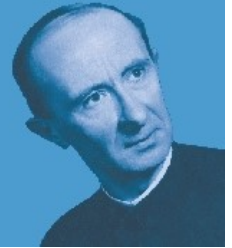


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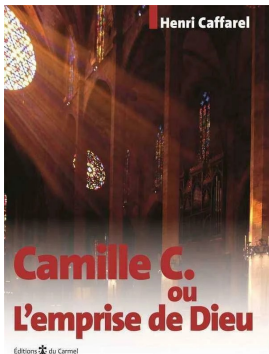
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Les Amis du Père Caffarel



Hope

If there is one virtue that describes Father Caffarel, it is indeed that of faith. The account of his vocation which describes his personal encounter with Christ—*"When I was twenty years old, Jesus Christ, in an instant, became Someone for me"*—shows this eminently. And the Lord's love made apparent to him on that occasion opens his heart and makes him the apostle of Christian marriage.



In between faith and charity, hope is less well known to Christians. Yet it links the other two great virtues. Faith has only one goal: to know Christ and make him loved. Having had the personal experience of God's love for him, Father Caffarel *"[has] only one desire: to enter further into this intimacy with Christ myself, and this other desire to bring others to that. [...] So, I cannot but wish for others to experience this encounter with the living Christ, this discovery that God is love."* Making God known to others is the greatest of charities! Father Caffarel's whole life is summed up here.

What about this virtue of hope? Faith is the beginning of any encounter with the Lord and making him known is charity *par excellence*. Between the two, there is hope which brings this great design to its term with tenacity, flexibility also, and with total confidence in God. There is hope which supports without hesitation and without fail what God has put at the bottom of our heart. Hope is the virtue of the prophets (*"Prophet for our time,"* Cardinal Lustiger said of Father Caffarel) and it is the virtue of founders. And indeed, Teams of Our Lady are very much alive.

So, it is striking to see witnesses insist on Father Caffarel's virtue of hope. Many say he never got discouraged. Others say he was not used to making statements like, 'Good luck!' No, his very presence communicated deep hope. Still others say that this was his main virtue because he bore his foundations with tenacity and intelligence. Why? Because, as a *"prophet for our time,"* he saw what God wanted and did it right away. Hope is based on the certainty that God leads us. *"The good tree bears good fruit,"* as Jesus says.

In 1973, Father Caffarel retired from the Teams of Notre Dame. He did not keep the Teams to himself, instead he trusted God who was their source, since the Teams are at the service of the Marriage Sacrament. God will take care of the future ... if, at least, we remain as faithful as possible.

Teams of Our Lady's request to the Church to recognise the holiness of Father Caffarel finds its source in this virtue of hope: that like our founder, all may make *"this discovery that God is love."*

The drafting of Father Caffarel's cause, the *Positio*, is nearing its end. We hope that before the summer of 2022 everything will be handed over to the Congregation for the Causes of Saints. After which will come a time of waiting, as the *Positio* is read by the theologian-consultors and then by the cardinals, before, on the advice of the latter, the Pope declares Father Caffarel Venerable. Then, a miraculous healing must be recognised. We will have to be patient and often recite the prayer for his beatification.

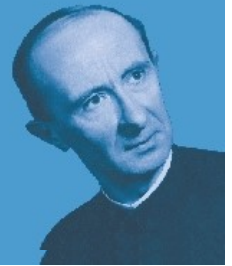
Allow the editor of the *Positio* to tell you that he is sure that Father Henri Caffarel will one day be beatified. There are many reasons to hope so. Among others, this one: he sanctified so many couples! God dwells in so many couples today, thanks to his servant Henri Caffarel!

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

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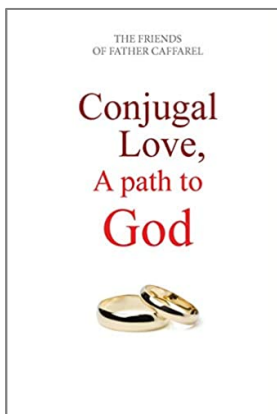
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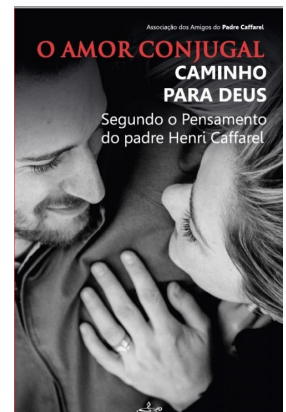
Some News

The **Novena** to mark the 25th anniversary of Father Henri Caffarel's death, September 10 to 18, 2021, is still available: <https://neuvainecaffarel.equipes-notre-dame.com/en/> It can be prayed and used on all kinds of occasions by sectors, regions, and super-regions. It is an excellent way to discover more about Father Caffarel and his thinking, to listen to him, and ask for his intercession for everyone's intentions and to pray for his beatification.



Several new books have been published since 2020:

- Henri CAFFAREL, *Camille C. ou l'emprise de Dieu*, Editions du Carmel, octobre 2021
- Two editions of *L'amour conjugal, chemin vers Dieu selon la pensée du père Henri Caffarel*:
 - o *Conjugal Love, A Path to God*, September 2020
 - o *O Amor Conjugal, Caminho para Deus segundo o pensamento do padre Henri Caffarel*, Editions Lucerna, Lisbonne, June 2021
- Henri CAFFAREL, *La prière rencontre avec Dieu*, Éditions du Carmel, to be published in March 2022.



Henri Caffarel, *Le mariage, aventure de sainteté. Grands textes sur le mariage* is in the process of being translated into Spanish and is planned for other languages too. Concerning translating and editing, please contact Danielle Waguët, executor of Father Caffarel's will: d.waguët@lyon.catholique.fr

The submission of the *Positio* of the cause for the canonisation of Father Caffarel, in 2022, at the Congregation for the Causes of Saints should encourage us to intensify our action to make his thinking and work known within Teams of Our Lady, but also outside the movement because his message about marriage and interior prayer is intended for all Christians.

Finally, we ask you to urge members of the association The Friends of Father Caffarel to pay their dues through **Paypal**.

François Genillon
Secretary to The Friends of Father Caffarel

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