

# THE BULLETIN



## OF THE FRIENDS OF FATHER CAFFAREL

BULLETIN N° 29  
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ASSOCIATION DES AMIS DU PÈRE CAFFAREL  
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L'Association des Amis du père Caffarel

• 49, rue de la Glacière F-75013 PARIS

• [www.henri-caffarel.org](http://www.henri-caffarel.org)

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## EDITORIAL

### Clarita & Edgardo Bernal

*(Responsible Couple in the International  
Leading Team of Teams of Our Lady)*



### CHRISTMAS IS NOT OVER!

Dear Family of the Association of Friends of Father Caffarel,

By the time this newsletter is published, we will have celebrated the Nativity of the Lord and we will also have turned the page on the year 2021, hoping that 2022 will bring us many positive things after the bad times that the pandemic, which burst into our lives more than two years ago, has caused us to experience.

The term "Christmas" comes from the Latin word "nativitas," which means "birth." It concerns the commemoration of the birth of Jesus, which Western Christian tradition commemorates on December 25 each year. For us, Christians of faith, the Nativity is the culmination of the Advent season, which prepares us for the event that the angel Gabriel announced to Mary, telling her that she would soon give birth to a child, the son of God, whom she would call Jesus, and that his reign would never end. This time of preparation and waiting has given us the elements to welcome in our hearts the birth of the Child God, a feast that does not end like something that is passed and that we will only experience again at the end of this year. This birth in the heart of each one of us, like the birth of any child, entails the implicit mission for those who welcome it, to make it grow, to allow it to live and to strengthen itself, to nourish it and allow it to be part of the life of each one of us, in our home, in our family, in our environment.

Reflecting on this deep meaning of Christmas and what it can transform in our lives in this new year, we found a message that our founder, Father Henri Caffarel, wrote on December 25, 1946 as a Christmas wish. Today, 75 years later, we allow ourselves to address it to you, with our best wishes: that the Child God brings you many blessings in this year which begins.

*“Paris, December 25, 1946*

*On the feast of the Nativity of the Lord.*

*On this day: CHRISTMAS. Welcome Christ into your homes. Encircle/surround/envelop Him. Listen to Him. Are you sure you have understood His message so far? Indeed, we never finished understanding it. We must never stop re-reading the gospel, in order to live it better. It goes beyond that: you must not resist.*

*During this year may Christ be in your midst, may He also be in you. May He grow in your children. Joseph and Mary’s vocation was to watch over and help Christ’s growth. It is yours too. This is the mission of every educator and therefore and first and foremost (the mission) of parents. Meditate for a few moments on these lines from a Catholic scholar that I deliver to you as I leave you and by way of Christmas greetings and presents.*

*“You entrust a formidable and divine mission, Lord Jesus, to every person in charge of a child’s soul: by example and word, with discretion, with the deep respect due to an intelligence, to a free will, they must work for your birth in this soul. Every educator is a prophet who announces and prepares Christmas in the soul of the child. For these young people, whom I remember today before you, was I able to find the words, the gestures, the silences which announce, which prepare and complete your childbirth, Lord Jesus? I pray to you for them, for your full coming into their souls. Make them true Christians.”*

*Henri Caffarel*

Until the next time,

Clarita & Edgardo BERNAL

## **In Service**

### *News from the Friends of Father Caffarel 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Father Caffarel's Death*

#### ***Feedback on the Prayer Novena proposed to Teams' Members around the World on the occasion of the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Fr Caffarel's death***

As you all know, the Novena to commemorate the 25th anniversary of Father Henri Caffarel's death took place between September 10 and 18, 2021. At the request of the International Leading Team, the office of the Association of Friends of Father Caffarel worked for several months in consultation with the Rejoyce company, which produced videos. Through the international website, social networks and the Friends of Father Caffarel website, the Novena was broadcast in five languages and is still available today for all who wish to participate: <https://equip-es-notre-dame.com/site-de-la-neuvaine/>.

