

BULLETIN



OF THE FRIENDS OF FATHER CAFFAREL

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L'Association des Amis du père Caffarel

- 49, rue de la Glacière F-75013 PARIS
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In order to **renew your subscription** for 2023

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EDITORIAL

Clarita & Edgardo Bernal

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



A NEW YEAR, NEW GOALS

Dear Family of the Association of Friends of Father Caffarel,

Today, by way of greeting as we enter this new year 2023, the first month of which has already begun, we are going to refer to a very simple editorial written by Father Caffarel, prophet of our time, during the feast of the Nativity in 1945, to welcome in the new year 1946.

Today, 77 years later, his timeless words encourage us to live this new year by confirming and renewing the objectives of our Christian life, as witnesses who, by our very way of life, are called to bring light where, in the day-to-day of our existence, there are shadows that can go unnoticed by anyone who does not give their life to what is truly essential: to love more, reflecting God's love wherever we are.

Let us listen to what Father Caffarel has to say.

Paris, December 25th, 1945

On the Feast of the Lord's Nativity

Dear Friends,

Here comes a new year. May it be good for your couple. I pray for you. May God be with you, first sought, first loved, first served. Love one another: when charity grows in your couple, it grows in the Church where you are a living cell. Love each other: Ubi caritas et amor Deus ibi est. Be happy: The Lord expects this praise and those around you, this testimony. Make amends for those innumerable couples where love is extinguished and who close their doors to Christ. Pray for the widows whose sacrifice is a source of life for your family. Help me.

May Our Lady be an honoured and cherished Mother in your home!

Henri CAFFAREL.

These are seemingly simple suggestions, devoid of elaborate preparation. Clearing space to make room for God in our daily life, going out to meet him in order to love him and, because this love cannot be contained, serve him. Where? Everywhere, at every moment of our lives, with those with whom we share this common home entrusted to us: our spouse, our children, our family, our Church. It is easy, if we are not vigilant, to fall into a spiritual slump in which the values of the Kingdom of God can be replaced by our personal interests, when instead of proclaiming the risen Lord, we can become the heralds of our own agenda. Let us not forget that we are administrators, and not owners, of the vineyard. Only in this way can we, with the intercession of our Heavenly Mother, join in the appeal launched by Father Caffarel, because where there is charity and love, there is God.

Ubi caritas et amor Deus ibi est.

Happy New Year 2023, in deep communion,

Clarita & Edgardo Bernal

In Service

*News from the Association of the
Friends of Father Caffarel
75th Anniversary
of the Teams of Our Lady's Charter*

On December 8, 2022,
Teams of Our Lady celebrated,
throughout the world,
the 75th anniversary of the
promulgation of the Charter
by Father Henri Caffarel.



Mass on December 8 in the
Church of Saint-Augustin, Paris

In the Church of Saint-Augustin in Paris, a thanksgiving mass was presided over by Monsignor Thibault Verny, Auxiliary Bishop of Paris. On the initiative of the Responsible Team for Teams of Our Lady in France, Luxembourg and Switzerland, several hundred Team members from the Île-de-France region close to Paris, and also from all over France, gathered together along with the Movement's International Leading Team.

It was a profound time of prayer: the intentions gathered up during the offertory were carried in prayer by the Intercessors, as were those for the canonisation of Father Henri Caffarel.



Talk by Catherine & Christophe Bernard, Responsible Couple of Teams of Our Lady for France, Luxembourg & Switzerland



Talk by Clarita & Edgardo Bernal, International Responsible Couple of Teams of Our Lady

In Service

*News from the Association of the
Friends of Father Caffarel*

Update on the State of the Cause

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



Asking God for a Miracle

Father Henri Caffarel's Cause is moving ahead. The drafting of the Cause, the *Positio*, was submitted to the Dicastery for the Causes of Saints. Theologians and cardinal will now examine it.

On their advice, the pope could sign "the decree of the Heroic Virtues," which would then make the Servant of God a "Venerable", thus recognising that Father Caffarel led an exceptional Christian life and that his teachings on marriage and prayer are in conformity with that of the Church.

What can be done, now at the moment?

Two answers: it is up to God to act. It is up to us to ask.

It is up to God to act. It is God who proclaims who is holy. The Church, after having declared Father Caffarel "Venerable," which we do not doubt it will do, will wait for God to confirm his judgment by a miracle, due to the intercession of Father Caffarel. The miracle is God's signature, an approval clearly given to the Church of Father Caffarel's holiness.

