

# ERI Newsletter

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In this newsletter, we are providing an update on the last meeting of the International Responsible Team for 2022. The meeting took place in Paris to celebrate the 75th Anniversary of the Charter of the Teams of Our Lady. We are also providing advance information about a number of coming events: the ERI meeting next March, the international College in July 2023 and the preparations for the International Gathering in Turin in July 2024.

## ERI meeting, 5-11 December 2022

This meeting was able to be held in the newly renovated headquarters of the international secretariat in Paris. The content and work of the meeting was very intense and varied, so we will focus on some of the most important issues:

- Our work began with a **spiritual reflection** animated by Fr. Ricardo. He always helps us to begin these meetings ensuring we are animated by the Holy Spirit and ready to work after a time of pause and meditation. Our time of prayer was followed by a period of sharing, to enable us to continue to build our team and share our lives.
- This time, the meeting also began with a **blessing of the upgraded premises**



in Paris. The architectural renovations have now been completed. It provides a much larger space for meetings, as well as an open space for secretarial work, a small meeting room for smaller group work, a storeroom, and several renovated bedrooms and toilets to make stays more comfortable. We all thanked the Secretariat

Couple, Paola and Giovanni, for their enormous effort in coordinating and monitoring the work.



- The first day ended with a **Eucharist**, which was repeated every day. Times of prayer and Eucharist are very important in our meetings, as well as time for reflection and prayer to Father Caffarel who inspired us and helped us to live out this meeting. On this occasion, we reflected on texts about the Charter. We looked at texts by Father Caffarel, and at the words addressed to the Teams of Our Lady by Pope John XXIII during the pilgrimage to Rome in May 1959.



- We continued with planning for coming meetings. After having reviewed the evaluation of the International College last July in Assisi and considered which aspects could be improved, we then proceeded with further preparation for **the International College** in July 2023. As we have already informed the leaders and counsellors of each SR and RR, we have sadly had to change the location of the next meeting, due to difficulties with holding it in Guayaquil (Ecuador). The college will now be held in Aparecida (Brazil) and will be based on the text of Luke 14: 28-30, "Discern in order to build". All aspects have now been defined including the daily focus, the programme,



the people invited to prepare presentations, testimonies, prayers and the Eucharist, and other activities. There will also be a very important moment in the meeting, when the handover of responsibilities takes place.



**TORINO 2024**

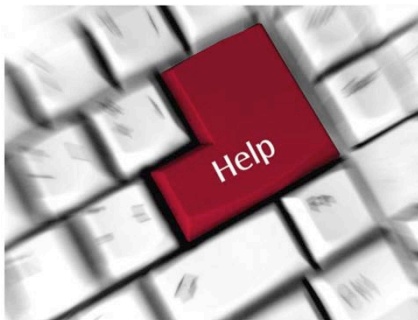
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- A large part of the meeting was also devoted to reviewing the plans and content of the **International Gathering in Turin** in July 2024. This work is progressing, and the animation teams are already at full capacity. These teams are carrying out all the arrangements for this event which requires a large collective effort. As the SR and RR responsible couples have already been informed, the quotas of attendees have been defined. It has also been announced that given the situation of inflation and price increases, the initial planned cost, which was equal to that of previous meetings, cannot be maintained. The total cost per person will be detailed in future communications. All the content and activities of the meeting are now being defined, and will revolve around the Emmaus passage, with the slogan, "Go with a burning heart".

- Each liaison couple presented a **Zone report**. On this occasion, their reports focused on animation; plans for expansion after COVID; challenges, strengths and weaknesses; formation needs; areas that might need the help of the ERI; and possibilities for establishing programmes for trainers... We also continued to consolidate the ERI's reflections, that began some time ago,

on the criteria for regrouping the SR and RR in the various zones, in order to improve animation and life of the teams in each zone.

- A progress report was presented on the work of the **study topic** for 2023-2024. The latest study topic, *The Eucharist as a source of mission*, is being developed by a team in Spain and coordinated by the ERI.
- The administrative, financial and statistical analysis of the **secretariat's** activities was presented. There was also a progress report on various communication issues being worked on. The **satellite teams** also presented their progress report. The work entrusted to these teams has come to a practical conclusion. They have been working on the renewal of piloting material; the programme for young couples; and a survey developed by the research and reflection team. Pilot surveys have already been carried out in SR Colombia and SR Brazil. The survey tool will be offered to all SRs and RRs who request it.



- ESPAÑOL
- FRANÇAIS
- ENGLISH
- ITALIANO
- PORTUGUÊS

From this point, there will need to be a huge effort in translating all this material, and we will need the help of the SRs and RRs. We are now making an appeal to you to increase the number of people who can collaborate and work on **translations** into the five official languages of the movement. Couples will always be asked to

translate from a foreign language into their own. If there are new people in your SR and RR who are willing to help in this work, we kindly ask those responsible couples to contact the ERI Secretariat couple and give them the names of these volunteers. Over the next year and a half, there will be an extra workload, given translations of documents from the satellite teams and for the International Gathering.

