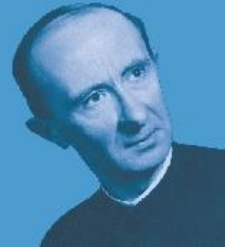


# Newsletter

N°10 – July 2023

**Les Amis du Père Caffarel**



## SCHOOLS OF PERSONAL PRAYER

*“A profound orientation of the soul, an exchange beyond words that without neglecting the word, is made up of entirely something else, an attention to, a presence before God of the whole being, body, soul and all faculties awakened.”* This is how Father Caffarel described personal prayer in *Lettre sur la prière* (A Letter on Prayer, untranslated).

In 1975, in *Cahier sur l’oraison* n° 140 (Notebook on prayer, untranslated), he developed a whole



reflection on his contemporaries’ aspiration for interior prayer and argued that the Church, challenged by this request, should propose a teaching on personal prayer to all seekers of God, a teaching that would be both doctrinal and practical, that relied on the centuries-old tradition of the Church Fathers and spiritual masters who have marked its history. He noted, *“It seems to me that there is a need for schools of prayer. I can give you a blueprint, one amongst many others, which I know well. Ten to fifteen people from different walks of life meet in a very bare room, in some Paris apartment,*

*once a week, for seven consecutive weeks; at each meeting they receive a brief theoretical and practical teaching, next they pray in silence for half an hour and then, they share how they experienced prayer since the previous meeting.”*

What Father Caffarel presented in these excerpts, he implemented by creating and helping in the creation of schools of prayer. He did this from the 1970s onwards throughout France and in other countries too, like Belgium or Canada for example, with the help of trained lay people and priests, who were convinced of the importance of what he was already teaching at the *Maison de Prière* (House of Prayer) in Troussures (France).

For several years now, the Responsible Couples of the France-Luxemburg-Switzerland Super-Region have wanted to breathe new life into the French schools of prayer and have encouraged Team members to create them in their parish along the lines Father Caffarel suggested.

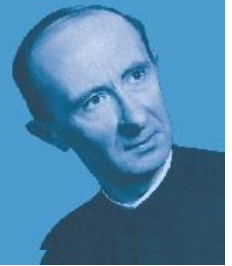
Personal Prayer is one of the Endeavours in the Teams of Our Lady’s pedagogy and becomes necessary for everyone as they spiritually journey with the Lord. It is also a mission entrusted to everyone: promote personal prayer, “invite others to experience God,” so that they find the presence of the Living God “in the very depths of their heart”.

Father Caffarel used to say it himself, *“If my priesthood has had some effectiveness, I know that I owe it to the practice of personal prayer!”*

# Newsletter

N°10 – July 2023

**Les Amis du Père Caffarel**



Father Caffarel used to say it himself, “*If my priesthood has had some effectiveness, I know that I owe it to the practice of personal prayer!*”

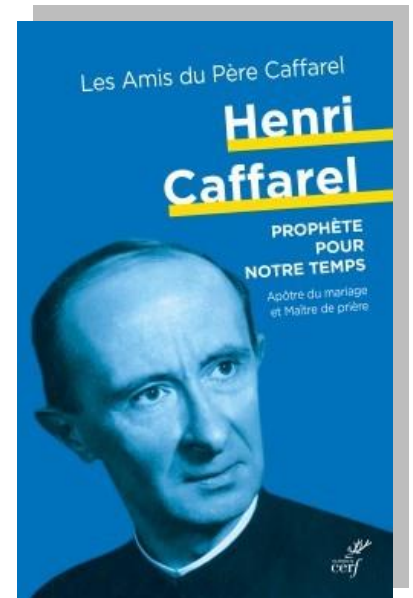
Through our involvement in such initiatives, may we walk in his footsteps and help the coming of the Kingdom in our world!

Father Paul-Dominique Marcovits, op  
Editor of the Cause for canonisation

The 2017 colloquium presented Father Caffarel as an Apostle of marriage, but also as a Master of prayer, personal prayer above all. He practised this kind of personal prayer on a daily basis, and he wanted to ready the hearts of those who wanted to discover this type of prayer by teaching it at Troussures, as well as by giving distance-learning classes on personal prayer and also by setting up the Schools of prayer that Father Marcovits spoke of.

Are these Schools of prayer available in your Super-Region or Region? Would you like to see their development to ensure this exchange with the Lord is anchored more firmly and deeply in the hearts of Christians? Do you try to promote and distribute Father Caffarel’s books on personal prayer ((*Lettres sur la prière, Présence à Dieu. Cent lettres sur la prière* = Being present to God is the English title, *Cinq soirées sur la prière intérieure...*) widely across your community? These books have been translated and published in numerous languages both in Father Caffarel’s own time or have been re-published more recently. Let us read them, meditate on them, pass them on, so that through our intermediary Father Caffarel may indeed be a prophet of interior prayer.

Finally, I renew the request I made to you in the previous Newsletter n° 9, for those of you who have not yet replied. I would be grateful if you would send me a list of books by or on Father Caffarel that have already been published in the language of your Super-Region or Region, so that their presentation on the Friends of Father Caffarel’s website can be ensured as well as their promotion more widely to all Team members throughout the world.



François Genillon  
Secretary of the Friends of Father Caffarel

49, rue de la Glacière - (7<sup>e</sup>étage)

F 75013 PARIS

Tél. : + 33 1 43 31 96 21 - Courriel : [association-amis@henri-caffarel.org](mailto:association-amis@henri-caffarel.org)