Many Teams' members followed this Novena, especially in Brazil, but also in Spain, Italy, Colombia, the United States, Portugal, and France, as well as in all the other countries of the world. This prayerful unity of all Teams' members around the world is what emerges from the testimonies that the International Leading Team received. Here are some excerpts.

#### **SR French-Speaking Africa**

"The heavy rain on this morning of September 18, 2021 did not dampen the determination of certain Team members in Bangui and Begoua (Central African Republic). Indeed, this day marks the end of the novena organised on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of Father Henri Caffarel's return to God. The closing ceremony took place in the parish of Saint Charles Lwanga in Begoua and was crowned by a Thanksgiving Mass. The Begoua Sector provided a cocktail at the end of the Eucharistic celebration once the family photo had been taken. Magnificat!"

#### **Amanda & Constantin, Central Africa Region**

## **SR Italy**

This experience of prayer proposed by the ERI was both a gift and a souvenir: a gift because prayer always leads us to offer God our experiences and our weaknesses, which are harmoniously transformed into opportunities; a souvenir because, for nine evenings, we remembered Father Caffarel, his spirituality, his courage, his enthusiasm as a man "seized by God". [...] Hearing Father Henri Caffarel's voice that was so decisive, so convinced, so enthusiastic, encouraged us to live our Christianity not in a lukewarm manner, but as courageous men and women. It was a novena to say thank you and ask God to increase our faith and our love.

**Cinzia & Sergio, Savigliano (Cuneo)**

## **SR France-Luxembourg-Switzerland**

Thank you for this novena on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of Fr. Caffarel's death. I was his collaborator for 25 years at Troussures. We watched over him until his big departure.

United in prayer,

**Danielle Waguët**

## **SR Brazil**

It seems unnecessary to talk about the good things that the Teams of Our Lady Movement brings us. However, we were positively surprised by the proposal of "Nine Days of Prayer and Reflection" on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of Father Henri Caffarel's death, that highlighted the legacy he left to us all. We accepted the proposal and so, with discipline and fervour, we spent those days so precious for our marital sanctification in prayer. [...] To hear such striking testimonies from couples from distant countries, in different languages, was captivating. Although we do not speak the same language, we speak the language of the Movement, the language that Father Caffarel taught us. [...] Finally, how could we not recognize the many blessings received after a few days of prayer and reflection? It was enough simply to open our eyes and our hearts for God's grace to enter, guided by such beautiful teachings that fill us with strength, faith and perseverance to reach our final goal which is to arrive together in Heaven. The feeling of belonging to Teams of Our Lady is very gratifying; let us pray together and everywhere for the canonisation of the precursor of our Movement, who is

already a saint for us, and what we wish is that the whole Church realises his value and also recognises his holiness.

### **Glenda & Sormany, Goiás**

#### **RR Canada**

What a beautiful way to remember and commemorate Father Henri Caffarel's 25th Anniversary of his death with the Novena! We are so grateful for this opportunity to hear from Father Caffarel himself, in his own words, in his own voice. The videos featured each day with his words of wisdom really touched our hearts. It was as though he was speaking to us right here, right now. His messages are very powerful and timeless. The testimonials from the couples in the videos were also very inspiring for us and helped to showcase the relevance of his message about the sacrament of matrimony, the mystique of Teams of Our Lady, and the importance of prayer. [...] We take solace in the words of Fr. Caffarel who said that "It will be Holy because at the bottom of our being, we will be closely united to Holy God, it will be fruit full and rivers of living water will flow from us because we will be connected to the very source of life." We pray to Father Caffarel often and ask for his intercession to bless our union, to help us become a Holy Couple, to be a living testimony of God's great Love. Amen.

