**Northern Regional Gathering 2021 Discussion Group Questions**

Theme (of the Study Topic for 2021-2022)

*“The Christian couple, a leaven which renews family and society”*

Inspiration for the Study Topic

The ERI’s Introduction to the Study Topic for 2021-20221 makes clear that the Study Topic is inspired by 2015 Papal Encyclical *Laudato Si* in which Pope Francis urgently appeals for sustainable use and sharing of our planet’s natural resources, and redress for environmental degradation and global warming.

Some points which the Study Topic may cover are:

* Continuous lifestyle examination and reform as an intrinsic consequence of a Christian couple’s ongoing search for holiness and thirst for spiritual renewal
* The various ways in which a Christian couple may act as a “leaven”
* In what way is the Christian couple, rather than members of the clergy, religious, or other lay persons, particularly positioned and disposed act as a leaven
* The Church’s mission, ambitions, and priorities for renewal of families and society, alongside and against climate stabilisation and environment preservation
* Various unsustainable issues and influences at work in society, over and above climate change and environment destruction, as witnessed by recent events, (e.g., distrust of experts and authority; misinformation and disinformation; race and gender relations; etc.)
* Membership of Equipes Notre-Dame itself as a means of spiritual enrichment and renewal

Discussion Question

Consider issues relating to the sustainability of human society as reflected in prominent events and news stories from the past twenty-four months; in each case, what’s the Christian virtue or value that addresses the need for renewal and sustainability?

* Human rights abuse and exploitation
* Ingrained racial or religious prejudice and oppression
* Ingrained gender inequality, harassment, or exploitation
* Undermining of truth, misinformation and disinformation, mistrust of government, dismissal of the rule of law
* Poverty, inequity, inequality of opportunity
* Environment destruction and threat of climate cataclysm