

GENERAL ORIENTATIONS: 2018-2024

“DO NOT BE AFRAID, LET’S GO...”

"Do not be afraid, for I am with you. Do not be alarmed, for I am your God. I give you strength, truly I help you, truly I hold you firm with my saving right hand." Isaiah 41:10

We cannot be indifferent to the invitation that the Church and the Movement have made to us repeatedly in recent years, so that we can respond in a coherent way as co-responsible for the construction of a world guided by the values that sustain our faith path, in the sacramental grace of our conjugality. That is why the general orientation for the next six years, "**DO NOT BE AFRAID, LET’S GO...**" seeks to concretize our status as missionary disciples, not as an outlet for the conquest of miles or numbers, not as a way out proselytizing in order to nourish our vanities, but as an exit that the fire of the Spirit causes us to touch and help heal the wounds of our peripheries that may be outside and even within the Movement. **This Exit**, in no way abandons or neglects our essence; on the contrary, it is an outlet that carries with it all that we are, that continues to care and cultivate our being as a team member.

The Biblical Word, taken from Isaiah 41:10, which will sustain us in this purpose, makes us realize that our mission is not a social activism or a merely human initiative, but an act in the name of Jesus.

In each of the next years we will have a specific orientation that will invite us to focus on being missionary disciples, to face the challenges inside and outside our Movement.

ORIENTATION 2018-2019:

Let us go forth to serve, accepting our weaknesses.

The specific orientation for the first year of this new cycle of 2018-2019 is an invitation to serve inside and outside the Movement, without ignoring our own weaknesses, which also need to be tended to, as well as cultivating our spiritual journey. In this regard, we are encouraged by the words of Pope Francis in his recent Apostolic Exhortation *Gaudete et Exsultate*:

"... We are called to live contemplation even in the midst of action and sanctify ourselves in the responsibilities and generous exercise of our mission" (*Gaudete et Exsultate* 26).

LINES OF ACTION:

With the motivation, that each one of us offers in our service, we propose three lines of action for this transitional year in leadership of the International Responsible Team(ERI):

1. Let us go forth to serve, discerning

in our surroundings the challenges that we can respond to as a Movement.

The fact of accepting our own weaknesses allows us to understand that in this "departure" we undertake, where we serve, that we are not superior to anyone, but only instruments of God's mercy. So that in all the lands we tread, all the realities we face, we can treat them as sacred places of evangelization where God is present, even in difficult circumstances when we cannot understand.

This Word will always remind us that it is a condition of respect, whatever our specific field of mission may be:

"Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy ground." (Exodus 3:5)

This *Living the Mission* from our charism, addresses the challenges which we propose to act, will always start from three premises:

- a) Complete it as a couple;
- b) Share it as a team; and
- c) Depend on the impulse and support of the Movement.

There are innumerable challenges that we can discern in and out of the Movement.

Inside the Movement:

The growth that the Movement has achieved in recent years has us question several points:

Has our Super Region (SR) or Region (RR) been an active part of this growth? In what ways are we ingraining the TEAMS OF OUR LADY in order to continue the expansion? Do our teams and responsible couples live faithfully the Movement's teaching? Do our responsible couples have solid training? Are we offering adequate training in our countries? Is our team and teams from our Sector, Region, Super Region true Teams of Our Lady, where we live the charisma of mysticism and Pedagogy with fidelity?

This line of action is not just for the responsible couple; it is a critical and constructive revision of our "being a team" at all levels of the Movement.

Out of the Movement:

Encourage the formation, while accompanying and promoting new initiatives and strengthening existing ones. From the ERI we will work on the same line in the short and medium timeframe.

- The first years of conjugal life;
- The stages of crises and difficulties;
- Complex situations arising from weaknesses, abandonments and misunderstandings;
- Preparation for marriage;
- The second unions;
- Widows and widowers;
- The elderly.

2. Let us go forth to serve, living the Endeavors fully.

For this, we need to promote and cultivate the profound meaning of sharing the Endeavors within the Team meeting.

Christ loves our neighbor in us; we cannot love and serve each other without loving and serving God. We alone can love with human love, but it is only in adhering to Christ that we can let Him love in us with His divine love.

In regards to the Endeavors, and in the dynamics of sharing, we accept Christ, allowing Him to envelop us, so that we can be His witness in our outpouring to others.

It is a concrete proposition for this year: **to strengthen the experience of sharing.**

3. Let us go forth to serve, recognizing and spreading

the wealth the Movement

offers us.

The wealth that the Movement has always placed within our reach, and to which, in particular, has been given by this ERI, must be disseminated, harnessed and put into practice, making it within reach to all the base team members. If all this richness that the Movement places at our disposal is not delivered and transmitted to the base team members, there is a certain spiritual "omission", a certain spiritual "loss". All the team members have the right to participate in the wealth of these benefits in order to continue growing in the sanctifying grace and the aspiration to reach sanctity. We have the challenge of knowing, internalizing and creating our own each of the following themes, texts or means that the Movement has placed at our disposal in recent years:

- The Letter of Fatima
- The study theme for 2018-2019: "Reconciliation; Sign of Love"
- Document: "Vocation and mission at the dawn of the 3rd Millennium"
- Teams Of Our Lady Guide
- The Priest Counselor and Spiritual Accompaniment within the Teams Of Our Lady
- Study Theme: Mature Teams
- The work of the Satellite Teams:
 - ✓ Conjugal Sexuality and Spirituality: an invitation to dialogue
 - ✓ Virtual platforms:
 - Christian formation
 - Database - document
 - ✓ The Endeavors:
 - The Rule of Life
 - The Annual Retreat
 - Listening of the Word
 - Personal Prayer
 - The Conjugal Prayer
 - The Sit-Down
- Reference guides for service:
 - ✓ Responsible Couple Guide
 - ✓ Pilot Couple Guide
 - ✓ Liaison Couple Guide
 - ✓ Information Couple Guide
- Historical documents:
 - ✓ The major historical events of Teams Of Our Lady
 - ✓ Teams Of Our Lady in the world today

Fatima, July 2018.