### **Debbie & James**

#### **SR Colombia**

The novena to Father Caffarel has awakened in the teams of our new Region of Valle Norte (Colombia) an enormous desire to know him better: to go deeper into his life, his texts, his thoughts, his testimonies and all his work, and to understand much better the genesis of our movement. Father Caffarel is no ordinary priest. We see a man anointed by God and filled with the Holy Spirit. He has made us value our Spiritual Counsellors more and more each day, and all the spiritual support they give to our sacrament. This union of the two sacraments has led to more service in the church and in the community. [...] It has been wonderful to see him and listen to his voice. The depth of his messages has made us feel that he was undoubtedly a holy man. Now the commitment to the cause and holiness of Father Caffarel is much stronger in our Teams, in our homes and in our environment. This goes far beyond reading Father Caffarel's prayer at the end of our meetings. Thank

you for allowing us to live these unforgettable moments of intimacy with our saint for the glory of God.

### **Luis & Yamileth**

#### **SR Hispano-America North**

The Novena was much richer than we expected. [...] In particular, the Novena left us with:

- a. Motivation to experience God in Father Caffarel's way, rather than playing with words only, because of poor time management. Listening to Father Caffarel, we relived the joy of the Presence of God. We felt the call to receive His Love more often and to remain in Him every day.
- b. A greater motivation for our home to be a home of seekers of God, where the manifestation of God's love and tenderness is given, from the experience of His tenderness.

May God grant us the Grace to live the divine inspiration that Father Caffarel had for us, through our Catholic marriage.

### **Edith & Juan, Mexico**

[...] This month of September 2021, provided confirmation of God's providence, and internalised the love of our extended family, the Teams of Our Lady movement. It was our turn to do the precious END novena [...] in the intimacy of a hospital room, amidst uncertainties. [...] So, as the wind stirs the boat, we abandon ourselves, trusting God will be with us in our suffering. When we resumed, we joined the whole Movement, aware that we were not alone. The reflections, the Word, the testimonies touched us personally in the situation we were experiencing at that moment [...].

### **Olga & Fernando, Porto Rico**

#### **SR Transatlantic**

[...] Firstly, the novena illuminated us, because it felt like an experience of discovery of Fr Caffarel, the beloved founder of our movement. It was the first time that we heard his voice and the passion he transmitted when speaking about Teams, marriage, the union of the two sacraments (marriage & priesthood) and, more generally, about love. We were struck to discover Fr Caffarel as a man consumed by love. A man in love with God. A priest whose love and faith were so great that he could not do otherwise than share those gifts, send them forth, so they could reach all corners of the world.

[...] His charisma, his words and the passion in his voice still resound in our ears much after the end of the novena.

[...] One phrase by Father Caffarel touched us deeply: “Live your prayer and pray your life.” With that beautiful invitation in mind, we started to pray more intensely, entrusting to God everything that made our boat rock in the midst of the storm. [...]

**Ingrid & Padraig Lewis, Ireland**

### **RR Lebanon**

[...] Listening to Fr Caffarel revives the great heritage he left us in his teaching which are still very relevant today. The determination of his voice cannot but resonate strongly in our hearts, reflecting the depth of his love for the Lord. “This surge of adoration directs our hearts and all our tasks throughout the day.” [...]

The daily repetition of the Magnificat followed by the prayer for the canonisation of our founder was a magical time of union in prayer with Teams around the whole world.

The final prayer based on the writings of Fr. Caffarel reminds us, among other things, of the richness of the sacrament of marriage: “The tenderness of your husband, the tenderness of your wife, is a sign of God’s tenderness.” It allows us to conclude the interior prayer by inviting us to go deep within ourselves, into this heart to heart with Jesus.

**Elyssar & Elijah, Lebanon**

Do you want us to search together?

Teams of Our Lady was born out of this question ...

Nothing was dictated, but everything was lived and experienced... by couples with their Spiritual Counsellor, a spiritual search that has been going on for years.

