

WORDS FROM ERI

No disciple is superior to the teacher; but when fully trained, every disciple will be like his teacher. (Lk 6,40)

Dear members of Teams of Our Lady:

Courses - General thematic training - that are being offered by Teams of Our Lady, using a virtual platform, result from a wide range of studies and information that supported the ERI in defining the need to expand and diversify the opportunities for Christian formation in the Movement, as well as training needs - doctrinal, spiritual and pastoral - that have always been demanded in several Super Regions and Regions, so that couples could fulfill their vocation and mission in the Church and in the world.

It is worth noting that the needs and demands for Christian formation of team members are seen as opportunities for changes in their lives, both as a couple and a family, as members of Teams of Our Lady, and even of their parish communities, in order to reach maturity in faith and spiritual, community and pastoral life.

These courses do not represent a panacea or magic formula to solve alone, Christian training needs of members of Teams of Our Lady, simply by increasing the offer of training processes, in addition to what is already offered by the Movement in various Super Regions and Regions.

It is simply a new aid to the couple who has this interest not to "fill his head of new knowledge" or "to get a diploma", but to help them grow in faith, to help illuminate their Christian life from the Gospel, to help find and strengthen their Christian identity.

This concern and initiative of Teams of Our Lady is a part of what is proposed in the Apostolic Exhortation *Christifideles Laici* on the vocation and mission of the laity in the Church and in the world: the Christian formation (of the lay faithful) should be "a continuous personal maturing process in faith and the configuration to Christ according to the will of the Father, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit. "

And why is this Christian training is required? The Apostolic Exhortation itself answers it, based on the words of Jesus Christ: "**To bear much fruit.**" That is, based on

the Gospel image of the vine and the branches, all the lay faithful are called to grow, to mature continuously and give more and more fruit, for "Whoever remains in me and I in him will bear much fruit, because without me you can do nothing." (John 15.5)

One of the major concerns and goals of Father Caffarel, in his various editorials and Monthly Newsletters, was to form genuinely 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.

Therefore, these courses start from the premise that the Movement aims to provide a determined and vigorous contribution to the Church's life, so that its members are true Christians, where the seeds of the Gospel grow, while being sowers of values of the Kingdom. But above all, these courses start from the premise that the Movement aims to provide an urgent response to the needs of the Church throughout the world.

As Christifideles Laici says, "it is not (...) only to know what God wants from us, from each of us, in various situations of life. We need to do what God wants: this is what reminds us of the words of Mary, the Mother of Jesus, addressed to the servants at Cana: "Do whatever he tells you" (Jn 2: 5). And to act in fidelity to God's will (the lay faithful) must be able and become increasingly capable. "

With the offer of these Christian formation courses we also alert everyone to the need to create a culture of continuing education within Teams of Our Lady, the Super Regions and Regions - both common and extraordinary, using different methodologies and means of teaching and technological materials - which recognises Christian formation as something positive that helps people live better; to be more truthful with themselves, with others and with God; to be more faithful to their Christian identity and better able to capture the meaning of each fragment of human life, smarter to capture the beauty and drama of the existence of modern man, getting older without complaint and falling into depression.

Finally, Christian formation is necessary for the growth of the missionary disciple of Jesus Christ, helping him to understand and interpret the signs of times, to act in accordance with God's will, as a growth path in loving God and each other, a condition that makes possible the constant sanctification of the person that pleases God and gives Him glory.

Training, in short, where men and women let themselves be transformed in Christ, gradually living by the spirit of God.

The reason for the ERI - International Leading Team - like that of all responsibilities in the Movement is to encourage and preserve the unity, being faithful to the mystic and the founding charism.

With this clear purpose this proposal of Christian formation seeks to provide a favorable path so that each day, team members transit through paths of holiness, being living witnesses to the greatness of the Sacrament of Matrimony.

From the heart, we hope that this initiative constitutes, for all those who take on the additional challenge and enrich their religious training, a tool such as yeast, to leaven not only our own lives of faith, but also in our spouse's, our family, our community.

Dear couples of Teams of Our Lady: let us ask the Holy Spirit, through the intercession of our Mother Mary, to open our hearts and enlighten this path, so that we are docile to His will - "To bear much fruit."

ERI - International Leading Team
Satellite Team for Christian Training