



Greetings in Christ,

I am Dom Jacinto Inacio Flach, bishop of Criciúma, in the State of Santa Catarina, Brazil. I have been bishop for 16 years, ten of which have been dedicated to this diocese and six to accompanying Équipes Notre-Dame as a Spiritual Counsellor to a Team. Before becoming actively involved, I had a rather general knowledge of Équipes. Today, I can bear witness to the fact that with their spirituality and their pedagogy, they save, enliven and reinforce numerous families who, every day, are tested and are called into question in terms of their fidelity and perseverance, within the conjugal life of Holy Marriage. I am convinced that Father Caffarel was prophetically inspired by God in order to illuminate the difficult times that were to come.

In July 2018, I was lucky enough to participate in the International Gathering of Équipes Notre-Dame, in Fatima, Portugal. I can bear witness to the fact that faith, love and hope were renewed in my shepherd's heart, and the same happened, I believe, in the hearts of the other participants. All the talks and speeches were very well prepared. A prayerful atmosphere was obvious at every talk. As you will remember, the central theme was "*The loving father who welcomes his sinful son*" and it inspired the reflections. Father Caffarel's soul was everywhere, in the talks, in the celebrations, in the testimonials we heard. I believe that his intercession together with the Holy Family of Nazareth was very precious. Father Caffarel, in the heavens, undoubtedly celebrated the marvels that occurred in Fatima. Marvels that continue even now to occur in so many hearts that love each other, that welcome each other and that mutually forgive each other.

Today, the institutions of the Family and the Catholic Church are amongst the most persecuted in the world, precisely because they were created and loved by God.

I praise and thank God for the life and vocation of our beloved Father Caffarel who, through the action of the Holy Spirit, was God's instrument to sow good seeds in God's Garden and his fruit today manifest this throughout the entire world.

Criciúma, January 19th, 2019

Dom Jacinto Inacio Fach

Bishop of Criciúma