And today, through this novena which has united us for nine days, we have discovered our founder, who once again, has invited us to give time to God: to listen to Him, to declare our love for Him, to know and accept ourselves, to get to know Him by immersing ourselves in his Word.

As Fr. Caffarel, a prophet of love, says, “Love is my substance.” Let us live out this love in our families, in our Team and in the world. For it is our path to holiness.

**Claude & Robert, Qatar**

## In Service

*News from the Friends of Father Caffarel  
Status of the Cause  
For Canonisation of Father Henri  
Caffarel*

***Father Paul-Dominique Marcovits, o.p.***  
*Editor of the Cause of Father Henri Caffarel*

***Marie-Christine Genillon***



## Meeting in Rome at the Congregation for the Causes of Saints

The day after the 25th anniversary of Father Henri Caffarel's death and the end of the novena carried out to commemorate it, on September 19, 2021, myself, Father Paul-Dominique Marcovits, editor of the cause, and Marie-Christine Genillon, went to Rome to meet the new Relator of the cause within the Congregation for the Causes of Saints, Fr. Szczepan T. Praskiewicz, ocd.

Fr. Praskiewicz warmly welcomed us to the Congregation, opposite St. Peter's Basilica in Rome, where we spent two mornings working with him. The exchanges were facilitated by the presence of Nathalie Chérel, an interpreter. Fr. Marcovits had already submitted the completed parts of the *Positio*, including the *Summarium Testium* (including the testimonies received in Paris by the Diocesan Commission), the *Biographia* (a detailed account of the life and work of Father Caffarel), and the *Summarium Documentorum* (containing a selection of archives and texts by Father Caffarel). These documents were approved as a whole by the Relator, Fr. Praskiewicz, who gave us valuable advice for their presentation and completion.

We also worked efficiently with him in a pleasant atmosphere on the part that has yet to be written: the *Informatio*, (a detailed document on the way in which Father Caffarel lived the virtues in a heroic way) and the general presentation of the *Positio* (with introductions to the various parts, tables, appendices, which must complete the whole so that it may be finalised according to the Congregation's norms. The Relator presented us with another *Positio*, which we were able to study, in order to allow us to better understand both its coherence and its precision.

These two meetings strongly encouraged us in the work remaining to be done to finish the *Positio*. A very positive Fr. Praskiewicz told us that he was at our entire disposal for any request or question that we would like to submit to him. The *Informatio* will be finalised in February 2022. And then the presentation of entire *Positio* will remain to be completed in an extremely precise way, according to the standards of the Congregation and this will require a few more months. Fr. Paleri, the Roman postulator, is of course associated with this work and available to help us in completing this task.

Fr. Paul-Dominique Marcovits, op, Editor of the Cause  
Marie-Christine Genillon



Madonna of the Magnificat  
Botticelli

## In Service

*News from the Friends of FatherCaffarel  
Extract from the Association's  
Treasurer's Report 2020 Financial Year*

### **General Situation**

2020, the year of the Covid-19 pandemic, was not marked by major activity. The total amount of subscriptions remained low.

Father Marcovits and Marie-Christine Genillon continued the activities linked to the drafting of documents relating to the postulation. But the constraints and limitations imposed that year reduced the opportunities for meeting.

### **2020 Balance**

<b>Revenue</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>Actual Budget2020</b>
Subscriptions	11 544	12 000	10 626
Gifts	10		
Sales	532	1 000	
Financial Products			
Misc			
<b>Total</b>	<b>12 086</b>	<b>13 000</b>	<b>10 626,48</b>
<b>Expenses</b>			
Trips & Testimonials		500	557,04
Postulation	1 459,38	13 000	3 500
Office & Documentation expenses	383,47	1 000	563,22
Bank expenses	379,81	500	347,11
Assistance, Secretarial work	5 450,61	500	915,90
Bank Corrections	3 865,72		
Misc.	4 723,28	1 000	1 032,37
<b>Total</b>	<b>16 272,17</b>	<b>16 400</b>	<b>6 915,64</b>
<b>Income</b>	<b>-4 186,17</b>	<b>-3 400</b>	<b>3 710,84</b>

## ***Origin of memberships***

The year of the pandemic has unfortunately limited many activities around the world, and membership has suffered.

