

THE BULLETIN



OF FRIENDS OF FATHER CAFFAREL

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ASSOCIATION DES AMIS DU PÈRE CAFFAREL
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FRIENDS OF FATHER CAFFAREL

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L'Association des Amis du père Caffarel,

- Either by mail : 49 rue de la Glacière F-75013 PARIS
- Or on our website : www.henri-caffarel.org

Price (in Euros) : **5 €**

Please find a membership form on the last page of this bulletin and **renew your membership** for 2012 if you have not done so already.

On the back of your membership form, please list the names of friends to whom you would like us to send a membership application.

EDITORIAL

Praying with the Magnificat

Maria-Carla & Carlo Volpini



Thank you Father Caffarel
for asking us to pray using the Magnificat!

Father Caffarel continually asked us to pray because *‘praying means looking for and finding God’*.

A single prayer, the Magnificat, (also known as the Cantic of Mary or the Song of Mary, Luke 1, 46-55) unites all Teams, but why should it be recited daily?

Firstly, why is it the prayer of all Team members worldwide?

The Magnificat is Mary’s song of praise to her Lord, but it can become ‘ours’, our song of praise, because God himself, through his Word and the Word of Scripture, asks us to praise Him daily.

Magnificat anima mea

Because *‘it is good to sing praises to our God’* (Ps 147, 1)

Magnificat anima mea

Because *‘let everything that has breath praise the Lord’* (Ps 150,6)

Magnificat anima mea

Because *‘you, Lord, created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother’s womb’* (Ps 139, 13).

Magnificat anima mea

When I kneel before my Lord and I feel his presence in the depths of my soul,

Magnificat anima mea

When I listen to his Word and when through his Word the necessary light appears to help me live my everyday life (Lk 10, 21-24)

Magnificat anima mea

When I walk and when I feel a light breeze diffuse the scent of yet another new springtime, or when a strong and vigorous wind shakes the branches of old trees.

Magnificat anima mea

When the smell of fresh bread permeates the air and brings me joy to be able to share it with my brothers again today,

Magnificat anima mea

When, with Mary, I praise the great works that God continues to create in us and for us (Lk 1, 49-50), when in Mary I find shelter, support and protection.

Magnificat anima mea

For the beauty created by man with the spirit of intelligence in each of his works and for marriage experienced as a masterpiece of God.

Magnificat anima mea

For the close link that binds generations and in particular for the loving closeness of parents and children.

Magnificat anima mea

For the gift of Mary, Mother of God and Mother of tenderness, because through the example of her 'let it be done to me', I am able to say my own 'let it be done to me'.

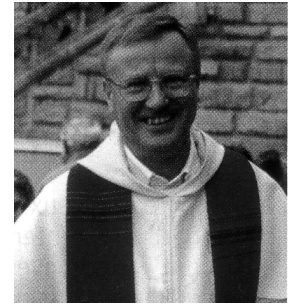
Magnificat anima mea

“... all my life, ... as long as I live” (Ps 146, 2)

Letter from the Postulator

Daring to Live the Gospel

Father Paul-Dominique Marcovits, o.p.



Let me start by telling you where we are with Father Caffarel's cause. The diocesan session is almost over. Witnesses have been interviewed and theologians and historians are going to hand in their work to the Diocesan Commission soon. Then if the Archbishop of Paris agrees, we will be able to send the whole dossier to Rome and that will open a new phase. So we will keep you posted!

However, with the approach of the international gathering of the Teams of Our Lady in Brasilia, a few remarks are in order. Father Caffarel loved Brazil. Indeed, he went there three times to meet up with the Teams that Pedro and Nancy Moncau started. This gathering in July 2012 will be like a new Pentecost for us. The Holy Spirit will come upon us so that the good news about marriage will be proclaimed again and forever to all couples on earth.

“Daring to Live the Gospel” is the theme of this gathering. Here are three of Father Caffarel's thoughts in order to prepare for this pilgrimage to Brasilia, whether you are going physically or just spiritually.