- A significant amount of time has also been devoted to relations with the **Vatican**. Special effort has been put into the proposed collaboration



between the Pontifical Theological Institute of John Paul II and Teams of Our Lady in the area of formation. Seven Teams couples were selected and began their formation with a face-to-face meeting in October in Rome. This will be followed by a series of online formation

activities and virtual meetings and will end in June with another face-to-face meeting.

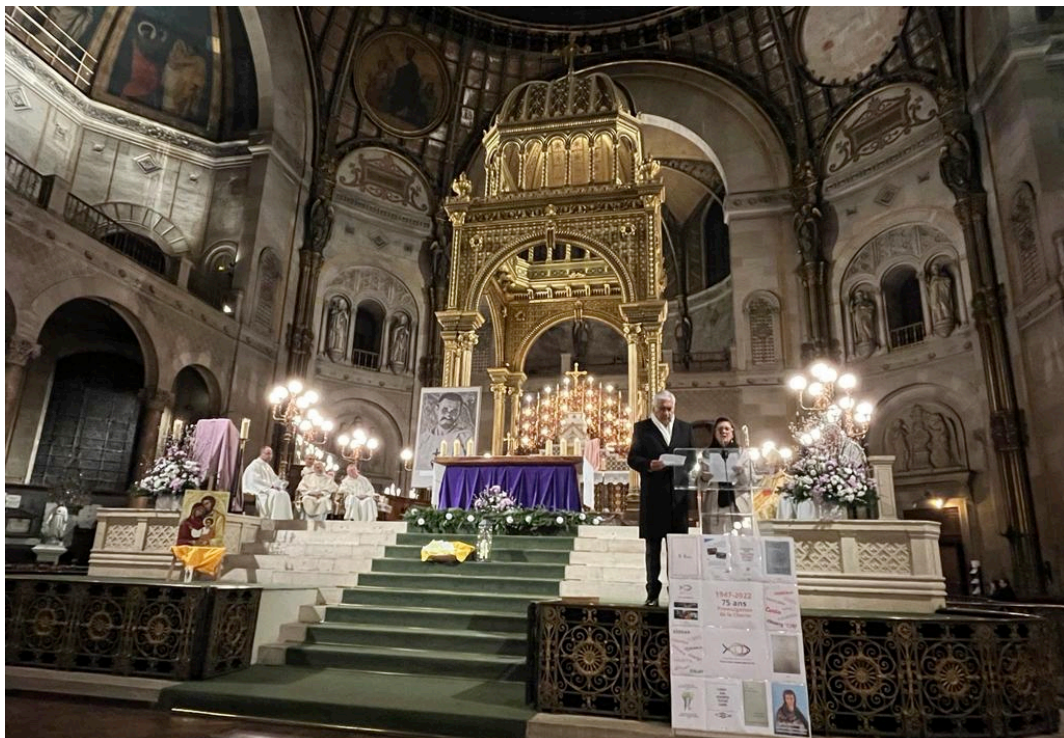
During the course of this ERI meeting in Paris, other important activities have taken place:

- There was a meeting of the directors of the **Association of Friends of Fr Caffarel**. Fr Marcovits commented that the dossier of the Positio has already been delivered to Rome. The Postulator, Fr Paleri, has moved to undertake missionary work in Ghana, and a new Postulator who lives in Rome, Fr Kijas, a Polish national, has been appointed.
- **Celebration of the 75th Anniversary of the Charter, Thursday 8 December 2022**



On Thursday, the feast of the Immaculate Conception, we went to the church of St. Augustine in Paris at 8pm, for a beautiful Eucharist presided over by M. Thiebault Verny, Auxiliary Bishop of Paris. The hymns, the solemnity of the celebration, the prayer intentions, the final words from the International Leading Couple, Edgardo and Clarita, made us feel enormously grateful for the charism received through Father Caffarel. To

be in the place where the Charter was proclaimed 75 years ago, and to be able to relive that moment, was a time of great emotion for all those present, and it touched us deeply. We ended the evening in the crypt with



a shared supper with the contributions of the team members who attended the celebration.



- **Meeting with SR France, Saturday 11 December 2022**

At each ERI meeting, there are always key moments of communion and closeness with the teams of the SR or RR that hosts us. On this occasion it took place at the house of Massabielle, which is the house that SR France has for meetings and gatherings. In the first part of this time together, we had a presentation about an important agreement that the SR has with the diocese of Pontoise where the house is located. Monsignor Stanislas Lalanne, Bishop of Pontoise, commented on the collaborative activities that will take place between the diocese and the teams. This presentation was followed by a Eucharist and a meal of friendship with the SR team of France-Luxembourg-Switzerland. In the afternoon, we had a meeting with the leaders of the SR, where the ERI answered the questions raised by the SR. We thank Catherine and Christophe Bernard and Fr. Louis de Raynal for the welcome, and for the meeting in which we were all able to express ourselves with great openness on many topics of interest.



### **Forthcoming activities**

- Meeting of the ERI in Lomé (Togo), 12 to 18 March 2023.
- Preparatory meetings with the participation of the ERI and the secretariat for the International Meeting in Turin (May 2023).
- ERI Meeting in Aparecida (Brazil), 17-22 July 2023
- Next International College in Aparecida (Brazil), 23-28 July 2023