### **Membership in 2020**

<b><i>SR or RR</i></b>	<b><i>2018</i></b>	<b><i>2019</i></b>	<b><i>2020</i></b>
French-speaking Africa	15	395	15
Belgium	150	125	
Brazil	15	15	6255
Canada	565	20	45
Colombia		15	
Spain	5 040	10	30
France-Lux-Switzerland	1 965	1 835	2 111
Hispano-America North		8 098	110
Hispano-América South			
Mauritius		15	
Italy	155	30	80
Lebanon	45	250	
Oceania	2 233	501	215
Poland	505		435
Portugal	2 000	40	
Transatlantic	160		40
USA	655	195	1 290
<b><i>Total</i></b>	<b><i>13 503</i></b>	<b><i>11 544</i></b>	<b><i>10 626</i></b>

## ***Provisional Budget for 2021***

The 2021 budget uses the same provisional budget as for 2020, because there were no significant changes in the meantime:

<b><i>Revenue</i></b>	Budget réel 2020	Budget 2021
Subscriptions	10 626	12 000
Gifts		
Sales		1 000
Financial Products		
Misc		1 032,37
<b><i>Total</i></b>	<b><i>10 626,48</i></b>	<b><i>14 032,37</i></b>
<b><i>Expenses</i></b>		
Trips & Testimonials	557,04	500
Postulation	3 500	10 000
Office & Documentation Expenses	563,22	1 000
Bank expenses	347,11	400
Assistance, Secretarial work	915,90	300
Misc	1 032,37	1 000
<b><i>Total</i></b>	<b><i>6 915,64</i></b>	<b><i>13 200</i></b>
<b><i>Income</i></b>	<b><i>3 710,84</i></b>	<b><i>832,37</i></b>

***Giovanni Cecchini Manara***

***Treasurer of the Association of the Friends of Father Caffarel***

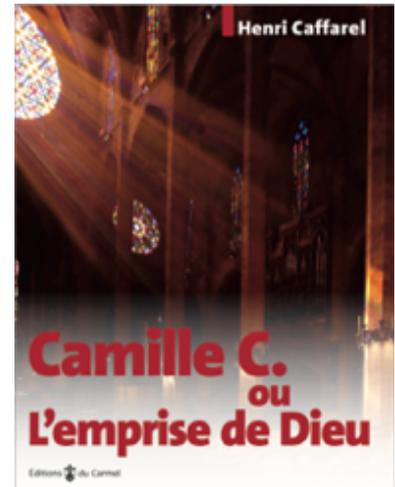
## In Service

### *News from the Friends of Father Caffarel New Publications*

#### ***Camille C. ou l'emprise de Dieu, (Camille C. or the Influence of God)***

Editions du Carmel

On the occasion of the 25th anniversary of Father Caffarel's death and the 50th anniversary of Camille C.'s death, the Éditions du Carmel publish Father Caffarel's correspondence with Camille C. Indeed, Henri Caffarel was very attached to this correspondence.



Born into an atheist family, gifted in scientific research, married and happy in love, Camille C. (1900-1971) experienced an exceptional intimacy with God for three quarters of a century.

This correspondence with Camille reveals “an itinerary, admirably marked” by a mystical experience, which one could believe was reserved only for those who live in the cloisters. Camille C. shows that “this influence of God” can flourish in the world.

The rigour of her thought and independence of spirit, the precision and robustness of her style give great credibility to her testimony. Camille C. lived out “the two commandments that are the basis of Christian life: love of God and love of our neighbour. Everything here radiates balance, joy, love,” as Father Paul-Dominique Marcovits writes in the preface.

