

August 2018

**In order to prepare the Collège, Gathering and Formation Session that are so important for the Movement, the entire ERI met on July 6<sup>th</sup> for its final meeting of work, prayer and conviviality...**



The ERI met in the Monastery of San Jeronimo, Lisbon, for a mass and visit before the important deadlines...



At Fatima, a work session...



Invitation by the Portugal SR to go on a mini-cruise on the Tagus.



Moments of prayer and Eucharist, always rich and deep, celebrated by our dear Father Jacinto Farias



Old members and new... all very emotional!!!



A beautiful visit to Batalha Monastery as an ending for this ERI...



## International College, 11-15 July 2018

The International Collège enabled the finalisation of all the work that the 'outgoing' ERI presented to the SR & RR Responsible Couples. The documents that were distributed included:

**The Guide to Teams of Our Lady** – completely revised and updated edition

**Study Topic "To Go Further"** for Teams with more than 20 years' experience

**The Guide to the Pilot Couple:** latest brochure in the collection of practical Guides edited by this ERI

**Study Topic 2018-2019, "Reconciliation, A Sign of Love,"** available for all SR & RR Responsible Couples

An assessment of the work accomplished by the **Satellite Teams** was also presented: the SR & RR Responsible Couples are asked to make a special effort to diffuse information about the **Database** and **Christian Formation Platform**, so that these documentary sources are fully effective to a wide audience...

A talk entitled, "**Remain in my Love,**" by Father Farias, information on "**The Sources of Teams of Our Lady,**" by Father Marcovits and Françoise & Rémi Gausse, together with "**The Challenges facing Teams,**" by Clarita & Edgardo Bernal were presented and enriched this College.



Studious  
responsibles  
couples...



...who  
have not  
lost  
their  
sense of  
fun!



And here is the new ERI..., on mission for  
a six-year mandate!

The International College was  
invited by the Portugal SR to a  
magnificent visit of Coimbra.

Here, within the University  
precinct, of this beautiful city, rich in  
culture and history...



## The International Gathering, 16- 21 July 2018

Every six years, Team members from all over the world meet on pilgrimage to pray, celebrate and gather together around the charism that unites them... that of Teams of Our Lady, to live and experience their coupledness in the Faith...

Great events punctuated this magnificent manifestation of shared joy and faith:

- **Every day**, Father Tolentino de Mendonça started the day with a meditation on a verse from the Gospel of the Prodigal Son, Lk 15:11-32. Remarkable evocations of this parable from the point of view of family kindnesses...
- **Remarkable Talks**
  - "The Meaning of Christian Freedom," by Cardinal Ricardo Blazquez – President of the Bishops' Conference of Spain
  - "Human Ecology: Fraternity & Communion," by Cardinal Turkson
  - "Forgiveness, the Great Gift of Love," by Mgr. Casmoussa – Archbishop of Mosul
  - "*The Development and Internationalisation of Teams of Our Lady*," by Constanza & Alberto Alvarado
  - "*Experiencing the Merciful Justice of God*," by Father Jacinto Farias
  - "*The Mission of Love, Love on Mission*," by To & Zé Moura Soares
  - "*The Joy of Encounter*," Cardinal Manuel Clemente – Patriarch of Lisbon
- **An exceptional session** entirely dedicated to **Father Henri Caffarel**, founder of our Movement with talks by
  - Jean Allemand – Father Caffarel's former personal secretary
  - Father Paul-Dominique Marcovits – Editor of the *Positio* of the cause for canonisation of Father Caffarel
  - Marie d'Amonville – who, with her husband Louis, were the first Responsible Couple for Teams
  - Father Angelo Paleri – Postulator in Rome of the cause for canonisation of Father Caffarel.
- **Testimonies that were often overwhelming:**
  - "*Freedom and Happiness*" and "*Freedom and Commitment*," by Teams members from Brazil and from Trinidad
  - "*Forgiveness in the Couple*" and "*Forgiveness in the Family*," by Team members from Australia and France
  - "*Mercy in the Team*," and "*Mercy in the World*," by Team members from Italy and Argentina
- **Presentations:**
  - *The Intercessors' Movement* and the *Youth Teams of Our Lady* by Responsible Couples in these Movements
  - The Endeavours were revisited every day thanks to attractive slideshows
- **Mixed Team Meetings** enabled team members from very different countries to compare their experiences and to exchange on the life of their team within the Movement
- **Eucharistic Celebrations and Moments of Prayer**, presided over by Cardinal Blazquez, Mgr. Nuno Brás Martins, Mgr. Eric de Moulins-Beaufort, Cardinal Rocha
  - Rosary & Procession at the Small Chapel of the Apparitions
  - Procession of the Holy Sacrament and a Night Vigil and Adoration in the Basilica of the Rosary
  - A party night
  - And, in closing, a moving transfer of services between the old and new International Leading Team (ERI)...
- Every afternoon, **Group Activities** were proposed:
  - A visit of the exhibition organised by the Super-Regions and Regions
  - Stations of the Cross, the Valinhos Way
  - Musical and theatrical show about Fátima
  - Presentation of the life of the three little shepherds by Sister Angela Coelho



