



SPEECH 7/18/2024

Edgardo Bernal, President of the Association

Good morning, dear friends and family of the TEAMS OF OUR LADY.

We could not fail to speak, at an international gathering like this, about our founder, Father Henri Caffarel, and in particular, on the process of canonization that is taking place before the Dicastery for the Causes of Saints in the Vatican. As I'm sure you're well aware, there was an association created for the specific purpose of promoting this cause of canonization. We take the opportunity to acknowledge some of the members who make up the "board of directors" of that association, called the Association of the Friends of Father Caffarel, so that each can share their role and current status, as well as its importance for the Church.

My name is Edgardo Bernal, the plaintiff of the case before the Vatican and president of the FFC and responsible for the International Responsible Team of the Teams of Our Lady. Also present are, Giovanni Cecchini Manara, administrator of the Cause and Treasurer of the Association, François Genillon, who acts as secretary, Marie-Christine Genillon, a fundamental pillar who acts as assistant to the postulator of the Cause and soul of all the research processes, Loïc Toussaint de Quiévrecoart who is responsible for communication and is editor of the Bulletin of Friends of Father Caffarel, and Father Paul-Dominique Marcovits, O.P., who was postulator of the cause and then editor of the Positio until it concluded and was settled in Rome last year. He continues to lead the processes that will be carried out in the future, as Vice-postulator supporting the Roman postulator Father Zdzislaw Józef Kijas, OFM Conv.

Members who aren't present but participate in our regular meetings include Mariola Calsing, vice-president of the association, and Gerard and Marie-Christine de Roberty, honorary founding members and former international leaders of the Teams of Our Lady.

The FFC was created on July 7, 2005, to promote the Cause of canonization of Fr. Caffarel. The canonization process started a little more than a year later, on April 25, 2006, and its goals were to establish guidelines and implement worldwide actions aimed at making Father Caffarel's personality, thoughts on marriage and prayer, and spirituality known, as well as financially supporting the work of the cause, with the ultimate goal of obtaining the declaration of his holiness, first as a blessed and subsequently as a saint.

We hold 3 or 4 meetings a year where we deal with all aspects of the cause and schedule events such as colloquiums, novenas, and the publication of works around the thoughts of Father Caffarel. We determine the content and dissemination of the periodic Newsletters, taking advantage of the network of correspondents we have in each Super Region and RR. In addition, we hold the annual meeting of the Board of Directors, which is made up of the couples responsible for the Super Regions and RRs of



the Teams of Our Lady and the members of the ERI, where I present for approval my report as well as the financial report prepared by our treasurer.

This is broadly the purpose of the Association, its modus operandi and the functions of this server. I now pass the floor to Giovanni Cecchini Manara, Treasurer and administrator of the cause.