It is up to us to ask for a miracle. We can ask God for everything through the intercession of Father Caffarel: the simple things and the important things

in our lives or those of others. But there is also a particular inspiration: to ask for someone's healing: physical healing, instantaneous, definitive, inexplicable by science and attributed to the intercession of Father Caffarel himself. You have to ask, ask... relentlessly. This miracle will then be the sign that God wants the holiness of his Servant Henri Caffarel to be recognised by the Church.

Asking for a miracle has an apostolic goal. It signifies asking God for Father Caffarel to shine more and more in the Church and in the world. It is urgent to get to know this priest who was filled with God' love, was open to the love of couples, and who led so many people on the path to private prayer (*oraison*). Asking for a miracle therefore means entering into the will of God, who wants men to receive his love; it is therefore also the Church's mission.

Concretely, what should you to do?

1. Ask God for a miracle through the intercession of Father Henri Caffarel. Say the prayer for his canonisation, the first step of which is his beatification.
2. When a cure seems miraculous, notify - without delay:
 - the correspondent of the association "The Friends of Father Caffarel" in your Super-region or Region;
 - the postulator: postulator@henri-caffarel.org

They will be able to tell you what to do.

Do not delay! The authenticity of a miracle must be checked quickly.

In conclusion, what is at stake with the beatification that starts with a miracle, is Father Caffarel's influence and, through him, the influence of the sacrament of marriage, of love in couples, companions for eternity. What is at stake is also the strength of private interior prayer (*orasion*).

These challenges are central to God's purpose for the future of humanity.

Let us ask the Lord to respond to our requests, which are for the glory of his Name: God is Love.

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

In Service

News from the Association of the Friends of Father Caffarel

*“A Pilgrimage in the Footsteps of Father Caffarel”
José Antonio & Amaya Marcén-Echandi*

In a recent exchange of emails, Father Marcovits made this joyful remark to us, “The support underpinning Teams of Our Lady’s request for Father Caffarel’s beatification continues to grow!”

This is particularly visible in the Spain Super-region. The launch of the “Team Caffarel,” with its mission of presenting the holiness of our founder and disseminating his thinking and work, has produced many fruits. The most recent data indicates that 274 couples are members of the *Association of Friends of Father Caffarel* in Spain, not counting numerous spiritual advisers and individual adherents. Nearly 600 people regularly receive news of the cause of canonisation as well as selected excerpts from Father Caffarel’s abundant works, which gradually, but tirelessly, are being translated into Spanish. The “Team” also encourages the translation, editing and distribution of his bibliographic work in Spain and Spanish-speaking America; it has already organised two cycles of conferences (available on YouTube), has participated in training sessions and various gatherings of Teams of Our Lady and is preparing new projects. In short, Father Caffarel is becoming better known and loved by more and more people.

But undoubtedly the most innovative initiative was the pilgrimage to France, in the form of a pilot experience, of a group of 13 couples of Team members and a spiritual advisor from the Association. The theme was “In the footsteps of Father Caffarel.” Could there be a better way to get to know him than to go to the places where his life and work took place? The group, from various parts of Spain, stayed at Massabielle, the house of conjugal spirituality which belongs to Teams of Our Lady in France and where all the pilgrims really felt at home. The size of the group proved to be ideal because it facilitated travel in a small bus and created an atmosphere of brotherhood and friendship.

The pilgrimage took place over three days and was full of information on Father Caffarel and Teams of Our Lady...



The first day was devoted to a visit to Troussures, the centre of Father Caffarel's activity. A short journey in silence, “as pilgrims” to the small cemetery, and a prayer written especially for the occasion in front of Father Caffarel’s tomb will remain forever in the pilgrims’ memory. The group spent the rest of the day with the community of the Brothers of Saint John, who now live in the house at Troussures. Brother Geoffroy-Marie shared valuable details about Father Caffarel's life and ministry with us as we toured the bedroom, office and other rooms where the last 25 years of his life were spent.

The second day was spent in Massabielle with the invaluable participation of Father Marcovits. The group got a “first-hand” update on the canonisation process and learned with joy that the writing of the *Positio* had been completed. Father Marcovits underlined the essential traits of Father Caffarel's personality, whom he presented in a simple and precise manner as "a priest at all times and in all places": a person entirely devoted to leading others to encounter the Lord. It was a day dedicated to discovering the depth of the Teams of Our Lady charisma and to learning about the main axes of Father Caffarel’s discipleship.