The living testimony of a mystical life within marriage.

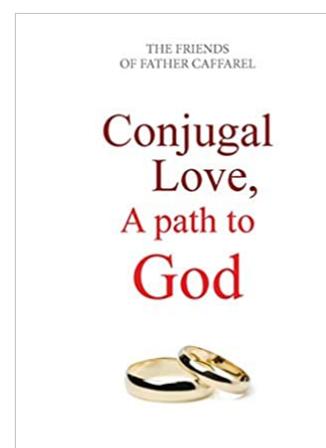
## ***Conjugal Love, A path to God, according to Father Henry Caffarel's Thinking***

After the publication of the French version by Éditions du Cerf, and the Italian version by EDB editions, the work has been published in Portuguese

*O Amor Conjugal, Caminho para Deus,  
segundo o pensamento do padre Henri Caffarel,*  
Editions Lucerna, Lisbonne, junho 2021.

The English version is in an on-demand edition by Lightning Source, September 2020.

Please contact John & Elaine Cogavin,  
[cogavins@hotmail.com](mailto:cogavins@hotmail.com) for more information.



How should we understand the Church's message on the marriage sacrament, on sexuality and fertility, on the couple's pastoral action, on morality as one of love's requirements? And what are the fundamental contributions of Father Caffarel on these subjects?

Based on the reality of marriage as it is experienced today, an international team (within Teams of Our Lady, and in connection with the 'Friends of Father Caffarel') called 'the Marriage Workshop' was constituted to observe, research and reflect.

Their work and conclusions are presented in this book and show how much Father Henri Caffarel renewed the thinking of the Church on couples and marriage.

Contributors to this work: Constanza & Alberto Alvarado, Marie & Louis d'Amonville, Elaine & John Cogavin, Cidinha & Igar Fehr, Mgr François Fleischmann, Mercedes & Alvaro Gomez-Ferrer, Marie-Christine & Gérard de Roberty, Maria Carla & Carlo Volpini.



## FROM FATHER CAFFAREL'S ARCHIVES

### REMEDIES FOR A LACK OF UNITY

*L'Anneau d'Or*, Special Issue "Love and Suffering"

N° 15-16, May-August 1947

I think I hear the question of those who have followed me so far: we do not want to give up, but what should we do? Each particular case requires its own response; but, nonetheless, there are general remarks which may be useful to many, even if they are applied differently.

#### **An Effort to be Lucid**

First of all, you have to make an effort to be lucid; you have to want to see; even if this leads to discoveries that hurt, even and especially if one is led to detect personal wrongs, to condemn oneself. How desirable it would be if this effort could be made by both together! To tell the truth, the moment spouses undertake it (this effort) together, they are already no longer disunited. Everything must be done to make this honest conversation possible one day. "Doing everything" does not mean rushing things: it often shows great wisdom to know how to wait, and buy time; a wrong manoeuvre risks considerably delaying the moment of healing. The fact remains that, if it is necessary to know how to wait, out of prudence and patience, it is sinful to evade questions out of cowardice. In the dark, doesn't everything take on the form of threatening ghosts, which vanish as if by magic when the light is turned on?

To shed light is to seek the causes of evil. The most visible ones are not always the most real: we must not allow ourselves to be hypnotised by them. It is important to go beyond the apparent. While not fearing to note our spouse's wrongdoings, above all, we must not blind ourselves to our own. It is necessary to look them in the face. Not so much to be sorry about them – great despairing is not a solution – as to recognise them and face up to them oneself and perhaps, when the time comes, before our spouse too. I would readily believe that many situations escalate because the spouses recoil before such an effort of searching and frankness. Had they done so, everything would have been solved quickly. The truth liberates.

Once the causes of the evil have been identified, it is a question of worrying about the real remedies. The palliative momentarily calms the pain, but since it does not reach the cause, it does not cure.

