

## Father Caffarel, a Master, a Brother, a Friend

In the countless assembly of saints, there are not only strangers. We know a certain number of these saints and some are even familiar to us. We could name one or another of them, who have become very close to us. This closeness is astonishing because it is faith that creates it first, before sensitivity or at least at the same time. Something of God in them reaches us, enlightens us, touches us deeply; we then often turn to them, we become attached to them, they become friends, brothers, masters.

And so it is with Father Caffarel. For us, he is a master of prayer, a guide in prayer, the one who



walks before us and leads us. A relationship with him, one of disciple to master, is built up, strengthened, with all the more accuracy and freedom, as we are led to God, to God alone. Or, to put it another way, it is also God who, through Father Caffarel, draws us to Himself, the God of love.

God of love. With what intensity, Father Caffarel speaks of marriage, of this human bond inhabited by the love of God. He said, "*My substance is love!*" His writings have and will increasingly have an immense

influence. Father Caffarel shows himself to be a master.

Our relationship with him can also evolve. Father Caffarel had great sensitivity that is clearly found in his *Letters on Prayer* or in other writings. He speaks of what we experience as difficult or joyful: we feel understood by him, he speaks of us, we are not strangers to him, but rather brothers and sisters whoseek God with him. There is between us and him a spiritual friendship that the Lord has awakened.

When the Church in the Creed speaks of the communion of saints, this is what it is talking about. We believe in this immense fraternity of brothers and sisters who are in the fullness of God's light, and this is not a distant reality: our bond with Father Caffarel – with other saints too – expands our hearts and allows us to receive God's love for us and to respond to it, in the grace of the sacrament of marriage or the sacrament of orders, in the grace of the sacrament of baptism. In the love that unites the multitude of saints, in the grace that God gives us through Father Caffarel, we learn to live.

"I owe everything to prayer." Prayer is the basis of our life with God, who introduces us into the beautiful fraternity of "the seekers of God," as Father Caffarel's used to call it. But this fraternity in heaven does not lock us in, on the contrary, it opens us up to the fraternity on earth. Father Caffarel was tremendously active, there was like a fire in him. His work is immense, it comes from his love for God, who opened his heart up to so many people! By spending time with Father Caffarel, there is no risk of us remaining closed in upon ourselves.

Father Paul-Dominique Marcovits, op Roman Vice-Postulator of the Cause of Father Henri Caffarel



Dear Friends,

Since we just celebrated a short time ago the great feast of the infant Jesus, who came in our flesh to save us, we would first like to tell you of the Joy and Hope that we have in our hearts and we want share with each of you this great news and the wonder that springs from the spectacle of the infant in the manger.

At the request of a Team member, the Bulletin of the Friends of Father Caffarel, starting with the July 2025 issue, and our association's website will now propose a dedicated space to post **testimonies** about the graces received through the intercession of Father Caffarel in different countries around the world. This initiative will promote greater communion between all Team members around the figure of our founder. You will be able to collect and transmit these testimonies to us: we therefore ask you to inform the members of your Super-Region or Region of this new proposal. It will also be an additional opportunity for everyone to regularly visit our website in order to discover these testimonies of Father Caffarel's continuous action.

To you, the association's correspondents throughout the world, we would like to recall here how much we count on you and on your Super-Regional leaders to communicate to us the events experienced and the initiatives proposed during all these past months to make better known to all, during different gatherings or various initiatives, the thinking and work of our founder.

Thank you all, in advance, for sending notifications of these significant events and experiences in your Super-Region or Region to the association's secretariat, so that we can share them with as many people as possible on the Friends of Father Caffarel's website: **www.henri-caffarel.org.**Sharing these events will be a chance for all Team members, throughout the world, to experience with you retrospectively these wonders, ideas or proposals, which could be taken up and/or implemented in other Super-Regions or Regions.



Finally, and from a purely practical point of view, we draw the attention of all correspondents and Super-Regionals to the change in the association's banking references, intended in particular to receive all payments of money, whether they be donations or membership fees; the new IBAN references, as specified in our Bulletin at the start of 2025, are as follows:

BP RIVES DE PARIS FR76 1020 7003 2224 2184 4377 087

Let us ask the Lord to go forward "with a burning heart," to have the ardent desire to do His will above all else.

François Genillon Secretary of The Friends of Father Caffarel