“In order to reach fulfilment, man has more need of prayer than bread.”

Bread is necessary, fraternal help is fundamental, and many different kinds of human aid can also help Team members to live to the full their marriage and bear witness to its fruits. However, prayer, our relationship with God, the time we take to simply come before the Lord, being at his “disposition” as Father Caffarel used to say...that is the source of everything. Without prayer, other people's help would not be completely useful: the depths would not be reached. Through prayer, especially private personal prayer, the Lord makes life surge forth...and after this everything else slots into place. The great grace that God gave to Father Caffarel was an

understanding of the sacrament of marriage that led to the creation of the Teams of Our Lady. Yes, it is true if you immediately add that he united marriage, private personal prayer and prayer in general. If God is ‘the source of love’, as the marriage liturgy says, then prayer is essential. Marriage runs the risk of wilting if the water of prayer is missing! If, however, the water of prayer is present, then man and wife can be fulfilled; they can find the right balance for themselves and overcome the obstacles that appear in every life. Daring to Live the Gospel is firstly daring to pray.

Here is the second of Father Caffarel’s thoughts: “**You must always realise this basic truth: he who comes to take, leaves empty-handed, he who comes to give, receives.**” How true this is in marriage! And how this will be borne out in Brasilia! Actually, we already know this: the apostolic mission, the strength to bear witness to others about the greatness of human love that is inspired by divine love, all this finds its source in love, in the gift of oneself to others. Daring to Live the Gospel does not mean ‘taking’, imposing our faith, our vision of things, no! Daring to Live the Gospel means giving whatever is most precious to us. What touches and moves others is what springs from our heart.

A final thought. When Father Caffarel introduced himself at the beginning of retreats at Troussures, France, he used to open his arms and say, “**The Lord is waiting for you.**” In his first letter about prayer, he wrote the same thing, “The Lord is always waiting for you.” He is waiting for us in Brasilia. If we stay home in our own country, the Lord is waiting for us in the communion that will be established between all Team members, with the great and large family of all Teams.

(If you wish to write to Father Marcovits,
postulateur@henri-caffarel.org)



2010 Financial Report for the Association

Philippe Deney,
Treasurer



The event that marked 2010 was the association's organization of a Colloquium on Father Caffarel at the Collège des Bernadins, Paris. The main aim of the Colloquium was to ensure that Father Caffarel and his ideas were better known. Part of the association's financial reserves were used to this end.

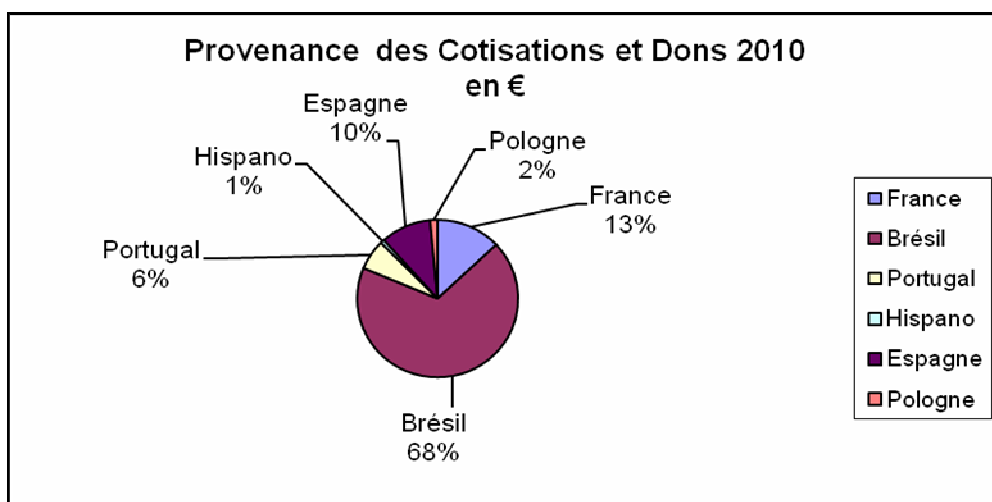
At the end of December 2010, the income and costs of the association were the following:

