

THE ROSARY

TO ASK FOR THE END OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC AND THE CANONISATION OF FATHER HENRY CAFFAREL

Beloved members of Teams of Our Lady, couples, Spiritual Counsellors and Guides,

The COVID-19 pandemic has plunged humanity into a great crisis and our Movement must, according to Father Caffarel's directives, offer prayers and sacrifices to Our Lord so that it can be overcome.

We remember that Father Caffarel, on the eve of great difficulties in life, when the Second World War broke out, urged the Movement to pray. On this and other occasions, Father Caffarel presented prayer to us as the ideal and effective instrument for responding to and coping with adversity. He also continues to call us to live in Ecclesia, small faith communities, that practice mutual aid at all times and, above all, in the crises that all our brothers and sisters confront. Thus, we want to invite all Team members and their families to turn to God and, inspired by Father Caffarel, as our master and guide, to face this pandemic with the resources of prayer and mutual aid.

Thus, we ask you to send this invitation to recite the Rosary to all grassroots Team. By reciting the Rosary, you and they will be united with the thinking and example of Father Caffarel, our master of prayer, to implore God, through the intercession of the Virgin Mary, both for the end of the pandemic and for the recognition of Father Caffarel's holiness and for his canonisation. Each mystery will be an opportunity to meditate on one of Father Caffarel's phrases and to have a better understanding of the great prophet he is for our times.

Afra & Beto Slegers Brazil Super-Region

Note: Recite the mysteries according to the corresponding day.

Monday and Saturday: The Joyful Mysteries

Tuesday and Friday: The Sorrowful Mysteries

Wednesday and Sunday: The Glorious Mysteries

Thursday: The Luminous Mysteries

Meditating with Father Caffarel

“Prayer leads me to understand a little bit better the requirements of this love of Christ: a tender and uncompromising love.”

Sign of the Cross.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Invocation to the Holy Spirit

Holy Spirit, you are the breath of the Father and the Son in the fulness of eternity. You were sent to us by Jesus to make us understand what he said and to lead us to the whole truth. For us, you are the breath of life, the creative breath, the breath of sanctification. You are the one who renews all things. We humbly ask you to give us life and to inhabit each one of us, live in each of our homes and in each one of our Teams, so that we can experience the sacrament of marriage as a place of love and happiness and as a path towards holiness. Amen.

Apostles’ Creed. Our Father. Three Hail Marys. Glory Be.

Offering up of the Rosary

Jesus, we offer you this Rosary that we are going to recite, contemplating the mysteries of our Redemption and, through the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Your Most Holy Mother to whom we address ourselves, grant us the virtues necessary to pray well and to obtain the graces attached to this holy devotion. As an intention, we propose most particularly the end of the Coronavirus epidemic, the beatification of Father Henri Caffarel and the sanctification of all the members of Teams of Our Lady.

1st Mystery (corresponding to the day)

Meditating with Father Caffarel

“Blessed are those who, throughout their lives, have always been ready to answer God’s calls.”

Getting to know Father Caffarel and the Origin of his Vocation

Henri Caffarel was born on July 30th, 1903, in Lyon, France. He was baptised on August 2nd, 1903 and was ordained a priest in Paris on April 19th, 1930. He died on September 18th, 1996, at Troussures, in the diocese of Beauvais, where he is buried. *“At the age of twenty, in just an instant, Jesus Christ became Someone for me. Oh, nothing spectacular. On that far-off day of March 1923, I realised that I was loved and that I loved and that from now on between Him and me, it would be for life. The die was cast.”* He accepted the invitation to *“Come, follow me.”*

Our Father. Hail Mary (x 10). Glory Be.

2nd Mystery (corresponding to the day)

Meditating with Father Caffarel

"Love and self-sacrifice are two sides of the same coin, no love without self-sacrifice, and a self-sacrifice which is not a self-sacrifice made out of love is a self-sacrifice which is impossible in practice."

Getting to know Father Caffarel and the Importance of God's love to Him

Father Caffarel's ministry was devoted to the service of love. For him, the love of the Lord was a source of energy and life. From the outset, Father Caffarel was in sync with couples who wanted to develop their love in the light of the Lord. Whatever work he undertook, Father Caffarel had but one goal: to bring everyone before Jesus Christ, who is at the heart of all vocations.

Our Father. Hail Mary (x 10). Glory Be.

3rd Mystery (corresponding to the day)

Meditating with Father Caffarel

"Having grasped the spirit of Teams, you will have no trouble in agreeing to their discipline!"

Getting to know Father Caffarel in the Early Days (1939-1949)

Henri Caffarel answered the call of couples who wished to experience fully and deeply their marriage sacrament. He showed them that the requirements of holiness concerned all of them. The first meeting of Teams of Our Lady was held on February 25th, 1939. Four couples came to see him to know how to experience and grow in married love and in the love of God. *"Let us seek together,"* he replied. A few years later, in 1947, the Charter was drawn up and implemented with the rules and concrete means for conjugal spirituality and true Team life (Ecclesia), with a strong emphasis on prayer and mutual aid.

Our Father. Hail Mary (x 10). Glory Be.

4th Mystery (corresponding to the day)

Meditating with Father Caffarel

"Be happy! The Lord awaits this praise and those around you await this testimonial."

Getting to know Father Caffarel in the Mature Years (1950-1973)

Teams of Our Lady developed rapidly and a sound organisation became necessary. Large international gatherings were organised. Father Caffarel demonstrated how the sacraments of marriage and orders were complementary as responses to the vocation of love. And he always called everyone, firmly and in an exemplary manner, to a life of apostolate in their parish, diocese, in their profession and in the world.

Our Father. Hail Mary (x 10). Glory Be.

5th Mystery (corresponding to the day)

Meditating with Father Caffarel

“If there were a few thousand, a couple of hundreds of thousands of small “homes of prayer” in our world, then the face of the planet will have changed.”

Getting to know Father Caffarel in the Final Years (1973-1996)

In 1966, he was asked to take over the running of the Retreat House at Troussures, and he made it into a “House of Prayer.” There, he organised days and weeks of retreat, showing the value of prayer and silence and offering true encounters with God. The fruitfulness of Father Caffarel’s intuition became inscribed in the hearts of everyone, in the unique relationship they have with God. His immense desire was to share the revelation that he himself had known at the age of twenty. His years spent at Troussures show the source from where all things sprung in him.

Our Father. Hail Mary (x 10). Glory Be.