Equipes Notre-Dame
International

ERI NEWSLETTER

MAGNIFICAT

July 2026 · Villa de Leyva International College

The International Responsible Team (ERI) closes the year with a Colombian flavour, the International College gathers the Movement in Villa de Leyva, and new dates are already ahead.

✝️ ONE BODY IN CHRIST

> *"We are one body in Christ"*
> — motto of the 2026 International College, inspired by 1 Corinthians 12

July has arrived, bringing with it the third and last annual meeting of the International Responsible Team (ERI), immediately followed by the International College. Two distinct gatherings, joined by the same thread: the certainty that, despite our cultural differences, we are all one body in Christ.

We give thanks to God for everything lived in these weeks, and we share with the whole Movement the fruits of this intense time of prayer, formation and fraternity.

🗓️ ERI JULY 2026: A MEETING WITH A COLOMBIAN FLAVOUR

Third and final meeting of the year






A year ago, the Colombia Super Region generously accepted the invitation to welcome the International Responsible Team (ERI) for its meeting, as well as the International College, in July 2026. Now that the mission is complete, we can only say that they were exceptional hosts and that we felt their affection and warm welcome at every moment. Tony and Mª Isabel Sarquis-Buitrago, the couple responsible for the Super Region, together with an incredible service team, did excellent work. The ERI meeting at the Pedro Legaria spirituality house was fruitful and heartfelt, with moments of prayer and recollection that help place the working sessions in the Lord's hands.

As is customary at these meetings, the encounter with a group of local team members is one of the strongest moments, not only because it lets us learn the particularities of the Super Region that hosts us and takes care of every last detail, but also because taking the pulse of one of the many countries, cultures and realities that make up our Movement helps us understand it and serve it better. We give thanks to God for everything we lived.

✦ MEETING THE LOCAL TEAM MEMBERS









As a fitting close to the ERI meeting, Saturday 18 July brought a gathering with the Super Region's College, whose members travelled from every corner of the country to share their concerns with the International Responsible Team (ERI). A Eucharist followed, presided by international spiritual counsellor Fr. Augusto García, together with a representation of Movement members with whom we spent a very pleasant afternoon. The ERI learned the particularities of the Colombia Super Region straight from its own people, and we like to think they also learned something from the International Responsible Team. Putting a face to someone always makes it easier to understand and love them.

We also had the privilege of the presence of His Eminence Cardinal Luis José Rueda, who knows the Movement well. His affection for Teams of Our Lady dates back to his years as a spiritual counsellor at the start of his pastoral ministry.

Gratitude is the mark of a noble heart, and that is why we thank God for the good that these encounters bring, without failing to express our deep gratitude to everyone who worked to make it possible and turn it into a success.

North of Bogotá, in the beautiful town of **Villa de Leyva**, the International College — thirty couples and fifteen spiritual counsellors — gathered on 20 July. *"We are one body in Christ,"* drawn from Corinthians, is the motto that has served as the guiding thread throughout the gathering. A sense of brotherhood despite cultural differences, and the certainty that everything is possible because Christ stands at the centre of all things, are the ideas around which the College unfolded. It was beautifully reflected in the logo re-enactment performed by all attendees, forming a cross with their hands that presided over every single act of the week.










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CUERPO EN
CRISTO








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Every year there are special moments that stay in our hearts for having left their mark on those present. At the Villa de Leyva 2026 College, three deserve mention, each for a different reason. That logo re-enactment was the first of them. Second, the visit to **Ciudad de Dios**, a project run by the Carmelite friar José Arcesio Escobar, which cares for children, families and the elderly and which we had the privilege of visiting.

Finally, special mention must go to the **sending ceremony** for the new couples in charge. The Oceania Super Region and the Mauritius and Syria Regions are renewing their responsible couples this year, and they received from Alberto and Mercedes, the responsible couple of the ERI, the light that is to guide them throughout their service — the light of the Holy Spirit.

In a way, everyone present was once again sent out to serve Teams of Our Lady with renewed energy. Because an International College is nothing more, and nothing less, than a tune-up, a recharging of the batteries that wear down little by little over time. All of us who took part went home tired, but happy to have learned, relived and experienced the immeasurable love God has for each one of us and for team members around the world.

✦ A NEW GATHERING: A DATE IN ROME

> Each year, the Super Region that will host the next International College is announced. This time it was different: the next International College coincides with the International Meeting of Regional Leaders, held back-to-back in **Rome** between 30 and 31 January 2027 for the College, and

between 1 and 6 February for the Meeting. Mauro and Enza, the couple responsible for the Italy Super Region, invited us and shared the first details of the preparations. The whole Movement joins in prayer that the fruits will be as abundant as those gathered this year.

🌍 THE MOVEMENT, ALIVE ACROSS THE WORLD

The ERI's service continues without pause in every Zone through its coordinators

> *In every zone, the same guiding thread: formation, welcoming new couples, and the witness of Christian marriage as mission.*

📅 UPCOMING DATES

8–13 OCTOBER

Next meeting of the International Responsible Team (ERI)
Paris, France

AMERICAS ZONE

Cristiane and Luiz Antonio, zone coordinators, are going to be very busy:

14–16 AUGUST — Brazil Super Region College — Itaici, Brazil

26–29 AUGUST — Formation day and North Hispanic America Super Region College — Honduras

18–20 SEPTEMBER — Fr. Henri Caffarel Day — Itaici, Brazil

27–31 OCTOBER — South Hispanic America Super Region College and Meeting — Paraguay

CENTRAL EUROPE AND MIDDLE EAST ZONE

Georgina and Youssef will visit:

24–27 SEPTEMBER — Formation session for spiritual counsellors — Dubai, UAE

TRANSOCEANIC ZONE

Ellen and TJ will visit:

21–23 AUGUST	National Gathering — Canada

EURAFRICA ZONE

Edith and Jerôme will be at:

12–16 AUGUST	French-speaking Africa Super Region College — Ivory Coast

Mercedes and Alberto, the responsible couple of the ERI, will also be present at some of these events in Canada, Brazil and Paraguay. Let us pray for all of them and for the participants and organisers of every event.

🙏 FOR YOUR TEAM'S PRAYER

> *"Sent out to serve with renewed energy"*
> — echo of the sending at the Villa de Leyva International College

We invite you, at your next team meeting, to take a moment to give thanks for the path walked this year, and to pray for all the couples who will travel in the coming weeks in the Movement's service: for their safety, their apostolic fruitfulness, and the joy of their mission.

Let us also pray for the new Super Regions and Regions renewing their responsible couples this year, that the light of the Holy Spirit may accompany and strengthen them throughout their service.

With affection and communion,

The International Responsible Team (ERI)

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