saints of the authorisation from the diocese of Beauvais (to which Troussures belongs) to carry out a diocesan inquiry in Paris (*competentia fori*). This was given on September 9th, 2005 and the verification of absence of reasons contrary to this same inquiry (*nihil obstat*), that was delivered on October 15th, 2005.

On April 25th, 2006, the Archbishop of Paris, Monsignor André Vingt-Trois ratified the opening of the diocesan inquiry that took place from March 6th, 2007 to October 18th, 2014.

On November 10th, 2014, the Acts of the Paris diocesan inquiry were delivered to the Congregation for the Causes of Saints in Rome and were examined, as is customary, over a year. Thus, on October 9th, 2015, the Congregation for the Causes of Saints voted the validity of the diocesan inquiry, and on November 6th, 2015, the Relator (investigating judge) was designated, Father Zdzisław Józef Kijas. The *Positio* (a biography and official position paper, 600-1000 pages, documenting the candidate's holiness) then began to be written and this task was entrusted to Father Paul-Dominique Marcovits, a colleague.

Until December 2016, the colleague for the preparation of the *Positio* wrote up the *Summarium Testium*, which is a synthesis of the procedural and extra procedural dispositions presented during the Paris diocesan inquiry.

Throughout this current year of 2017, Monsignor François Fleischmann and Mme Marie-Christine Genillon helped Father Paul-Dominique Marcovits with the research for the documentation (eyewitness accounts, texts, conferences...) that will be written up in the *Summarium Documentorum*.

Then there will be the drafting of the *Biographia ex Documentis* and finally the *Informatio* that will complete the *Positio*.



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Furthermore, we must seek, amongst the graces attributed to the intercession of Father Caffarel, a grace that could be submitted to the examination and criticism of doctors in charge of the clinical expertise.

Up until now, several graces attributed to Father Henri Caffarel have been brought to our attention, but they only bear witness to the reputation for holiness and for signs, and cannot therefore be submitted to the examination and criticism of doctors in charge of the clinical expertise. Undoubtedly these reports are important, because they reflect the fact that the intercession of the Servant of God is known. We would emphasise that various healings were only communicated to us several years after they had taken place; we hope therefore that somewhere in the world there are healings that will be able to be recognised as true miracles.

In order for each physical healing to be approved as a miracle, there needs to be a medical file that charts the pathology's chronology. Before beginning the diocesan inquiry on a possible miracle, the clinical documentation will be examined by a member of the Vatican College of Doctors. And the end of the diocesan inquiry on the potential miracle, a *Positio* will have to be written up in order for the miracle to be recognised.

Now I would like to share with you some final thoughts about the timeline, because numerous people have asked me, "When will Father Caffarel be beatified?"

First of all, we need to calculate the amount of time necessary to finish the writing of the *Positio* and the time needed for it to be examined by the Commissions of the Congregation: the Special Congress of Eight Theologian Consultors with the Promotor of Faith, and the Ordinary Session of the Cardinals and Bishops (made of at least 16 of the 20 prelates summoned) with the Prefect and Secretary of the Congregation.

The answer to the question depends of course on the fact of finding a presumed miracle that could be presented for examination by the medical experts and could be recognised as a true miracle. This miracle and its reputation would have to be instructed with a diocesan inquiry in the diocese in which it took place. Then a *Positio* would have to be written up on this diocesan inquiry, which ought to take less time than the one on the virtues.

We hope that all these remaining phases will be resolved as soon as possible, but, realistically, several years will be necessary to examine the *Positio* on the virtues, as well as to instruct the diocesan enquiry on a healing that is presumed to be miraculous, to write up its *Positio* and to have the latter examined by the Congregation for the Causes of Saints.

I will finish my talk by suggesting that you recite the prayer for the beatification of the Servant of God, Henri Caffarel, as often as possible.

Thank You.