



Equipes Notre-Dame



We write these words to you at the end of 2019 as Christmas and the New Year approach, but you will already be in 2020 when you read them! We begin these lines therefore with two focuses: one looking back on the year that has just ended and another on the year about to begin.

And we would like to look at everything that has happened to us since the end of the Fatima Gathering, when we took up our service within the International Leading Team (ERI) and our responsibility to coordinate the Satellite Teams

until 2024.

Since that memorable Gathering, we have experienced very intense moments of prayer, work, joy, study, discernment, coexistence, discoveries, friendship and, undoubtedly, moments of discovery and love of this “new family,” the ERI, that is made up of couples and the Spiritual Counsellor.

In Brasilia, the capital of our beloved Brazil, where we live, we saw our family grow throughout the 44 years of our marriage. Now as well as our 4 children, we have a daughter-in-law, two sons-in-law and a granddaughter. And our grassroots Team, Team 19, Our Lady of Families, from Sector C of the Brasilia I Region, in the Centre-West Province, grows too in order to accompany us, both in prayer and in our moments of sharing, in our commitment to the ERI.

As you can see, we have much to thank and praise the Lord for. And, as he teaches us in Luke’s Gospel 12:48, “*To whom much has been given, much will be asked.*” And so, we try to use the divine gifts and the human capabilities that we have received in the service of building the Kingdom of God.

Indeed, we can see that the ERI has already been working hard during this period: from our first meeting in Paris in 2018, and then at the itinerant meeting in Lebanon, the meeting and College in Valencia, Spain, and finally, in October, the last meeting of the year 2019 held in the Paris Secretariat. And all this, without talking about the specific responsibilities of each couple: whether it be as Zone Liaison Couple or in the area in which they have been called to serve (Secretariat, Communication, Satellite Teams, General Coordination).

With respect to our domain of the Satellite Teams, four new teams were launched in Lisbon on 3<sup>rd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> October. In the years to come, they will deal with the topics proposed by the Super-Regions and Regions attached to the ERI, according to their expressed needs; as well as the topics the ERI judged necessary based on the orientations for the coming years.

During this encounter for the launching of the new teams, great and intense work was accomplished in a fraternal atmosphere of deep prayer and joy. This enabled all the couples to discern and get to know the orientations of the mission to which they were called.

Each Satellite Teams is made up of four couples. Their areas of focus are:

- **Pedagogy**, with the aim of updating the piloting process of new teams;
- **Research and reflection**, in order to propose a system of collecting information on the Movement in the different places where it is present. This enables us all to better understand the local reality;
- **Young couples**, in order to prepare documentation and material for the training of Team members, who work in a pastoral capacity with young couples, as well as material for these couples, based on the Movement's pedagogy;
- **Re-married couples**, in order to also prepare material for the training of Team members who work with these couples in a second union, as well as material that can be used in pastoral work with these couples, using the Movement's pedagogy.

Does this seem ambitious to you? Actually, it is! But that is the role and aim of the Satellite Teams.

As you all know, Satellite Teams were created by the ERI in 2001 at the International College of Dickinson near Houston, Texas, with the aim of exploring topics of interest to the Movement, and for the training and formation of grassroots Teams.

These teams were called Satellite Teams by the ERI members at that time, perhaps influenced by the visit of College members to the Space Centre in Houston. The concept could be seen as similar to the service of communication, liaison and exploration achieved by man-made satellites.

The current work of the Satellite Teams is to contribute to the necessary reflection on the future of the Teams of Our Lady Movement, in light of the challenges proposed by the Fatima Gathering. These teams are seeking to distinguish unchanging elements of the vocation and mission linked to the founding charism, and those that enable it to respond to the challenges of our time, placing its pedagogy at the service of the Church within the different realities of marriage and the family.

And we cast our eyes forward to what awaits us in 2020. For the first time in the Movement's history, the ERI will hold its itinerant meeting in an African country, in Lomé, Togo's capital. There the ERI will be able to meet responsible couples in the movement from the African continent, and 450 participants (couples and Spiritual Counsellors) are expected.

The second meeting of 2020 will be held in Warsaw, Poland at the end of July, followed by the international College. We are working away at full steam so that all the goals set by Teams of Our Lady can be achieved.

Friends, as you can see, there is much to be thankful for, much to praise, and much to pray for! We hope the Infant Jesus, who is born again in our hearts every Christmas, will inspire us and strengthen us every day in 2020, because we are sure that today and always the Lord continues to work wonders in us!

May each of you receive a very warm embrace from us!

*Mariola & Elizeu Calsing*  
*ERI Couple– Coordinator of the Satellite Teams*