On the third day, the pilgrimage continued in Paris around the Church of Saint-Augustin and the presbytery where Father Caffarel lived from 1945 to 1979 and where Teams of Our Lady were born and began to develop. The highlight of the day was the celebration of the Eucharist in the crypt where Movement's original Charter was promulgated. The group evoked these decisive moments, then after reading the first part of the Charter – the most important part, according to Father Caffarel – all couples renewed their commitment to Movement.



And in the evening unfolded the most moving moment of the pilgrimage: the meeting with Marie d'Amonville, who collaborated with her husband Louis, with Father Caffarel for many years. The latter passed on the responsibility of the movement to them when he retired in 1973. Marie bore witness to God's way of acting, which led her and her husband to accept the heavy responsibility which was proposed to them.

The result of this pilot experience could not be more positive. We all experienced very intense moments that have brought us closer to the history of our Movement, to the life of its founder and have allowed us to deepen the charism that we carry for the world. We are sure that each small group of Friends of Father Caffarel, who come to Paris will easily be able to reproduce this unforgettable experience. We sincerely encourage you to do so.

We end with two short testimonials from couples, who participated in the pilgrimage.

Luismi & Sara (Valladolid)

"...To see his very simple tombstone, his room, the green meadows where he went out for a walk... For our part, we will remember the call to prayer he addressed to us, the importance of shared silence in our personal and marital life. There resonated especially for us the insistence of our spiritual adviser that we devote more time to prayer in the various services that we render."

Juan Luis & Maria José (Seville)

"...Visiting the places where Father Caffarel lived was a dream come true for us. The prayer in front of the tomb of Father Caffarel was a very moving and unforgettable moment. A very simple tomb that contains the remains of a saint venerated by thousands of Team members. The words of Father Marcovits on the cause of beatification and his conviction of the holiness of Father Caffarel filled us with joy and hope."

José Antonio & Amaya Marcén-Echandi



In Service

*News from the Association of the
Friends of Father Caffarel
The Treasurer's Report for the 2021
Financial Year*

Treasurer's Report – Financial Year 2021

General Situation

The year 2021 was once again marked by the Covid-19 pandemic. Some subscriptions were received, notably from Brazil, Spain, Portugal and French-speaking Africa.

With regard to the expenses incurred, it should be noted that the impact of the fees for the postulation of the Cause exceeded the amount budgeted for, but then it was a good action undertaken for the Cause. It should be noted that we incurred IT-related expenses: a problem with our website's hosting service, and the creation of an online prayer novena.

Balance sheet of ordinary activities

Father Marcovits and Marie-Christine Genillon have made good progress in the preparation of the documents relating to the postulation, and also with a trip to Rome to meet the 'relator' from the Dicastery for the Causes of Saints.

A few Comments and Clarifications on the Accounts

The Équipes Notre-Dame International association repaid the money loaned the previous year to deal with a problem with the bank.

During 2021, we had no book sales.

In essence, 2021 saw more spending but also more revenue, with a better positive outcome, better than was budgeted for.

2021 Balance

Revenue	2020	Actual Budget 2021	2021
Subscriptions	10 626,48	12 000	19 835
Sales		1 000	
Misc		1 032,37	1 032,37
Total	10 626,48	14 032,37	20 867,37
Expenses			
Trips & Testimonials	557,04	500	
Postulation	3 500	10 000	11 624,83
Office & Documentation expenses	563,22	1 000	
Bank expenses	347,11	400	377,37
Computer and web costs			3 569,86
Misc.	1 032,37	1 000	
Total	5 999,74	12 900	15 572,06
Income	4 626,74	1 132,37	5 295,31

Membership Origins

The Super-regions paid via bank transfer the membership amounts collected by them; there is also a good amount of memberships paid via PayPal, for a total of 2435 euros (Payment via PayPal is used by most members from Mexico, the United States and European countries in general).

Revenue from memberships in 2021

<i>SR or RR</i>	2018	2019	2020	2021
French-speaking Africa	15	395	15	400
Belgium	150	125		
Brazil	15	15	6 255	1 315
Canada	565	20	45	
Colombia		15		
Spain	5 040	10	30	12 075
France-Lux-Switzerland	1 965	1 835	2 111	1 335
Hispano-America North		8 098	110	850
Hispano-América South				
Mauritius		15		
Italy	155	30	80	225
Lebanon	45	250		
Oceania	2 233	501	215	15
Poland	505		435	430
Portugal	2 000	40		2 000
Transatlantic	160		40	30
USA	655	195	1 290	1 160
Total	13 503	11 544	10 626	19 835

Estimated Budget for the year 2022

For the budget for 2022, we propose to use the same provisional budget as in 2021, because the situation does not present any significant changes. The following considerations are made conservatively:

1. The amount of membership contributions is considered to be in line with that of the previous year.
2. In connection with what happened in 2020 and 2021, and for the sake of prudence, we do not plan to sell the book entitled "L'Amour Conjugal".
3. For the postulation, it is planned to remain almost at the same level as in 2021.
4. For secretarial assistance, we have left a small figure for necessary small expenses.

