

**The importance of Christian Formation for couples in Teams.**

Throughout the history of the Movement, there is an issue that has been debated on several occasions. It is a question of understanding more and better about whether Teams is a movement of Christian initiation or of Christian perfection. Does Teams have as one of its responsibilities, the Christian formation of its members, or should this be left to other ecclesial bodies. It might seem to be just a matter of language, but it is not. It is a question that has charismatic implications for our Christian formation, as baptised members of a Movement for Conjugal Spirituality.

Looking at concrete situations in different parts of the Church, it seems that in our contemporary world there is less interest in Christian formation than at other times in our history. At the same time, however, there is a good number of the faithful who seek to get closer and better acquainted with the Bible and fundamental texts of the Church. There are many others, in various instances, who seek to understand the Christian message in a more challenging way. It comes down to contrasts between solidity and liquidity, between simplicity and complexity, between surface and depth.

A believer in Christ must be someone who knows Sacred Scripture, who reads it, meditates on it, and who delves into its meaning and interpretation. The faithful must have a basic knowledge of the Doctrine that can be found in the Catechism of the Catholic Church, and should always be attentive to the official documents that the Pope and church leaders regularly offer us (Encyclicals, Apostolic Exhortations, Constitutions, Messages, Letters, etc.).

Personally, I consider that at the present time it is worth considering whether Teams couples are concerned about their formation in the faith, about their inner growth, and about the deepening of topics related to Christian life and doctrine. This should be in addition to their ongoing work to seek holiness in married life.

The Movement, through the ERI, has made valuable efforts in trying to help the members of Teams to have useful tools for their formation. The matter has been so clear for those in charge that, several years ago, a Satellite Team specialised in Formation. It dedicated a lot of time and resources to develop a platform of Christian formation, containing various biblical and theological themes to strengthen the Christian life of the members of the Movement. We must ask ourselves, how well have we taken advantage of this formidable help? The various training spaces offered on the website ( <https://endfc.equipes-notre-dame.com/> ) were called "Albergues" (hostels).

In addition, the Study Themes the ERI provides year after year to Teams, contain formative elements that enrich the life of the believers.

For this reason, I have no hesitation in affirming that the Movement looks with empathy and responsibility at everything that concerns the formation of its members. This is not only on the specific issues of marriage, its sacramentality and its path of sanctification, but also in the ongoing invitation to the growth and strengthening of the entire Christian life of each member of the team.

When we have the opportunity to reread Father Caffarel's editorials, articles and publications, we become aware of all his efforts to offer the couples of Teams "solid food" for their spiritual nourishment and their doctrinal and theological enrichment.

May this be the opportunity to seriously rethink the need to increase our formation and to feel that we are truly children of the Church and sharers in the charism of Teams.

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