Costs	2010	2009
• Travel to meet witnesses	2 452 €	1 781 €
• Miscellaneous Office material/items	3 932 €	1 724 €
• Postulation Team	8 220 €	9 110 €
• Secretarial work/photocopying	5 449 €	5 499 €
• Expenses for Colloquium Organisation	12 834 €	
Total	32 887 €	18 114 €
Income		
• Subscriptions	19 240 €	18 593 €
• Grant from ERI (International Leading Team)	0 €	0 €
• Donations	660 €	968 €
• Merchandise Sales	10 €	35 €
• Registrations for Colloquium	5 231 €	
• Financial placements	280 €	
Total	25 421 €	19 592 €
Total	-7 466 €	+ 1 479 €

Excluding the financial impact of the Colloquium on the accounts (net loss of 10120€), as per previous years, the costs remained lower than budgeted for this phase of the Cause. The same working method was used as in previous years and the Postulation team and the Diocesan enquiry commission limited their travel expenses. The theologians and historians continued their work via internet, while the secretarial and office expenses

remained at a minimum level, thanks to the implication and involvement of a large team of volunteers who graciously gave of their time for the association.

Income derived from subscriptions remained identical to 2009. The level of subscription renewal is good, despite the lack of systematic and individualized reminders, and the insertion of the renewal form in the information letter seems to suffice. The remarkable contribution received from Brazil must be mentioned and noted. As a direct consequence of this, we decided, just as in 2009, not to request the grant of 10000€ from the International Teams of Our Lady and to carry it forward to subsequent years depending on the evolution of the Cause.



Origin of subscriptions and donations 2010

Subscriptions and donations originate mainly in the two countries that have the most Teams of Our Lady: Brazil and France. Between them they represent 81% of the subscription amount in 2010. Indeed, Brazil represents 2/3 of the income generated by subscription in 2010. This reflects the Brazilians' adherence to the Cause for Canonisation of Father Caffarel. Other countries have put in place local coordinators and representatives of the association. There are just over 1600 members in the association as of today.

An idea for organizing a Vigil on Father Caffarel

Dear Team members,

We believe that Father Caffarel's thoughts and ideas are still meaningful today. They can help anchor many couples more firmly in their faith. Spiritual conjugality is indeed a way to holiness. We are working to support the Cause for Father Caffarel's Canonisation so that his belief that 'marriage as a way to holiness' can be revealed to the world, so that his thoughts and ideas can spread more widely. We notice even today that when there is talk about the family, the essential pillar of the family, the couple, is forgotten.

This is why we believe it would be interesting to share our experiences concerning the dissemination of Father Caffarel's thinking. As an example, we would like draw your attention to an idea for organizing a vigil, in French, for a retreat or for a prayer meeting. It can be downloaded by clicking on the following link:

http://www.henri-caffarel.org/pages_fr/autres.html

Please let us know and share with us what you have managed to organize yourselves, for these exchanges ought to enrich us mutually so that we become better witnesses.

The Editorial Team
Jacques & Marie-France Béjot-Dubief

Questionnaire

Bulletin of the Friends of Father Caffarel

With the publication of the 10th issue of this Bulletin, we solicit your advice and would appreciate you taking the time to fill out and return the questionnaire below

•either by filling it out on paper and returning it by post to the Association's headquarters

•or by replying directly on the site, by clicking on the icon on the home page: <http://www.henri-caffarel.org>

1 – About You

How old are you?

- less than 25 years old 25-30 years old 30-40 years old
 40-60 years old over 60 years old

Are you a

- Team member Spiritual Counselor
 Other.....

Where do you live? Country.....
Town.....

2 – Your Reading Habits

You wait for *The Bulletin*

- Impatiently
 Indifferently
 Not at all

How long do you spend reading *The Bulletin*?