### **Changing your Heart**

The first remedy often is to change your heart. Ah, I know very well that we rather expect our spouse to change; but if both spouses react like this, there is a good chance that nothing will move! So many things are to be rectified in the depths of the heart!

And foremost, don't we find there, the vivacious roots of that weed called the illusion of happiness? As if perfect happiness could exist on earth, as if marriage was supposed to bring complete and perfect happiness... How many catastrophes have their origin in this illusion that so many young couples believe in! It must be exorcised, once and for all.

Then you have to tackle the disappointments and their poisonous fruits. I am thinking in particular of these resentments, these animosities, proliferating in a heart that believes itself wronged. Look a little closer and discern in all of this the particular feeling that I have not yet named, to which very few dare to give its proper name: hatred. Oh ! I beg you, don't think too quickly, when you read this word, that the passion it designates is foreign to you. I know very well that in today's overloaded lives, the nerves very quickly take over, without the heart being bad. And I am careful not to confuse impatience with hatred. But I also know that it is dangerous to give free rein to these irritations which, while they are benign at first, contaminate the

heart afterwards and risk arousing hatred. Let us have the courage to call by its name this reptile in us which wakes up at certain hours, rises up and hisses. Is it not hatred that betrays itself in so many reactions and reflections? This joy of surprising the other person when they are in the wrong, this bitter need to always be right, this venomous allusion to a past fault, this search for grievances - like a hunter who adds arrows to his quiver - this jealous diligence in leaving no opportunity pass by to slip the poison of contempt into a word or a gesture; Isn't that hatred? More or less serious depending on the case, but always pernicious? For a time, it can coexist with love in the soul, but one day, like an invading parasite, it will suffocate it. I apologise for what may seem cruel in my words, but you do not purify a wound without making the patient suffer. There are, of course, generous hearts, infinitely good and merciful, who know nothing of this dreadful evil. No doubt they are rare and they themselves are not immune to the temptations of hatred.

We must cultivate within ourselves the antidote to hatred, namely mercy that forgives. To forgive means tearing up the page on which one wrote, with malice or rage, one's spouse's debit account and then regaining before them the attitude of giving without reserve. I truly believe that we are touching here on one of the nerve centres of the couple's life. It is useless to look for other remedies as long as one has not obtained the grace of knowing how to forgive, "seventy times seven times," if necessary. What relief in the heart that has forgiven! This detrimental climate of moans, reproaches, and claims is no more. No doubt the pain remains, but there is no longer any bitterness. And because we have taken the lead in forgiveness - not the haughty forgiveness of the proud, but the humble forgiveness of those who do not hesitate to recognise their own faults, perhaps our spouse will be reborn to love.

Changing your heart means changing your outlook. Abandoning the critical gaze to adopt the gaze of love which, through the more or less rough bark, suggests living sap, working inside and preparing the buds and flowers for a springtime, that is sometimes closer than we think. Who tells you that in this seemingly indifferent, hard or stubborn being, there is not the heart of a child crying or bleeding and crying out for help? So many so-called mean adults are just poor kids who need to be cuddled! So many things and so

many people have disappointed or hurt them, that they no longer dare to believe in love and so put on armour to protect themselves from blows. Your gaze of love will pass through the armour.

### **Working for our Spouse's Happiness**

But it is not enough to change our heart; we must love. And if we have fallen out of the way of loving, we must learn again. Discover once again that love which made you say, on your engagement day: am I capable of making them happy? — and which promised not to spare anything to make it happen. Return to the resolutions of those radiant hours. Understand what hurts in your manner of operating and scrupulously avoid it. Figure out their desires, and strive to respond to them. May nothing be foreign to you in their inner world: take an interest in their thoughts, feelings, joys, sorrows, undertakings. Discern in what they are and in what they do what it is that deserves your admiration and figure out how to make them know you know. Do not fail to recognise the delicate gestures, however modest or clumsy, by which they try to show you a little love. Thus you will encourage them to love. Encourage them to give too: you have to know how to need them. Perhaps it is not yet broken in them, this spring which everyone has and that is in the image of the most secret impulse of the Heart of God: the desire to make people happy.

