



Equipes Notre-Dame



With the same surprise as most of the couples receives the call to serve our Movement, we were also surprised.

Our personal plans have been put aside and so far it's difficult for us to understand the look of God on us, entrusting us with the service of Liaison Couple to America Zone. Trusting His reasons, we said YES, by offering Him our job.

We have been in the Movement for 47 years and our whole life as a couple and as a family was founded on this divine inspiration of Fr. Caffarel, the Teams of Our Lady (Teams).

We have 3 children and 5 small grandchildren who are our joy. Throughout all these years, we walked together and were stimulated by our Team 20 Sector A Rio I, Brazil that became our second family and our best friends and also by so many other Team's members that mainly the service brought us closer. Today, our service at ERI expands this circle of brothers and leads us to open our hearts more and more to embrace new friends who follow the same path in the search for holiness.

More specifically at ERI, where called and welcomed by the Responsible International Couple Clarita and Edgardo, SCE Fr. Ricardo, the Secretary and Communication Couples and other Zone Liaison Couples we could feel the strength of the internationality of our Movement and its Synodality.

In America Zone, we have already started to be present in the SR/RR where we have been lovingly welcomed with the feeling of being at home. In the performance of our mission, we always come back enriched by so many experiences that unite us with people from such different cultures, but who find in love of God and in the search for holiness the point of union.

We have the role of Liaison with five Super Regions in the America Zone - SR Brazil, SR Hispanoamerica South, SR Hispanoamerica North, SR Colombia, SR United States and a linked Region - RR Canada.

We see ourselves being called as disciples of God, the Church and Fr. Caffarel and for that we have to be aware of the need to be open to others: the "joys and hopes, the sadness and the anguish of our neighbour, are also our joys and hopes, sorrows and anguish as missionary disciples." (Vatican Council II). Our look at service needs to be the look of a disciple, of lucidity and evangelical prudence, keeping the desire to learn the new.

This mission of caring for and maintaining fidelity to our fundamental charisma and mystique requires that we, too, be projected to the encounter: with God who calls us and with brothers wherever they are, because there is where the Lord manifests himself.

This, as any mission, requires important attitudes such as meekness and simplicity, the stripping of ambitions to take care of what has been entrusted to us.

Despite a vast territorial extension (14,000 km of north / south extension) and different cultures and languages, we are couples who identify themselves through the experience of the same values. The Catholic profile of the continent, the testimony of couples and the tireless dedication of Responsible results in a great acceptance and constant expansion of the Movement.

We are at the beginning of a new year, still warmed by the light of the Fátima Meeting and guided by the Orientations we received there. We trust that, as we read in John 13:17 “Now that you know these things, you will be happy if you practice them” we will all mobilize with enthusiasm to live well our mission.

We find in the document Vocation and Mission, the result of the synodal dynamics of Teams, strong appeal and encouragement for us to leave, strengthening, without fear, the value of love and the sacrament of marriage.

Blessed are we in our mission, living mercy (Lk 6:36) as an expression of fraternity.

Blessed are we finding in the Gospel the energy that can transform the world.

Blessed are we keeping the same sensitivity of Mary in Cana to look at our neighbour and the world, understanding their needs and in it, trying to supply their needs, giving testimony of what we believe.

So friends, in addition to an agenda full of commitments and work meetings, we have at ERI a heart full of hope and the greatest desire that the Movement of the Teams of Our Lady supply us all in our search for holiness together.

May the Lord protect each couple, each priest, each family that walks this path side by side, giving us the strength and perseverance to grow together in faith and in service to all. We also pray to Fr. Caffarel to watch over our Movement, keeping it united and faithful to his inspiration, but attentive and sensitive to the world and its amazing transformations.

Hoping that one day we will have the joy of meeting you in person, we thank God for this call, trusting in his promise to be with us every day.

With our affectionate embrace,

***Marcia and Paulo Faria
America Zone Liaison Couple***