

Association of The Friends of Father Caffarel

(This text is intended for the Super Regional Couples, Regional Responsible Couples and local correspondents of The Friends of Father Caffarel)

1/ Why did we ask for Father Caffarel to be canonised?

The request to open the cause for canonisation of Father Caffarel was made by the Teams of Our Lady movement, represented by the International Leading Team in 2006.

Monsignor Lustiger, archbishop of Paris, said that Father Caffarel was “a prophet for our times.” Today, everyone agrees that Father Caffarel was always aware of the signs of the times and even anticipated them. His words and teachings proved to be in keeping with current affairs.

The goal is apostolic: the promotion of the sacrament of marriage and private prayer.

Numerous conversions occurred within in his lifetime and can be attributed to him and his spiritual influence.

Many movements today, that meet the needs of our times, have their origin in his intuitions, his perseverance and his humility.

Therefore it is important to make sure that a wide audience knows his influence in terms of conjugal and family spirituality. His message is truly of our time.

Making sure Father Caffarel is recognised is also a way of promoting and making known the movements he inspired, including the Teams of Our Lady.

2/ The Role of the Association of The Friends of Father Caffarel

An association is set up for every cause for canonisation, where beatification is the first stage and its aim is to promote the cause. Such an association also ensures and produces the material means necessary in order to

- Gather together all the documents that Father Caffarel ever wrote
- Pass these documents on to the expert historians and theologian
- Identify the witnesses and present them to the diocesan inquiry commission

The Teams of Our Lady named Father Paul-Dominique Marcovits, o.p. as postulator of the cause and Marie-Christine Genillon as vice-postulator. She was in charge of gathering together all the documents, publications and other writings of Father Caffarel. Monsignor François Fleischmann, former Spiritual Counsellor of the International Leading Team, was also involved in this task.

3/ A Satellite Team to put together a presentation of Father Caffarel's thinking

Following on from the decisions taken at the Durham College in 2007, an international Satellite Team was set up and put together a synoptic, 40-page document on the life and thinking of Father Caffarel. This document was distributed to all regions and super-regions at the Fatima College in July 2008 and is available in French in a pdf version from the Association of the Friends of Father Caffarel.

4/ What can we, as Super-Regional and Regional Responsible Couples, do to help this process?

4.1/ Introduce Father Caffarel to a wider audience

Today, it would appear that many team members do not know Father Caffarel well enough. It is important to make his life, his important role in the creation of movements, his intuitions and thinking about the sacrament of marriage, his attention to widows, his apostolate as a “master of private prayer” known to a wider audience.

We suggest the following actions as ways to promote Father Caffarel:

- Publicise widely the prayer composed for the canonisation of Father Caffarel. It needs to be widely distributed and prayed upon. This is at the heart of what was important to him: prayer. We need to ask God, through the intercession of Father Caffarel, for a miracle. A miracle (an immediate, complete, definitive and unexplained-by-science, physical healing) is the sign that Father Caffarel continues to work in this world, according to God’s will, for the benefit of people.
- Include an article about Father Caffarel or extracts from his writings in regional newsletters
- Mention our founder, Father Caffarel and the process of his canonisation, on the home page of all of the Movement’s sites, be they Super-regional, regional, national, sector... along with this website address: www.henri-caffarel.org
- Allow a time to talk about Father Caffarel’s thinking and the process of his canonisation at the annual gatherings of Responsible Couples, Sector Responsible Couples, etc.
- Ensure that there is a bookshop full of books and the DVD about Father Caffarel at these regional or sector gatherings
- Promote the DVD about Father Caffarel within and outside the movement. Make it known to the Catholic media in general
- Use extracts from Father Caffarel’s texts when writing spiritual texts for newsletters etc.
- Write articles or interviews about Father Caffarel in Catholic newspapers, radios or TV

All publications about Father Caffarel are welcome and are useful to expand and complete the canonisation file.

4.2/ The Role of the Local Correspondent for the Association of The Friends of Father Caffarel

The initiative to request the canonisation of Father Caffarel was taken by the Teams of Our Lady Movement. It is therefore preferable that the 'local correspondent' belongs to a regional team.

The correspondent does the following:

- Actively encourages membership
- Manages the membership list
- Widely circulates the Association of The Friends of Father Caffarel's newsletter
- Ensures its translation where necessary
- Is responsible for information in the Super-Region or Region
- Maintains a link with the Association of The Friends of Father Caffarel
- Collects the subscription dues in a local bank account
- Organises the transfer of funds with the agreement of the Super-Region
- Maintains the link locally between the members
- Answers questions locally
- Passes on information to Spiritual Counsellors
- Puts together an action plan based on all the suggestions above

Each Region could suggest the study of a topic related to Father Caffarel's texts—even to study it as the Topic of the Year! In the France-Luxembourg-Switzerland Super-Region such a topic already exists entitled *Henri Caffarel, textes choisis, 1903-1996*.

The Regions or Super-Regions could actively encourage the translation of Father Caffarel's publications and writings. They would need to contact the Postulator in order to be given the necessary rights:

Father Paul-Dominique Marcovits, o.p.,
« Les Amis du Père Caffarel »
49, rue de la Glacière
75013 PARIS - France

CONCLUSION:

Please communicate the name of the local correspondent for your Region or Super-Region to

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