- Less than 15 minutes
 Between 15 and 30 minutes
 From 30 minutes to 1 hour
 More than 1 hour

Once you have read *The Bulletin*, what do you do with it?

- You keep it & archive it

- You give it to other non-members of the Association to read
- You do not keep it

Do you use the last page of *The Bulletin, Membership Application for others*?

- No Yes Often

3 – Your opinion about *The Bulletin of the Friends...*

3.1 – General Appreciation

Please give a note from 1 to 4 below by circling your choice (1 not at all pleased; 4 very pleased).

Editorial content	1	2	3	4
Presentation	1	2	3	4
The magazine as a whole	1	2	3	4

***The Bulletin* is published twice a year:**

Do you think this is enough and does it suit you?

Yes

No and, if not, what would you suggest?

Please let us know what you think about the following statements

(A cross in each space corresponds to your answer)

	I agree	I don't agree	I don't know
<i>The Bulletin</i> improves my understand of the Association's aims			
<i>The Bulletin</i> helps discover the personality and message of Father Caffarel			

3.2 – Your Evaluation of the Content

Evaluation of the various sections in *The Bulletin*

Please give a note from 1 to 4 below by circling your choice (1 not at all pleased; 4 very pleased).

- Editorial

Interest	1	2	3	4
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- Postulator’s Report

Interest	1	2	3	4
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- State of the Advancement of the Cause

Interest	1	2	3	4
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- Association’s Financial Report (once a year)

Interest	1	2	3	4
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- Testimony on Father Caffarel

Interest	1	2	3	4
----------	---	---	---	---

- Should this section be increased diminished..... remain unchanged.....?

- Archives: Father Caffarel’s writings & texts

Interest	1	2	3	4
----------	---	---	---	---

- Should this section be increased diminished..... remain unchanged.....?

- Can you suggest other topics of interest?

.....

4 – Which format do you get *The Bulletin* in?

- By post
- By email
 - Do you read it on the screen?
 - Do you print it out? On separate sheets 1 page per sheet 2 pages per sheet Stapled together in a booklet

Your comments about the layout: *(NB : The letter size and layout are planned to be printed in a booklet in A5 format)*

.....

5– The Association of Friends of Father Caffarel
<http://www.henri-caffarel.org>

- Did you know that there is a website dedicated to Father Caffarel and his Cause?

Yes No

- If Yes, do you visit the site?

Yes

How many times a week....a month..... a year.....

- If No Why not?

- Would you advise others to visit the site?

- In addition to *The Bulletin* and the website, would you like further information sent by email from time to time?

Yes No

6 – Your suggestions

- *To improve The Bulletin?*
- *To get new members to adhere to the Association?*

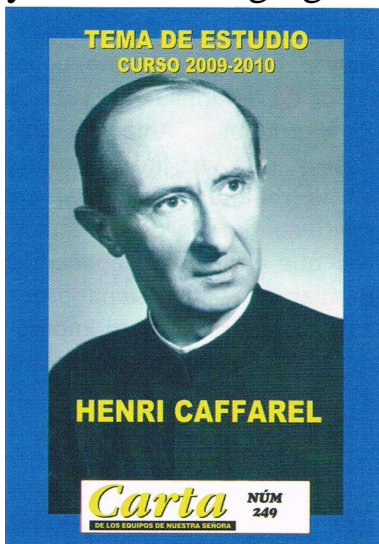
Letter from a Spanish Team, Huelva 7

On the study topic for 2009-10 in SPAIN

ENS/Carta espagnole N° 255, page 47-48

At one of the final meetings on the topic *Father Caffarel: A Prophet for the Sacrament of Marriage*, our Spiritual Counselor suggested that we write up a commentary on this Study Topic. The idea was to send it to and thank the Spanish Super-Region Team.

Your testimony could contribute a grain of sand to the Cause for Beatification of Father Caffarel, he told us, and it could also be a way to reply to all that you have received from Father Caffarel's Movement over so many years of belonging to it.



