Equipes Notre-Dame

ON OUR WAY TO FATIMA

Tó and Zé MOURA SOARES

At the 2016 Swanwick College all Super Regions and Attached Regions were invited to participate in the International 2018 Fatima Gathering. This invitation took place in a very touching launch ceremony, which marked the beginning of our journey together.

The Fatima Gathering will certainly be a transformational gathering and no-one should ignore the invitation.

Being able to participate is an opportunity that will lead us to advance the real, intense meaning of our pilgrimage as a couple.

The path to Fatima is a fitting symbol of our life-journey that is permanently renewed through transformation.

In Fatima, we will encounter other couples and share the Faith and Joy of being received at the house of our Father and Mother of Heaven. They will be waiting to surround us with parents' tenderness, since we have been able to overcome our weaknesses and discouraging moments. This can only be achieved with the attentiveness and assistance of our fellow pilgrims.

It can't be a one-off activity as we are all well aware that true life can only be built by remaining on the right Path.

Saint Augustine said that Love eliminates difficulties but if they arise they must be especially cherished.

So, let us respond to this challenge with commitment and joy, paying attention to the signs that show us God's desires, being available and with a spirit of service that will lead us to enhance our unity.

To enhance unity means ensuring that all couples feel integrated, enriching others who bring their differences together with the gifts they received from God.

The International Gathering will be a moment of grace where we shall open our hearts, personally, as couples, and as teams, to renew in us the spirit of the Movement, through the guidelines which will be given for the next 6 years.

Until then, supported by Pope Francis' exhortations "***Evangelii Gaudium***" and "***Amoris Laetitia***" let's get ready to answer his appeals with an open heart.

Let's seize the opportunity to discern as a couple, and in our teams, the richness of the apostolic exhortation "***Amoris Laetittia***".

Jesus, who is the Way, the Truth and the Life, is waiting for us in a very particular way and will enable us live those five days in happy and merciful brotherhood and consequently with a more mature Faith.

When we follow Jesus we don't feel separate from each other despite our different cultures, languages and even contrary types of behaviour.

This is our richness: despite coming from different countries, we feel very close to each other and live internationality in unity. Our get together will have a deeper meaning: to follow the legacy handed down to us by the Movement's founding couples and by Father Henri Caffarel.

Together, we will become acquainted with our differences, and a greater Love will lead us to practice mercy and a more meaningful solidarity in the joy of internationality.

May we abandon ourselves confidently into the Lord's hands and start our journey! ...