

THE SATELLITE TEAMS (ST), THOSE GREAT UNKNOWNNS

It has now been two years since we were entrusted with the task of coordinating the satellite teams, together with the communication of the International Responsible Team (ERI), and our great concern has been to make known the existence and importance of the teams we had been entrusted to coordinate.

In the year 2000, following a visit that the ERI, led by the Volpini couple, made to the Houston Space Center on the occasion of one of their meetings, it was felt that the missions of communicating, connecting, and exploring carried out by a satellite were similar to those of these teams, which have in a way orbited around our movement for more than two decades, contributing reflection, research, and formation resources. Perhaps this curious name makes their mission somewhat harder to understand; that is why they could equally well be known as working and development teams, a name which, in our opinion, is far more descriptive.

Over the years, the ST have taken on the task of responding to the very diverse needs of teams around the world. The ERI forms teams made up of couples belonging to different Super-regions and assigns them a project to develop. What is most enriching about the teams is their diversity, as a small sample of our Movement. This characteristic is essential so that the work is approached from different points of view and thus gives an adequate response to the wide variety of cultures that make up the Teams of Our Lady.

Many are the themes addressed by the many satellite teams that have existed, from topics of study, through sexuality, teams of elders, young couples, formation, or the updating of documents, among others. The output of this work has always sought to respond to the requests made by the ERI. Sometimes with greater reach and acceptance than others, these materials have always remained available to all the Super-regions for their free use. Many of them can still be found on the international website, available to anyone who wishes to consult them.

This is precisely the process followed by the current International Responsible Team. After a general consultation with the International College, made up of all those responsible for the Movement's Super-regions, it was concluded that the areas of greatest interest today are formation, access to the resources created, and a greater knowledge of the figure of Father Caffarel. Based on this finding, three teams have been created to develop three projects that respond to these needs.

The first of these teams, *Updating the Permanent Formation Plan*, is working to reorganize, update, and harmonize the current permanent formation plan, remaining faithful to the founding charism while also attending to today's formation needs. This team is made up of five couples from Colombia, Paraguay, Brazil, Lebanon, and Canada.

The second team, *Resource Catalogue*, has as its main objective the creation of an online document-management platform that allows for efficient cataloguing, as well as the classification and distribution of all kinds of available resources (audiovisual materials, presentations, books, formation materials...), enabling their preservation, compilation, and access by team members with the appropriate permissions. It is a huge and very ambitious task, but once completed it will be of tremendous use and, what is more, it is based on the principle of mutual help, making our own work available to whoever needs it. The six couples that make up the team come from Brazil, the United Arab Emirates, Senegal, Portugal, the United States, and Italy.

The third and final team does not have the usual structure, as its own particular nature does not allow for it. *Recovering Father Caffarel's Materials*, as it is called, was created to recover, review the translations of, and digitize Father Caffarel's already-published materials, with the aim of making his work known both within and outside the movement, thereby supporting the cause of his beatification. Naturally, the collaboration of the Friends of Father Caffarel is essential, not only to benefit from their valuable experience and support, but also to align their interests. This is why several French couples from this association are already active members of the team, while two team couples from Brazil and Argentina are reviewing translations already made. There is still much to be done:

making an inventory, transcribing audio materials, digitizing... Father Caffarel's body of work is extensive, and a thorough job will require a great deal of time and dedication, but the resulting benefits will undoubtedly be of great value for spreading knowledge of his life and work.

If you have made it this far, you will never again be able to say that you don't know what a satellite team is, and we will have achieved our main objective: making them known. However, to see for yourself their importance, it will be worth exploring the materials already produced by previous teams. There are many treasures still to be discovered, and it is well worth taking the time to look at documents and other resources that are the fruit of the work of many couples. That will definitely be the best way for the satellite teams to become, from now on, those great knowns.