

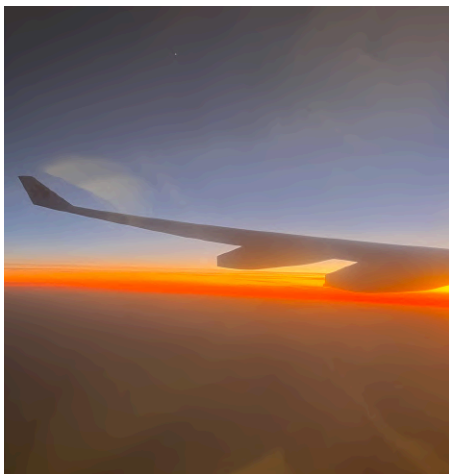
ERI Newsletter

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It is with great joy we share with you a short summary of the meeting of the ERI in Adelaide (Australia) in October. It was a trip that has brought us closer to SR Oceania, which is so far away geographically, but is now much closer to all of us. The ERI has not travelled to Australia since 2002, when the international college was held in Melbourne. Sadly, this time the Liaison Couple of the Eurafrika Zone, Sylvestre and Bernadette, were not able to be present at the meeting due to delays in obtaining their visa, and their visa arrived too late to start their journey. Our thanks to all those who made this meeting possible, particularly the couple responsible for SR Oceania, Petra and Terry. They also made it possible to have a formation session with responsible couples during the weekend after the ERI meeting.



ERI Meeting, 23rd to 27th October 2023-

Our first day in Adelaide, Monday 23rd, could not have started in a better way. Our opening **Eucharist** was followed by a spiritual reflection led by Fr Ricardo and a sharing. This dynamic has become a regular feature of our meetings. It helps us to enter the week's meeting by placing everything in the Lord's hands, and it also allows us to continue team building by sharing a little about our lives. The Eucharist and prayers strengthen us throughout the meeting time and unite us to the great community of the Church that we form.



At the beginning of our meeting, we had the joy of preparing for our coming visit to Rome, where the ERI will be received **by Pope Francis in a private Audience** on 4th May 2024. This means, the next ERI meeting will need to follow after our visit to Rome. We will then go to Turin to finalise detailed planning for the International College and Gathering in July 2024.

The **international college** will be a shorter college as it precedes the big gathering and will take place from Thursday 11th to the morning of 15th July. It will be based on the Gospel text immediately preceding the Emmaus passage: "*Why do you seek the living among the dead? He is risen*", Lk 24: 5b-6a. Once the motto, "Let us seek him who lives", had been agreed, we worked on the closing programme with activities that we will continue to develop. These will also be important moments given the change of responsibilities at the closing Eucharist, as is usual at each college.



Discussions about the **International Gathering** took the most time, as an event of this nature provides significant complexity. The speakers have already agreed to attend, and these are now available on the meeting website. We are close to finalising other important items such as testimonies, Eucharists, prayers, mixed teams, the Expo, and group activities to visit the various places of what are known as the social saints of Turin. It is important to note that arrival at the hotels is scheduled for the morning of Monday 15th. The opening ceremony will begin early that afternoon, and the conclusion will be on Saturday 20th, culminating with the celebration of the closing Eucharist in the late morning followed by lunch. Departures must therefore take place from Saturday afternoon onwards.

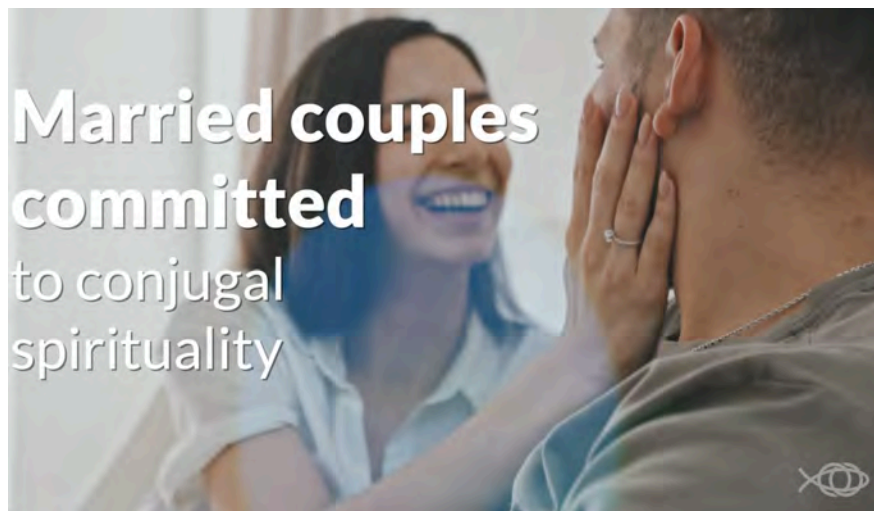
Registrations are going well, but in order to make it easier to fill the number of places available, it has been decided to extend the period until 30 November 2023.