Have you noticed that I have not talked to you about pursuing your spouse's "conversion" — even if that's necessary — but only about working for their happiness? I readily believe that the best means, preferable to all sermons and all zeal, which can be so indiscreet, for obtaining another person's transformation, is to work for the other person's joy. Isn't this what Saint Peter expressed in his first Letter (3, 1-2), *"Wives, in the same way, accept the authority of your husbands, so that, even if some of them do not obey the word, they may be won over without a word by their wives' conduct, when they see the purity and reverence of your lives."*

### **Sharing**

To love also means sharing. It is difficult, this sharing, when you are in front of someone who is not hungry; but still, you must never give up. When

I speak of sharing, I am thinking above all of the pooling of spiritual goods. If you do not let your spouse see your soul with its desires, joys, aspirations, its deeper life, how do you expect them to love you? It was the discovery of your living soul which, one day, held their gaze and awakened their heart; but today, if you lower the "iron curtain," if you deny them what is lovable in you, you no longer help them to love. Why do so many spouses forget that one of the great laws of love is to work to conquer the other person every day? As in the early days, the means remains the same: by pleasing them. Dare I say to women that there is a "duty of coquetry," which consists above all in cultivating the elegance of their soul, as Saint Peter recommended above, but which does not, nonetheless, authorise them to neglect the charm of their outfits. To men, I will not speak of coquetry, of course, but I will remind them of what they know well: that a woman needs to admire her husband and that they must maintain her esteem by their fortitude, their decision-making, the mastery of their senses, their social influence.

I do not hesitate to add (another remedy): know how to share your grievances. Beware of the wall of silence which separates two beings more surely than seas or continents. But there is the way of doing it... Admit reciprocity. Provoke it, even. How beneficial these hours can be when, in the calm of the evening, when all irritation is appeased, spouses confide in each other what weighs on their hearts. Not to relieve their selfishness, but out of love. A grievance that is admitted to...



Henri Caffarel

The Flight into Egypt,  
Botticelli

## Prayer for the Canonisation of the Servant of God, Henri Caffarel

God, our Father,  
You planted deep in the heart of your servant, Henri Caffarel,  
A fountain of love, which bound him totally to your Son  
And inspired him with a wonderful capacity to speak of Him.

A prophet for our time,  
He revealed the dignity and beauty of the vocation of every person  
In the words Jesus addresses to each of us: "Come follow me."

He made couples enthusiastic about the greatness of the sacrament of  
marriage,  
The sign of Christ's fruitful love for the Church and of His union with her.  
He showed that priests and couples  
Are called to live a vocation of love.  
He was a guide to widows: love is stronger than death.  
Prompted by the Holy Spirit,  
He accompanied many Christians on the path of prayer.  
Seized by a devouring fire, he was a dwelling place for you, Lord.

God, our Father,  
Through the intercession of Our Lady,  
We ask you to hasten the day  
When the Church will proclaim the holiness of his life,  
So that people everywhere will discover the joy of following your Son  
In accordance with their particular vocations in the Holy Spirit.

God our Father, we invoke the intercession of Father Caffarel for.....  
(Indicate the particular favour being sought)

Prayer approved by Monsignor Andre Vingt-Trois – Archbishop of Paris.  
"Nihil obstat": 4th January 2006 – "Imprimatur": 5th January 2006.

*In the case of a particular favour obtained through the intercession of Father  
Caffarel, Contact: The Postulator,  
Association "Les Amis du Père Caffarel"  
49 rue de la Glacière – F 75013 PARIS*

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<sup>1</sup>ERI: International Leading Team of the Teams of Our Lady

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