Revenue	Actual Budget 2021	Budget 2022
Subscriptions	19 835	19 000
Sales		1 000
Misc	1 032,37	
Total	20 867,37	20 000
Expenses		
Trips & Testimonials		500
Postulation	11 684,83	14 000
Office & Documentation Expenses		200
Bank expenses	377,37	400
Computer and web costs	3 569,86	3 000
Misc		
Total	15 572,06	18 100
Income	5 295,31	1 900

Giovanni Cecchini Manara
Treasurer

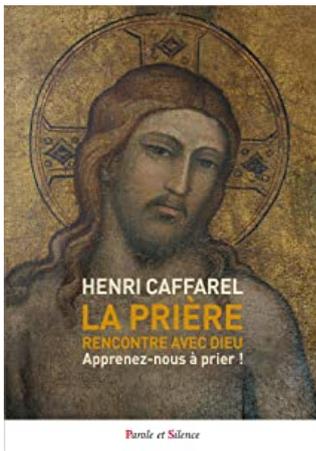
Association of the Friends of Father Caffarel

In Service

News from the Association of the Friends of Father Caffarel New Publications

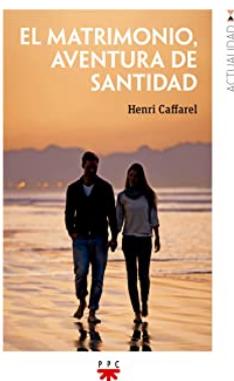
Books published in 2022 and early 2023

La prière, rencontre avec Dieu,
Éditions Parole et Silence, Paris, August 2022



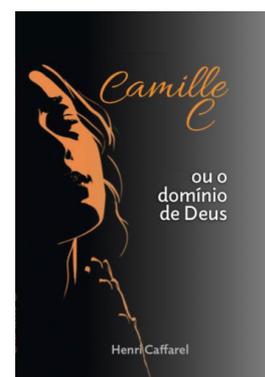
Amour qui es-tu ?
« On ne réussit pas en amour comme en affaires »,
Éditions Parole et Silence, Paris, January 2023.

Präsent sein für Gott, Hundert Briefe über das Gebet,
Frank Höfer (under the direction of),
Hans Urs Von Balthazar (translation), Germany,
September 12, 2022.



El matrimonio, aventura de santidad,
Ediciones PPC, Spain, September 22, 2022.

Camille C o dominio de Deus, Brazil, 2022.





FROM FATHER CAFFAREL'S ARCHIVES

THE VOCATION AND ITINERARY OF TEAMS OF OUR LADY, *L'Anneau d'Or*, special issue, "A Thousand Couples in Rome," n° 87- 88, May-August 1959

In this conference given in Rome in 1959, Father Caffarel returns to the origin of the Teams of Our Lady's Charter. It should be noted that Father Caffarel only gave Team members Private Prayer and the Word of God as Endeavours at the "Teams of Our Lady facing Atheism" talk in Rome in 1970. Up until then, Private prayer was all that was required of Responsible Couples at all levels.

THE CHARTER

The war was ending, prisoners were returning, groups of couples were forming and multiplying. A formidable success! Did all the couples come for the sake of deepening their Christian life? Not so sure. Sometimes, it seems, it was a question of curiosity, the search for human friendships, snobbery. Add to that the fact that older couples, those belonging to the heroic phase, were tempted to relax in the euphoria of rediscovered peace and comfortable old friendships. Was the beautiful momentum that had infused the first groups already exhausted? So much hope had been placed in this blossoming of the groups of couples; should it come to an end?

There was a crisis: but not every crisis ends in failure. How many times, in our meetings with couples, when reflecting on the development of conjugal love, when studying the development of children, had we noticed this phenomenon of crises in the growth of all living beings, and the fact that they lead to progress or regression depending on whether they are well or badly

assumed. What was to be done for the crises in our groups to get beyond it, to promote access to maturity? What could God's will be?