Over the next few months, some members of the ERI will continue to meet with the Turin teams, both in person and online, to continue the work of coordinating the whole process. We ask everyone not to forget to pray, both for the meeting and for all the people who are working at full capacity so that everything can develop in the best possible way.

We also undertook considerations about the **International Formation Session**. This will take place at the end of the International Gathering at the Oropa Shrine near Turin, and a number of couples have been invited.

As happens at all ERI meetings, we continued to share about the situations experienced in each SR and RR, and these are presented as reports by each Zone Liaison Couple. On this occasion, we reviewed the visits made by the zone liaison couples and the direct knowledge they have gained through these visits.

The activities of the ERI Secretariat play an important part in our meetings. This includes analysis of statistical, financial and administrative issues. Similarly, there is also a focus on issues related to communications. An institutional video of the



Teams of Our Lady movement has been developed in 5 languages and was presented at the meeting. This video is now available on the YouTube channel ERI Communication .

On Thursday 26th, the ERI was accompanied by the Oceania Responsible Couple, Petra and Terry, to visit the local ecclesiastical authorities. The Archbishop of Adelaide was unavailable as he was in Rome to attend the Synod. The ERI was therefore received by the Vicar General of Adelaide, Fr Dean Marin, and by Sister Elizabeth Morris, Vicar for Religious in the diocese. Both knew the Teams movement very well, and Sr Elizabeth had been a Teams spiritual accompanier for several years. As Teams is a movement within the Church, the visit provided an important sign of our journey together in faith. Both of them very much appreciated the good that Teams can do, and they both encouraged Teams to grow in SR Oceania.



Formation sessions with Sr Oceania. 28 and 29 October 2023

The aim of this trip was also to have a personal meeting with the Responsible Couples of the various Regions in SR Oceania, to get to know their reality better, and to share a few days of formation. The meeting began with a dinner on Friday 27th followed by two days of work over the weekend. The sessions had been developed in such a way that it was first possible to listen to the SR through presentations given by the various leaders on Saturday morning. These enabled the ERI to get to know the situation in the Catholic Church locally, and the various communities that are present in the Teams. This includes the Maronite community which has a strong presence in the Sydney area. We learned about the difficulties and challenges that the teams have in the SR, and among others, the possibilities of opening up to diverse multicultural realities.

Saturday afternoon and Sunday were dedicated to animation and formation sessions with presentations by the members of the ERI. These looked at the journey of the movement in recent years, the orientations, the foundations, vocation, mission and service, the importance of the thinking of Father Caffarel, Synodality and Collegiality, internationality and unity of the movement, the

sense of economic co-responsibility, the importance of liaison... among other topics, as well as the ERI responding to questions and issues raised.

We participated in the Sunday Eucharist in Adelaide Cathedral where Teams of Our Lady was presented to the whole community. The homily was delivered by Monsignor Frank Marriott, and it touched the hearts of all present.

We would like to acknowledge the welcome by each and every one of the couples we met. But we would especially like to thank the ERI couple, Faye and Kevin, for their efforts, and the SR Oceania leaders, Petra and Terry and their team, for making us feel so welcome in these distant Australian lands.



In these days approaching **Christmas**, the International Responsible Team wishes that the love and peace of the family of Nazareth, may fill the hearts of each family of the Teams of Our Lady and be our guide in the new year 2024.



Mirree, aboriginal Australian artist from the Wiradjuri country

Upcoming activities

- Preparatory meeting in Turin (Italy), 2-3 December 2023
- Preparatory meeting for the Audience in Rome (Italy), 20 February 2024
- Preparatory meeting in Turin (Italy), 21-25 February 2024
- Private audience of the ERI with Pope Francis, Rome, 4 May 2024
- ERI meeting in Turin (Italy), 5-10 May 2024
- ERI Meeting in Turin (Italy), 6-10 July 2024
- International College in Turin (Italy), 11-14 July 2024
- International Gathering in Turin (Italy), 15-20 July 2024
- International Sessions in Oropa (Italy), 20-23 July