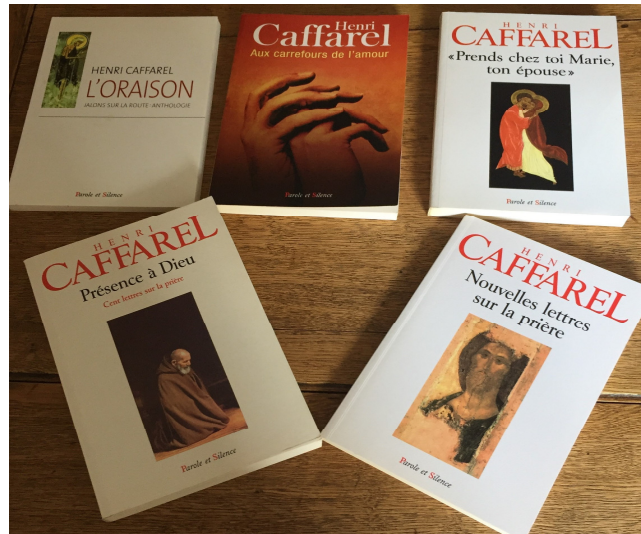
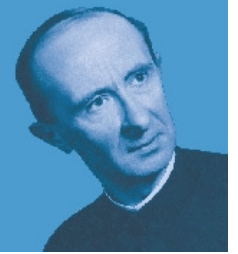


# Newsletter

N°2 – July 2019

Les Amis du Père Caffarel



Dear Friends,

Whenever I read Father Henri Caffarel's writings, I am moved because I am in God's presence. His Servant Henri Caffarel enlightens my capability to love, he teaches me, if it is indeed true that "*priests and couples have received the same vocation of love,*" as the prayer asking God for his canonisation says. Let us just mention a few of his citations.

"*God alone can fulfil the absolute hunger that works on man's heart, creatures are just unable to.*"<sup>1</sup> And Father Henri Caffarel goes on to show that a man's love for a woman and a woman's love for a man are paths to receive God's love, that fulfils and enables the spouses to love each other. There indeed is the endless richness of the marriage sacrament.

"*Love knows no barriers: it would love to shout out its joy to the entire Universe, share it with every living soul: from the married couple, it shines onto the children; from the family, it warms the hearts of those who come close to it; from the heart of those who work, it passes invisibly into the work they are creating and into the colleagues they associate with.*"<sup>2</sup> The couple's mission! It is clearly spelt out here, the apostolate of those whose love dwells in God's love: love beams and glows.

"*Undoubtedly, the reasons for failure are peculiar to each disunited couple. [...] But is there not a deeper cause? [...] The two pitfalls which break up couples, who in the beginning did not lack love, are [...] habit that dulls desire and daily intimacy that dispels the mystery. [...] If desire is the soul's appetite as much as and more so than the flesh, if it tends to discover in the beloved person, beyond the flesh, that inexhaustible mystery that is a soul created in God's image, then yes, desire is a factor of duration, progress and fulfilment for love.*"<sup>3</sup>

God at the heart of couples, at the heart of the couple's mission, at the heart of the couple's fidelity ... So many riches are contained in Father Henri Caffarel's writings! I could have introduced you to other citations on other subjects. The ones above are simply to encourage you to get to know the teachings of our founder on Christian marriage. There is no substitute for actually reading his writings: there we hear him speaking to our hearts. Thank you for urging Team members "to read some Caffarel."

It is always a great pleasure to see that Father Henri Caffarel's thinking and writings continue to be topical. He speaks of the essential things, of what constitutes the heart of the love of God and the love of men. Thank you for widely broadcasting the thinking of Father Caffarel who still has so much to say to us. The aim of his canonisation is right there: to help Christians to discover more about the greatness of the sacrament of marriage and to experience it fully.

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

<sup>1</sup>HENRI CAFFAREL, *Amour qui es-tu?* (*Love, Who are you?* untranslated) Paris, Éditions du Feu Nouveau, 1966, p. 141.

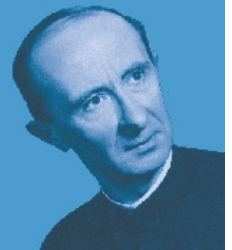
<sup>2</sup>HENRI CAFFAREL, *L'Anneau d'Or*, n°27-28, Paris, 1949.

<sup>3</sup>HENRI CAFFAREL, *Amour qui es-tu?*, p. 55-56.

# Newsletter

N°2 – July 2019

Les Amis du Père Caffarel



Dear Friends,

How are we to understand the Church's message on the sacrament of marriage, on sexuality and fecundity, on the couple's pastoral action, on morality as a requirement of love? And, concerning these subjects, what Father Henri Caffarel's fundamental contribution? Starting with the reality of marriage such as it is experienced today, a team made up of former Responsible Couples from the International Leading Team of the Teams of Our Lady Movement, together with "The Friends of Father Caffarel" got together to form a *Marriage Workshop* to observe, research and reflect on these topics. The work containing their conclusions shows how much Father Henri Caffarel renewed the Church's thinking on the couple and marriage. This work, ***L'amour conjugal, chemin vers Dieu selon la pensée du père Henri Caffarel***, has been published in French, and its publication in Italian is in the pipeline. For the other languages, translation and publishing have been left up to the initiative of the authors concerned.

As part of your action, our Association would like you to implement the necessary means to ensure the translation, edition or reprinting of the various books by Father Henri Caffarel in the language of your Super-Region, in order to contribute, even more, to the diffusion of his teachings and his thinking within Teams and also outside of the Teams of Our Lady Movement. In this regard, the secretariat of our Association is available to send you Father Henri Caffarel's complete bibliography and the list of books already translated and published in your language that they are aware of.

We count on your efforts in this regard as well as any initiatives that you may take within your Super-Region or Region in order to achieve this goal.

With our most grateful thanks in advance for your valuable contribution to our Association.

François Genillon  
Secretary