I will not hide from you the fact that it is the Church's history, the study of religious life, which inspired me to find the solution. I looked for what could explain why holiness has never ceased to flower and re-flower in the religious orders over the ages, despite external and internal crises, and I understood that one of the essential factors of the solidity and vitality of these orders was their rule. Why, I then wondered, not propose a rule for married Christians who desired spiritual progress? Not a rule for monks, but a rule for married lay people.

What orientations should be given to this Rule? More mystical, emphasising the Gospel ideal? More legal, determining obligations? No doubt it was necessary to combine the two points of view. This is why your Rule, the Charter of Teams of Our Lady, in the first part fixes the goal towards which it is necessary to strive and in the second part, the means — methods and obligations — to achieve it.

At this important stage in our history, on our pilgrimage to Rome, it seems necessary to me to present the Charter of the Teams of Our Lady with its profound significance to you. I could have started there and dispensed with recounting the Teams' history. But it is the observations and experiences made during the first two phases of the Movement that explain and justify what I would call the pedagogy of our Charter.

First objective of this Charter: to present the Christian ideal of marriage and to determine the means which will enable couples to acquire a better understanding of it. I had understood over the course of previous years, you will remember, that in order to arouse a generous spiritual life in married Christians, it was first necessary to make them discover the greatness of their vocation.

How does the Charter promote this discovery? Through the *monthly study topic* on a subject of conjugal and family spirituality. Your obligation to study this theme during the month, husband and wife together, and then to write down your thoughts to send them to whoever will lead the discussion during the monthly team meeting presents several great advantages. Firstly, it forces you to delve deeper into the subject, to clarify your thoughts, makes you get into the habit of helping each other, husband and wife, in the study of your faith and finally, during the monthly meeting will enable an all the more

fruitful exchange as it will have been better prepared by the person in charge of leading the meeting, thanks to your answers.

The *retreat*, at least every two years, is another privileged means of entering further into the understanding of Christian life. I had noticed this as early as 1939, the date of the first retreat I preached to couples. It is true that some preachers believe that a retreat is not made for this kind of delving into the riches of Christian dogma, but only for prayer, a review of one's life, and the making of resolutions. I think, for my part, that it must have these two objectives, at least when it is addressed to couples, whose religious culture is in great need of enrichment.

But the Charter is not only intended to make people discover the greatness of the Christian faith. It must also provide the means for the couple to live from it. "*Woe to sterile knowledge that does not turn itself towards love.*" Hence a series of obligations (now called Endeavours) whose *raison d'être* is to make couples progress in Christian life by inviting them to turn to God, the priest, fraternal help and the support of a framework.

Firstly, I present here the many obligations (Endeavours) that lead couples to seek help from God. *Conjugal and family prayer*: Christ, present in the couple through the sacrament of marriage, first expects those with whom he lives to unite with him in the praise of the Father. *The prayer at the monthly meeting*: placed immediately after the meal, before the discussions, this prolonged prayer is the high point of the meeting, the one, I know, which you value the most. *The antiphon to the Virgin*, which each Team member recites every evening, invisibly brings together all the couples in the Movement, from Europe, Africa, America, to ask the one under whose patronage they have placed themselves, to help them serve God ever more perfectly. It goes without saying that the *retreat* presented above as a means of deepening religious knowledge is also and primarily to be considered as a privileged time of prayer.

In inviting couples to turn to God first, Teams also offer them the help of the one person, *the priest*, who is God's great gift to humanity to lead them to Him. The role of the Team's chaplain or Counsellor is crucial in our Movement. To the priests who come to ask me about this role, I like to say that our Movement — its organisation and its various methods — is essentially an

instrument placed at priests' disposal to enable them to best fulfil their mission as spiritual educators of couples.

Another great help offered by the Teams is *mutual aid*. The mystique of mutual aid, the obligations of mutual aid: between spouses, between couples, between Teams. Mutual aid is one of the definitions of charity. "*Carry each another's burdens,*" wrote Saint Paul to the Galatians, "*and in this way you will fulfil the law of Christ.*"

Mutual help between spouses is, said Pius XI in *Casti Connubii*, one of the essential goals of marriage. It should be done every day. The obligation of a monthly conversation between spouses, which we call the "Sit Down," is to be considered in this perspective of spiritual mutual aid: husband and wife together, under the gaze of God, seek out his thinking and his will with respect to their couple in order to accomplish it better. Who can tell the number of households that owe their human and spiritual balance to the practice of the Sit Down?¹ Conjugal and family prayer, joint study of the theme: these obligations (Endeavours) already mentioned are equally means of mutual aid for the spouses.

