

Newsletter

N°4 – June 2020

Les Amis du Père Caffarel



The Eucharist as the Source of Love

A pandemic spread all over the world. It was an ordeal for all of us. Relatives died, some experienced terrible loneliness, couples could no longer bear to live together and separated, while others, on the contrary, managed to find again in deeper manner the love they had for each other in the beginning. Even those who were not physically tested have been forced to face the seriousness of life, in the sense of the world's future. The consequences on work, employment and the world economy are considerable.

There was another ordeal. We were no longer able to celebrate mass publicly. And there was the terrible ordeal of not being able to take communion. And when the public celebrations of mass finally resumed, what a relief it was for the priests as well as for the faithful! We all need each other: without the priests, no Eucharist, without the faithful, what is the meaning of this sacrament that is given, but not received? What should we think of all this? Let us listen to Father Caffarel tell us about the fundamentals and we will see their consequences.



“Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me, and I in them. Just as the living Father sent me and I live because of the Father, so the one who feeds on me will live because of me. (John 6:56-57) When we read this extraordinary passage, how can we not foresee the exceptional grandeur of the marriage of two Christians? Husband and wife, you who eat Christ's flesh, who drink his blood, who live and experience Christ's life in your soul and in your body, you who remain in him, and him in you, how would you not love with a love that is completely different from that of other people, with a resurrected love? Can you look at each other, share your sorrows and joys, give yourselves

to each other with your whole heart, your whole body, help each other along the way, without having the feeling that you are living and experiencing a very great mystery?” (Excerpt from « Mariage et Eucharistie », L'Anneau d'Or, n°117-118, « Le mariage, route vers Dieu », mai-août 1964).

The great mystery is to live and experience, both personally and as a couple, the life of Christ, the love of Christ. The Eucharist is the source of love in everyone and most obviously in married love. Each spouse is seized by the love of Christ and is united to the other spouse. The couple remains in Christ. Marriage is then very much a path towards God, where each person and every couple is nourished, purified, fortified and fulfilled by the Eucharist.

An essential consequence becomes obvious. Admittedly, the inability to take communion was difficult during the pandemic. But the strength of the Eucharist received before the ordeal was not weakened, did not disappear because the Lord clearly realised the reality of our life. He gave his grace. He did even more than that: during the time when our “daily bread” was scarce, the Lord deepened our heart and made love grow and increase in us, between us. Being locked down at home may have been difficult, but it was also the source of a greater love. During lockdown, the absence of Eucharistic bread was able to secretly stir up in us a greater hunger in our hearts.



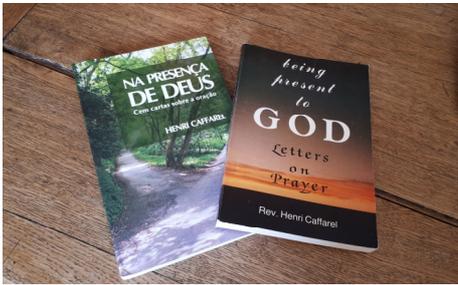
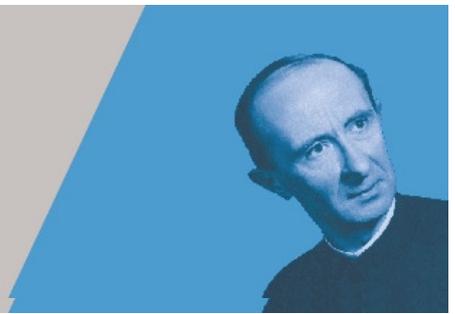
It was and is the desire for God that enables life to surge forth in us and that pushes us to bear witness to God's love to everyone around us.

Father Paul-Dominique Marcovits, o.p., Editor of the Cause for Father Caffarel

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The Bible shows us how times of crises are times favoured by God to talk to his people through his prophets. Is that not a good reason for each one of us, while we are currently undergoing a serious health and social crisis, to delve deeply into the writings of Father Caffarel, that **prophet of our times**, in order to find in his books the teachings that Christ came to give us and the message of love that can give meaning to our lives?

This is why today we would like you to take stock of the works that Henri Caffarel wrote and that were published in the language of each of your Super-Regions. Hereafter figure the list of the main books he wrote and we would ask you to systematically check whether they were published in each of your languages.

- *Aux carrefours de l'amour*, Feu Nouveau, 1980, Parole et Silence, 2001
- *Camille C. ou l'emprise de Dieu*, Feu Nouveau, 1982
- *Cinq soirées sur la prière intérieure*, Feu Nouveau, 1980, Parole et Silence, 2003
- *Lettres sur la prière*, Feu Nouveau, 1960
- *Nouvelles lettres sur la prière*, Feu Nouveau, 1975, Parole et Silence, 2006
- *L'oraison jalons sur la terre*, Feu Nouveau, 1989, Parole et Silence, 2009
- *Prends chez toi, Marie ton épouse (Take Mary as your wife)*, Feu Nouveau, 1983, Parole et Silence, 2005
- *Présence à Dieu. Cent lettres sur la prière (Being present to God. Letters on Prayer)*, Feu Nouveau 1967, Parole et Silence, 2000
- *Propos sur l'amour et la grâce (Love and grace in marriage)*, Feu Nouveau, 1954

We would ask you to send us back as soon as possible the results of your research, based on the above list.

In light of what you find, we would highly recommend that you move to re-edit those works that are out of print. Of course, we are available to help you with this or to give you any advice you might need to reach this goal. All that would remain for you to do subsequently, together with your Super-Region, would be to suggest and encourage all couples in your Super-Region to take the opportunity given to them with such a re-edition to discover or rediscover Father Caffarel's thoughts and teachings.

We hope that through this new diffusion, we will be able to contribute to a greater knowledge of Father Caffarel's work on evangelising married life and so we assure you of our complete dedication and deep gratitude for your help and collaboration.

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