He reminded us of how the Teams were born, with just some couples and a priest. These couples were young and before getting married, they met with him and received his orientations and his inspiration. This had a certain significance for some of us because we were equally young and we had begun to get together with a priest, Father Raphael Bohigues, who for many years was the Spiritual Counselor of many Teams. Then, once we were married, we decided to join and belong to this church made up of couples that we had known. At the end of all these years and after the departure of our previous Counselor, a young priest also from the centre of Seville came to replace him. Very often, we looked at the example given by another primitive community, that of Jesus and his disciples—a similarly reduced group—and tried to discover the original message, the Good News of the Kingdom of God, that Christ preached and that so many men and women over time were committed to following. This is why it seemed so appropriate to return to the beginnings advocated by this year's Study Topic, because we are inclined to be distracted by questions that take us away from the essence of our route: our union with Christ.

And this was precisely the first aim announced in the first chapter of the Study Topic that reprinted the text from Father Caffarel's monthly letter dated February 1950, '*...Aim in the Right Direction*'.

The essential questions for Christian couples were obvious in the other themes based on his writings and we were able to study them throughout our year. We all found the texts to be relevant, direct and to the point. We recognized ourselves in them: our fears, our frailties, our mistakes, our sorrows, our joys, our problems, and our circumstances... We recognized our life, basically, reflected in Christ's, who as a man, felt and experienced like us, but identified fully with the Father, loving to the end.

In Father Caffarel's writings, we were fully able to appreciate the talent of this priest, this man of faith, who had very clear ideas and who was familiar with family life as well as that of couples. He was friendly and tender, and yet at the same time very demanding on the essentials of Christianity without giving into to the exceptions that we generally apply to each other. He was a visionary who knew how to discover Christ's involvement in our lives and who also helped couples learn to know the way that Jesus showed us.

Archives

Father Henri Caffarel :

Lay Saints

“Daring to Live the Gospel”



Prompted by the theme topic of “Brasilia 2012”, here are some extracts from Father Caffarel’s writings about our role in evangelising others.

Lay Saints

.../...

But it would be so very naïve to believe that this evangelisation of the temporal world will come about without obstacles and battles. The temporal world is still very much the domain of ‘the prince of this world’, who does not expect to let his prey go so easily! Do we really think that the working world will be led to Christ without an arduous effort, and the world of capitalism can easily be converted to the Gospel? And what about the world of politics? And what about the worlds of science, philosophy and art too? This reconquest of nature through grace means that holiness must be present everywhere throughout the modern world.

This is the crux of the problem. Will there be lay saints (meaning men who are totally given over to Christ, who are inhabited by his love, moved by his Spirit), workers, peasants, captains of industry who are saints, politicians who are also saints, artists who are saints? Saints and also missionaries, and maybe even martyrs...

L’Anneau d’or (The Wedding Ring), n° 30,

Every century has its own type of holiness. In the early Church and for the first three hundred years, the martyrs and their bearing witness with the gift of their blood exemplified holiness. After the persecutions, the hermits and the thousands of Desert Fathers who soon began to gather together. And for centuries, the monasteries were the schools of holiness. It must be noted in

passing that the new forms of holiness do not supplant the preceding ones. But, given their adaptation to the needs of their era, they overshadow them some times for a while. In the 13th century, in a Christianity that lived comfortably and where the churches and monasteries were honoured and richly endowed, holiness, with the mendicant friars assumed the characteristics of poverty. During the Renaissance, it was apparent in the great missionary momentum that sent the religious men to the New World and to the four corners of the earth. Soon afterwards saw the emergence of the congregations dedicated to the helping of all kinds of physical and moral distress—the sick, orphans, aged, the schooling of children etc. In their turn, women went on mission to faraway countries in the 19th century.

Do you not think that perhaps the 20th century introduces the era of the holiness of married lay people?