Mutual help between couples. In one sense, this is the *raison d'être* of Teams. Remember the passage from the Charter, "*Because they are aware of their weaknesses and limitations, because they experience daily how difficult it is to live up to the Christian ideal in our modern world, because they have unflinching faith in the power of fellowship and mutual help, they have decided to form themselves into Teams.*" All the moments and all the activities of the monthly meeting are directed towards this fraternal help: the meal and the "pooling" where we share news, joys, sorrows, failures and successes, where we ask for advice and help, the "sharing", this cruel and beneficial moment when everyone reports on how they have respected the obligations (Endeavours) of the Charter. Prayer and the exchange of views are also to be seen in this perspective of mutual aid between couples... But as you well know, this mutual aid cannot be limited to the means of mutual aid that we have just examined. It looks out for Team members' needs. We all know of couples it has saved, materially and morally. A letter that I have just received provides me with an example of this — as well as simultaneously being a symbol of it. A woman was between life and death after the dramatic delivery of her child.

¹ Studies on the "Sit Down" are to be found in *L'Anneau d'Or*, n° 5, p. 2 et s. ; n° 65, pp 412-437)

She had lost a lot of blood and a transfusion was necessary. Well, all of her Team members spontaneously offered to give blood to save her.

Finally, *mutual help between Teams*. Our Movement is a team of teams. Thus the older Teams help those who are emerging on the other side of the world, by allowing them to benefit from their experiences. On the other hand, the entire Movement benefits from the example of each Team, from the apostolic dynamism of those in Brazil, from the fraternal friendship which, in Mauritius, made Team members triumph over racial prejudice, etc. ... The testimony of a Belgian couple offering up to God the little child whom death had taken from them, quoted during a retreat, restored peace to a Swiss couple who could not accept such an ordeal.

Our contemporaries, willingly individualistic and outliers, see in a framework only embarrassment, hindrance, prison. Teams, far from apologising, offer their *strong supervision* and their *rigorous discipline* as a help of great value: the Rule firstly and the commitment to respect it that you are asked to take within two years of joining, the control of compliance with the obligations (Endeavours) of the Charter — control: I am not afraid of the word — but control inspired by charity and exercised with the aim of helping the growth of charity, finally the Responsible Couples, who from top to bottom are the guardians of the Rule, of its correct interpretation and application.

I must mention here, at the end of this long enumeration of the help that the Charter offers you, a means of progress which holds a place of honour with us: you are asked to stop periodically to place your life under the beam of light of the will of God, to verify, in loyalty and generosity, in what way you are faithful to it, to specify the resolutions which will enable you to respond to it better.

At the individual level, this method finds its application in the obligation (Endeavour) called *the rule of life*. The Charter, legislating for couples of very different ages, cultures, spiritual formations, can only propose a minimum programme. And so, it also specifies that each Team member must give themselves a rule of life determining the obligations they believe they must impose on themselves in order to better correspond to the Lord's expectations.

At the couple level, it is the famous *Sit Down*. I need say no more.

At the Team level, it is the end-of-year meeting, often called a *review meeting*, where with frankness and goodwill we ask ourselves what reforms should be adopted, what steps forward should be considered so that Team life progresses in terms of prayer, study, fraternal friendship.

Here is then the Charter of Teams of Our Lady, its *raison d'être*, its objectives, its pedagogy, presented too lengthily and too briefly. When, twelve years ago, I proposed it to the groups in existence then, I had a certain apprehension: would it be understood and accepted, would it bring about the solution required by the crisis referred to earlier? In fact, a few groups did leave us, reluctant to adopt a rule. Not without sadness, moreover, because they were very attached to the spirit of the Movement. The great majority accepted it not so much out of enthusiasm as out of confidence.

The years have brought unexpected confirmation of the Charter's validity. We have seen and we see many couples coming to Teams precisely because they offer them a rule in which they find a feeling of strength and security. Does this mean that our Movement on the move does not include a contingent of stragglers and grumblers?... Moses himself in his caravan had some, and I am not Moses, and I am not leading you to a land where milk and honey flow!

Do I need to specify once again that the Charter is not an end in itself, an absolute? If the case is made that one of the obligations (Endeavours) or one of the methods is not a means of advancing charity amongst all couples - which is all that matters – then it will immediately be withdrawn or corrected.

It took three years, from 1947 to 1950, to put the Charter in place. The Movement has been using it for the past nine years and is doing very well.

Henri Caffarel

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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