### Some Photo Souvenirs:

*NB: photos & videos can be watched on the site*

*<https://equip-es-notre-dame.com/en/life-of-the-movement/news>*



A lively Opening Ceremony



The International nature symbolised here by the 80 flags of all the countries represented



Almost 4000 couples doing an unusual Sit-Down on the huge esplanade in Fatima!



A 3D bust of Father Caffarel, based on authentic photographs, was presented on a plinth in order to be visible to the 8000 participants



Over 400 priests, 20 bishops and 4 cardinals travelled to Fátima...

With a pontifical message addressed to all team members, His Holiness Pope Francis expressed his support and prayer for Teams of Our Lady





A particularly numerous, impressive and attentive assembly!!!



An international choir sang at the Gathering



Active and devoted young people ensure the well organised service and security

## International Formation Session, 21-23 July 2018



A true "universal church"



With a record-high participation of 54 couples and 19 Spiritual Counsellors from 43 countries throughout the world, the sessions were run by 5 formation couples and two spiritual counsellors. The sessions were simultaneously translated into 5 languages and were developed around the Word of the Gospel of St John, Chapter 14:1-7, *"I am the Way, the Truth and the Life."*

In 5 formation modules the following topics were treated: Father Caffarel and the Sacrament of Marriage, Conjugal Spirituality, the Role of the Regional Responsible Couple, Collegiality, Internationality, Mission. Besides the talks, and within a beautiful liturgical framework, there were also moments of prayer, dialogue, reflection and the exchange and sharing of experiences in mixed team meetings.



The international formation sessions had specific goals:

#### **Moments of prayer and communion**

- Contribution to the formation of future Regional couples
- Reflection on the importance of Father Caffarel's thinking on the sacrament of marriage
- Reflection on the call to service and how to experience it fully
- The understanding that the Region is the communication and communion point between the Sectors as well as between the Region and the SR
- Exchanging ideas and experiences on the role and function of the Region
- Understanding the importance of collegiality and internationality within Teams
- Delving deeper into the meaning of the mission of a Responsible Couple

#### **Talks**



**Discussion and exchange of ideas as a team**



### **Joy and fraternity**

The participants' evaluations and feedback were very positive. Living this experience of formation is a true gift from God.

## **Diary – Upcoming Dates**

### **2018**

**1. PARIS. October. 1<sup>st</sup> meeting of the Association of the Friends of Father Caffarel and the new International Responsible Couple.**

**2. PARIS. November. ERI Meeting, No 1, 17-23 November 2018**

### **2019**

**3. LEBANON. April. ERI Meeting, No 2, 9- 14 April 2019**

**4. SPAIN, Valencia. July. ERI Meeting, No 3 & International College, 10- 21 July 2019**

**5. PARIS. October. ERI Meeting, No 4, 8- 12 October 2019**