



**Henri Caffarel, prophète pour notre temps**  
**Colloque International – 8 & 9 Décembre 2017**

***Written Questions asked by the audience,  
That were unable to be answered due to lack of time***

*N.B.: The questions were copied down (and translated) without changes*

*Q: How should one 'compensate' for oraison (private prayer) when illness prevents you doing it?*

A: Oraison, or private prayer, is something that involves little physical energy, and any damage of that order is therefore not likely to stop the normal practice of prayer. When the illness is of a mental order, it is more difficult to compensate the identified disorders; only the person's relatives can be the judge as to what is possible to do or not.

We would also add, when the strain is too much or when you are overwhelmed with pain, it is good to turn to the Lord and present yourself just as you are. The Lord can easily see our state and will not reproach us. Rather he will give us his strength and grace.

*Q: What has become of the Youth Teams of Our Lady?*

A: The answer to this question is difficult, because it is necessary to examine the situation in each country, since the observations can be very different depending on where you are talking about. Furthermore, young people are living a moment in their lives when geographic mobility is great, and thus the situation at any given date can evolve greatly and often in a short time. The fact remains that this movement has encountered very real success in numerous countries, in particular in Portugal, Spain & Brazil. We can see this sometimes through the information that social media broadcast.

*Q: Why are there so few Teams of Our Lady in Asia? Is it to do with local culture? Or else the message was not adapted to Asian couples, where there are few ex-pats or Father Caffarel, did he ever go to Asia (Singapore/Hong Kong/Japan) and there was promotion effect?*

A: There are few Christians in Asia and the Teams that are formed there are mainly made up of ex-pats whose original religion is Christianity. Since the ex-pats do not tend to stay for long in the country, the numbers in these Teams is therefore constantly changing.

*Q: Yesterday, someone remarked that Father Caffarel wish for the Teams of Our Lady to be renewed and to evolve in order to last... Why are there so many grey-haired people? To put it another way, why do Teams of Our Lady find it so difficult to attract couples in their 30s and 40s?*

R: If the attendees at the Colloquium were mainly grey-haired people, it is mainly because these are the ones who were available to participate during the day. The majority of young people have a professional activity and are at their jobs during the daytime.

The demographic figures for the Teams of Our Lady show, on the contrary, a clear progression of young couples over the past years. Today, roughly 45% of Team members are less than 45 years old...

*Q (translated from Spanish): Jose-Antonio Marcen showed a document on the screen. Please tell us the title of it, because from afar, we were unable to see it in the room.*

A: It is a document that was put together in 2017 by the International Leading Team of the Teams of Our Lady entitled, "The Priest Counsellor and Spiritual Accompaniment in Teams." You can look at this document on the website, [www.equipes-notre-dame.com/en/documentation](http://www.equipes-notre-dame.com/en/documentation), tab Organisational Texts ([http://www.equipes-notre-](http://www.equipes-notre-dame.com/en/documentation)



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[dame.com/sites/default/files/the\\_priest\\_counsellor\\_and\\_the\\_spiritual\\_accompaniment\\_in\\_teams\\_ang.pdf](http://dame.com/sites/default/files/the_priest_counsellor_and_the_spiritual_accompaniment_in_teams_ang.pdf)). It is a document that is available in all five languages of Teams.

*Q: Why was the last talk (on Friday) limited only to certain countries? What is happening in other areas?*

A: The countries mentioned by the speakers in their talk about the Movement's expansion were those that Father Caffarel himself visited personally. For the other countries, his influence was often efficient, but indirect. The speakers did not have time to present all these other countries, and so that will be the subject of a longer talk intended for Fatima.

*Q: Many of us were disappointed not to hear the Responsible Couple for Teams speak on the subject of same-sex marriage (Mariage pour tous) despite the fact that we belong to a Movement for Christian couples. Without being judgemental and beyond all political or media retrieval..., trying to avoid traps..., could the vocation of marriage (man/woman, Father/Mother) not have been explained (on the theological, spiritual, historical and sociological levels...)?*

A: The Responsible Couples for France-Luxemburg-Switzerland expressed themselves very clearly in an article on the subject of "same-sex marriage" in an article available to all Team members and published in the French Letter, N°199, November-December 2012. We invited you to read (or re-read) this letter... If you no longer have it, it is in the Secretariat's archives, 49, rue de la Glacière – 75013 Paris.

*Q: In the Regions, more and more often, there are few priests... Must we really follow the Movement's instructions about having a priest as Spiritual Counsellor at the risk of having a priest who is not good at it, or is too busy and very seldom present? (Sometimes the laity are better trained and more capable of fulfilling this mission)*

A: The answer to this question was dealt with extensively in the document referred to above: "The Priest Counsellor and Spiritual Accompaniment in Teams." [www.equipes-notre-dame.com/en/documentation](http://www.equipes-notre-dame.com/en/documentation), tab Organisational Texts ([http://www.equipes-notre-dame.com/sites/default/files/the\\_priest\\_counsellor\\_and\\_the\\_spiritual\\_accompaniment\\_in\\_teams\\_ang.pdf](http://www.equipes-notre-dame.com/sites/default/files/the_priest_counsellor_and_the_spiritual_accompaniment_in_teams_ang.pdf))

*Q: You did not talk about 'Alliance' magazine with Michel Rouche (after l'Anneau d'Or). It is a shame that it could not have been continued or replaced for our children and grandchildren!*

A: Alliance's influence was great indeed. Could we launch another magazine? At the Colloquium, Sister Fernanda Barbiero thought it would be a good idea. We cannot say any more about this at the moment.

*Q: I had understood that Father Caffarel encouraged, accompanied other "founders" (Community of the Beatitudes, Chemin Neuf Community), is this right?*

A: He played no part in the founding of the Beatitudes or the Chemin Neuf Communities.

However, the founder of the "Faith and Light Community," Marie-Hélène Mathieu, came and saw Father Caffarel for the first pilgrimage to Lourdes (1971), the pilgrimage that was at the origin of the "Faith and Light Community." Father Caffarel's encouragement was decisive as she mentioned in her testimonial clip, "This project seems to me to be very inspired by the Holy Spirit. Go for it!" Father Caffarel told her.

Furthermore, the first meeting of charismatic prayer in France took place in Troussures with Father Caffarel on February 12<sup>th</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup>, 1972. Martine Lafitte and Pierre Goursat attended that weekend and they placed the origin of the Emmanuel Community at this prayer meeting (Jean Allemand, *Henri Caffarel, un homme saisi par Dieu*, éditions des END, p. 210-211).

