

# ERI Mail

October 2015

The 3rd Regional International Gathering took place in Rome under the theme: “**Here I am Lord, send me!**” (Is 4,6.), finishing thus the first stage of our journey from the International 2012 Gathering in Brasília to Rome.

At the beginning of this new stage, which will end in the next 2018 International Gathering, we would like to share with you the richness we lived when we were received by the Holy Father, Pope Francis, whose speech gives us strong guidelines for our Movement.



This Gathering which preceded the last Bishops Synod, will have consequences in the challenges made to TOL's Couples, in this time of constant threats to the sacrament of Matrimony and to the family.

The Holy Father urged us to “**announce, give witness and communicate**”, our couples and family vocation encouraging us to put in practice our conjugal spirituality, which is really the Movement's charism.

He also stressed the importance of the “Endeavours” which enable couples to progress with confidence in conjugal life on the way of the Gospel. He also spoke of the importance of prayer, and the “Sit Down” precious couples moments of thanksgiving, forgiveness, mutual respect and attention to the other.

He reminded us that being members of teams of Our Lady, missionaries by the radiation of our family life, we had to *receive, form and support in the faith particularly young couples, before and after their marriage*. Pope Francis further

encouraged Teams couples to *be instruments of the mercy of Christ and of the Church towards persons whose marriage has failed*.

The Holy Father finished his speech, renewing his trust and encouragement to TOL, stating that from the moment the cause of Father Caffarel's beatification reached Rome, "*he has prayed that the Holy Spirit may enlighten the Church in the judgment that she will have to pronounce in time in this regard*".



Let's live a year full of the expectations we brought from Rome. May they be assumed and performed with joy, thus answering the challenges the world and the Church make us. To live the Gospel of mercy which is given to us by Jesus Christ is to repeat Father Caffarel's frequent invitations to make silence. Listening will renew us inside to reach the big Encounter with Jesus.

When Pope Francis says that "**Jesus Christ is the Father's face of mercy**" he invites us to fix in him our look to fight indifference and reach this self-giving love mentioned by Jesus. This Jubilee Year will be of the utmost importance for the Movement's journey. May it be a time of conversion, of renewal centered in the two family related attitudes suggested by Pope Francis in his Letter of Mercy: Listening and Pilgrimage.

If we say "**Here I am, Lord: Send me!**" ...", as we did in Rome, we have to listen to accept and experience His Love, the strength and light which will guide us in this pilgrimage towards the Father. May the Holy Spirit lead our steps and make us leave the comfort of our teams with joy and courage to show the world that our vocation has a mission: to cooperate in Christ's work of salvation.

May our Lord Jesus be our guide and TOL's support so that team members may look at the Father's face of mercy and become as merciful as He is.

*To e Zé Moura Soares*