



Equipes Notre-Dame

## ***On the Liaison Road throughout the Americas***



We were called by the International Leading Team (ERI) to ensure the service of liaison for the America Zone and are delighted today to be able to give our testimony regarding this experience that we perceive to be a gift from the Lord.

This mission has enlarged the horizon of our faith and has become for us a “true school” of internationality. Within it, we have experienced the rich and complex diversity of Anglo-Saxon and Latin cultures.

The main role of the Liaison Couple is to strength relationships between the various Super-Regions (*Hispanic America, USA, Brazil*), Regions (*Canada Region*) and the ERI.

- For the ERI, it is a way to learn about what the grassroots team members in these countries experience.
- For the countries, it is a means of informing them of ERI decisions and to fully understand them prior to adopting them.

Another aspect of this service concerns the interrelationships between the various levels of responsibility with a view to creating a sense of belonging to the Movement.

We have chosen to introduce you to a few particular characteristics of our SRs/RR.

- **Hispanic America SR** has two particular features: the distribution of its teams over 16 countries, from Mexico to Argentina, and the continual effort made to remain faithful to the guidelines and directives of the Movement. This SR continues to grow, in particular in Colombia, where the number of teams is 43. 5% of the total teams in the SR.

The seeds of Teams has been sown in Cuba. Indeed, the Archbishop of Havana, Monsignor Juan de la Caridada Garcia, during a meeting that took place between 10<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> March this year, authorised the establishment of the Movement and chose two priests to accompany the first teams. Cuba has become “mission territory.”

- The **USA SR** is very extensive and is made up of 855 Teams spread over 13 Regions and 4 Provinces. The latter were created in 2015 in the context of a “revitalisation” project to strengthen the charism, mystique and pedagogy of

the Movement. This project was led by the International Formation Team that is linked to the ERI. The project channelled the efforts of animation and mutual help in the USA using formation given at the 2015 National College in Turlock. The Provinces were beneficial to the Super Region in that they enabled the reorganisation of the structure at all levels and the organisation of a New Teams Gathering in 2017.

- The **Brazil SR** is distinguished by a strong sense of belonging and by a profound commitment to the initiatives of the Movement, especially when it comes to formation, expansion and the life and work of Father Caffarel.

In 2017, Brazil set up a National Formation session for 150 New Responsible Couples at Regional and Sector levels. The event dealt with the spirit of service and the main issues that integrate and guide the life of the Movement, bringing the participants to an awareness of the breadth of the Movement and bringing them closer to each other and to the SR Team.

- In **Canada**, the Teams have expanded in 3 areas: Quebec, Ontario and Alberta. The language used in Quebec is French, in Ontario English and in Alberta Spanish.

The ERI's "Solidarity Initiatives" provided resources to set up formation sessions in Canada. During the past few years, a *New Teams'* Gathering has been held in Edmonton and Toronto and a *Second Wind* Gathering in Quebec.

In June 2016, we participated in the National Gathering that celebrated the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Teams in Canada.

We are very happy with the renewal of Teams in Canada. For the first time, we will have a Regional Responsible Couple from the Alberta Sector (3800km from Quebec). This good news, like all the workings of the Holy Spirit, brings new life. The chosen couple, Alexandra and José Leon, carry within their hearts the breath of life that will animate and renew Teams in Canada.

From now on our path leads us to Fatima in 2018. A place of pilgrimage and a privileged time to reflect, discern and... act. It is important that we all come together in order to celebrate, from July 16<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup>, the **Joy of the Gathering**.

Father Caffarel, intercede with God for us.

**Graça and Roberto Rocha**  
*Liaison Couple for the America Zone*