It is not easy to be saints and be totally in the world, accepting responsibilities and being present everywhere in the lay world. For many years now, more and more Christians are doing it. But how many of them have lost their enthusiasm and the purity of the Christianity of their youth...because their heart was not incorruptible and solid enough. One cannot become involved in saving the world from catastrophe without being sure of possessing the means to resist the tempest!

Schools of Holiness

So where can these witnesses of Christ, these saints of modern times called to face such risks, be trained and formed? Most obviously in their parishes, in the various Christian movements, Action catholique, and through spiritual retreats. But just as the hermits of the past very quickly felt the need for the structure and fraternity of the monasteries, so too do married Christians need to find a spiritual training that is appropriate and specific to them so that they do not remain isolated for the difficult battle of holiness. I personally believe that groups of couples ought to be concerned with being, above all, schools of holiness, where the couples meet up regularly just like a Preacher in his convent, in order to recharge their batteries in a fraternal atmosphere, to draw new strength from prayer and spiritual mediation and to ensure that they are not alone in their undertakings.

Anneau d'or (The Wedding Ring), n° 30, November-December 1949

Meeting Jesus Christ means starting to listen to him above all, since we know he is there.

Furthermore, he speaks to us through Scripture and this is why we love the Word of God.

He speaks to us through the instruction that the Church gradually worked on and elaborated through its meditation on the Bible.

He speaks from the bottom of the heart of our brothers or sisters, but we often need to understand beyond their mere words.

He speaks in different ways throughout the meeting, we just need to have 'a heart that listens' according to the biblical expression.

He speaks to reveal his Father and God's divine project for us, to invite us to conversion (we are never, ever finished with conversion), he speaks so that we rush to help others...

He speaks, and we get the feeling that it is all very difficult to put into practice. However, he does not just speak, he transforms those who admit to their helplessness by giving them that Spirit of Strength that made the little peasants of Galilee untiring witnesses of the Saviour.

Henri Caffarel, (Monthly Letter, March 1973)

The Movement is not here to replace other groups like the family, the parish, Action catholique, leisure or cultural groups... but the idea is for its members to integrate these other groups, to be faithful and of service to them, to network and make friends within them. I would almost say: Team members meet and get together frequently enough in order to rediscover that explosive force—the Lord's charity and love—that ought to hurl them in all directions and into all milieus where, without shyness nor vanity, they ought to be witnesses to love, the yeast in the dough. For what use is the yeast if it is kept carefully separate from the dough?

Henri Caffarel, (Monthly Letter, July 1960)

Pope John XXIII highlighted one characteristic aspect of the apostolic mission of couples. Calling to mind the attacks that marriage and the family are subjected to in our contemporary world, bemoaning the fact that so many couples, even Christians ones, are unaware of the greatness of their

supernatural vocation and let themselves be contaminated by the pervading immorality and by materialistic points of view, the Pope reminded us that it is urgent to proclaim the pure Christian doctrine. But, he noted, it is not enough for bishops and priests to announce this Christian doctrine. In order for it to be understood by our contemporaries, and for them to value, love and wish to adhere to it, it must be *"more or less illustrated and brought home to everyone by the example of fervent Catholics, who through their behaviour as husband and wife, as fathers and mothers, can be fully faithful to the ideal outlined by the Lord himself."* Proclaiming through one's life what the priest proclaims in words is indeed a privileged (but also very demanding) aspect of the apostolic mission for Christian couples. And indeed, this exactly what we hear from faraway missions: the missionaries despair at making the nobility and happiness of Christian marriage known because the couples do not approach them and let them know about how their words are authenticated through the influence of their mutual love and their love of God.

Henri Caffarel, (Monthly Letter, June 1960)

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¹ E.R.I : International Leading Team of the Teams of Our Lady

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And I(we) remit the annual dues of :

- Single member: 10 €
- Member couple : 15 €
- Member / Benefactor : 25 € or more

Check or money order payable to “Les Amis du Père Caffarel”

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Please send information and a membership application
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