

About the International Study Topic for 2025-26

The focus for this second year of this Equipe Responsable International (ERI – the International Leading Team) is: **“Called to live in communion with our spouse.”** It is to discover more certainly the deep marital unity that strengthens us to live our mission as Christian couples and to reflect God’s love in today’s world.

The International Study Topic for the year is based on extracts from one of Fr Caffarel’s books; *Le Mariage, aventure de sainteté*. (Marriage; Adventure of Holiness). The book is available in French; here is the forward by Cardinal Philippe Barbarin. The Study Topic (not the book!) will be available in English in September 2025.

Marriage, Adventure of Holiness – June 6, 2013 20 Euros by Henri Caffarel.

At a time in history when we are witnessing a radical transformation of society and a worrying weakening of marriage, this work reminds us of the great and solid teachings of the Church’s magisterium on the subject. A few themes more directly caught my attention: The mystery of the couple in God’s mind, the Word of God at work in the home and family life, marital spirituality, the importance of the Eucharist, which nourishes spouses to such an extent that “Marriage,” says Father Caffarel, “is the admirable invention of Christ so that the Eucharist may be experienced as a couple.” It harmoniously interweaves very human considerations with others that open us to the contemplation of God’s plan for man and woman. As Benedict XVI emphasized at the World Meeting of Families in Milan in June 2012: “God’s plan for the human couple finds its fulfilment in Jesus Christ, who elevated marriage to the rank of sacrament.” And addressing spouses directly, he added: “Your vocation is not easy to live, especially today, but that of love is the only force that can truly transform the world.” Cardinal Philippe Barbarin *(taken from Amazon.fr)*



The Introduction to the Study Topic

END International Study Topic for 2025–2026: Marriage; Adventure of Holiness

"Love is much more than love"

For 2025–2026, the International Leading Team invites you to explore a study topic based on the writings of Father Henri Caffarel. His reflections on love and marriage, originally published in *L'Anneau d'Or* and shared at conferences, have been collected in the book *"Le mariage, aventure de sainteté"* (*Marriage: Adventure of Holiness*).

This study topic is a great chance to rediscover the deep insights that transformed the Church’s understanding of sacramental marriage 50 years ago—insights that remain highly relevant today. Reading Fr Caffarel’s work in full will help us better live out our Christian vocation as married couples and truly understand the richness of our sacrament. While this topic may seem familiar, we believe these texts will bring new light to your journey as a couple.

The focus for this second year is: **“Called to live in communion with our spouse.”** Deep marital unity strengthens us to live our mission as Christian couples and to reflect God’s love in today’s world.

These texts are valuable for everyone—whether you’re newly married or have been together for many years. They can also support spiritual counsellors in understanding the heart of sacramental marriage. Fr Caffarel’s language and references (especially to French literature) might require more thoughtful reading, but the effort is well worth it.

Only selected chapters from the book are included, broken into smaller parts for study. Most texts are presented in full; shortened sections are marked with "(...)". Some of Fr Caffarel’s unique word choices (his own invented words) are kept in quotation marks.

Each chapter ends with questions for your monthly *Sit Down*. There are also extra topics and ideas for your Team Meeting. These additions aren’t from Fr Caffarel’s writings but are designed to help you reflect more deeply. They invite honest, open conversation about your life as a couple.

We encourage you to fully engage with this material each month. Fr Caffarel, often called the “prophet of marriage,” can help you renew your “yes” to each other, deepen your understanding of love through Christ, and bring fresh grace to your marriage. As he wrote, studying this theme will also “increase our love of God.”