



Equipes Notre-Dame



*“You are in My hands just like the clay in the potter’s hands.” (Jer. 18:6)*

Dear Friends. This is our first letter as the new International Responsible Couple of the Teams of Our Lady Movement, which we all love so much.

From now on, with much humility and with complete submissiveness in response to the call and the mysterious paths that God invites us to travel, after greeting you, we would like to express our unlimited desire to serve God, to serve the Teams Movement

and to serve each and every one of you with total dedication and fidelity to the principles that inspire us all.

Our life in the Movement, from the very moment that we joined it, has been marked by a complete submissiveness to walk the paths that God opened before us, always accepting them with joy, humility, confidence and, why not say it? also with trepidation as we recognise our great weaknesses. Despite this, in complete abandonment to Him, we have never said “no” to a call to service, despite our own objectives, our desire to complete what has to be put off since we were not quite at the end of another service, despite all our good excuses, our half finished projects, our doubts...

The desire to always carry out God’s wish in our life has led us, almost like a recurrent theme, to consciously sacrifice our own will to enable Him to make us more malleable, **breaking our fragile pots of clay and letting Him mould us anew.**

Our involvement in the Movement began in 1997 when we joined Team 98 in the Central Region of Colombia; the same Team that we continue to be involved with today, twenty years on. We have been married for 32 years and have two children: Santiago, an industrial engineer, who is 26 and is soon to be married and Silvia, who is 23 years old and studying Psychology.

Professionally, Clarita is a music teacher and Catechism teacher, while Edgardo still works as a civil engineer.

We have served the Movement in different ways and have assumed various responsibilities since we first entered it. For the past six years, we have worked in the ERI, coordinating the

Satellite Teams and we respond to this new calling with a “Yes”, in which resounds the echo of the words uttered at the launch of the recent 12<sup>th</sup> International Gathering, “**DO NOT BE AFRAID, LET US GO FORTH...**” and the words that inspired it and that encourage us, “*Do not fear, for I am with you. Do not be afraid, for I am your God. I shall strengthen you, and give you help.*” (Is 41:10)

And so now, as we receive the call to assume this responsibility in the ERI (International Leading Team), with all our faith, we ask God our Father, the same God who in due course grew in Mary’s womb, that He may grow today in our hearts, strengthening our faith so that we can leave aside all our fears, leading us with docility and confidence towards the future, that we sometimes do not comprehend, so that in the company of the couples who begin their service in this new ERI, we can unveil His will and thereby accomplish what He asks of us.

May God and Mary, our Mother, who know us intimately, support us, help us and fill us with peace.

Clarita & Edgardo Bernal Fandiño