

GENERAL INTRODUCTION

Dear team members,

Welcome to this new initiative of training that the Movement now places at our disposal!

On this virtual platform, the contents that have been developed are intended to provide basic Christian training to deepen and update Christian and theological knowledge of interested team members.

The contents are based on the assumption that we, team members, need to seek a doctrinally solid faith and reasoned, existentially motivating and with authentic sense for our personal, marital, family, social and ecclesial life.

As it was pointed out by ERI: “One of the major concerns and goals of Father Caffarel, in his editorials and Monthly Newsletters, was to develop truly Christian couples. For him, teams of Our Lady is a school of Christian life, a place of training and deepening of the Christian life as a couple, as a family and as small communities. The starting point for this deepening is the Word of God (Bible), Tradition and the Magisterium of the Church as sources of faith”.

To be Jesus' disciples and followers, to proclaim the joy of the Gospel, we need, as a prerequisite and essential condition, to do as the disciples at Emmaus did: the experience of a long walk with Jesus, to be a companion of Jesus and to be a part of the company of Jesus.

It is this experience that ultimately changes our way of thinking, feeling and acting; it is this experience that makes us Jesus' disciples and followers.

It is in this sense that several issues of additional training in the Movement, The Old Testament, The New Testament, Christology, Ecclesiology, Sacraments, Liturgy, Spirituality and Morality. Other themes will be introduced throughout the training plan.

The themes for general training that are offered are based on one of the finest descriptions in the Word of God, taken from the Gospel of Luke (24,13-35), in which is

presented a pedagogical method or a methodological path proposed by Christ Himself in the encounter on the Road to Emmaus, from which each team couple can also start an exciting process in the company of Jesus, as the Master par excellence.

So, each general theme of training (course) is a HOSTEL, a place for housing people, of rest, of gathering, as the "final destination" of the disciples of Emmaus, as they reached their village, their TOWN.

This town represents what we must learn on our journey of Christian formation. It reflects our need for Christian formation; our questions or situations in life for which we need answers, like the disciples from Emmaus.



In each Hostel TABLES are found, which have private or specific content (chapters) related to the theme of formation. The disciples of Emmaus insist on having Jesus stay with them. Jesus accepts and sits at the table with them. This is where the sharing of bread happens, and that is when they recognize Him, and all His teachings.

This Christian formation journey is therefore marked by several training paths, called VILLAGES, each with several HOSTELS that, in the company of our Master Jesus Christ, provide answers and relevant information for our Christian life. Along with Jesus, we can choose one of them and develop the various aspects related to the topic which are available on the TABLES.

As a methodological alternative, specific content studies can be made from life situations proposed, with possible answers and information in each of the offered

training topics (hostels). This alternative is based on a pedagogical method known as Problem-Based Learning, and here has been called Life Situations-Based Learning, which allows the team member - individually, as a couple or as a team - to approach, the proposed contents - TABLES - and themes - HOSTELS - based on cases or life situations similar to those anyone else lives in or faces in their daily lives.

This alternative represents a PLUS of Christian formation offered so that the team member not only gets "theoretical" answers, but also allows him to make decisions facing situations that happen in daily life and confront people in the world today - Christians and non-Christians. That is, this method allows the team member to observe and analyze attitudes and values that in the traditional method is not always entirely possible.

Three alternative ways of studying and following up the proposed thematic contents are suggested on this Virtual Platform:

- a) Study of content by downloading the full course (traditional methodology - print the contents on paper);
- b) Study of the contents following step by step each chapter (virtual study course);
- c) Study of specific content from life situations proposed, with possible answers in each of the offered training topics (PLUS).

We hope that all this study and reflection material will be of great benefit to team members around the world, and serve as the basis for an ongoing personal and marital maturing process of faith and configuration to Christ according to the will of the Father, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

Good studies!