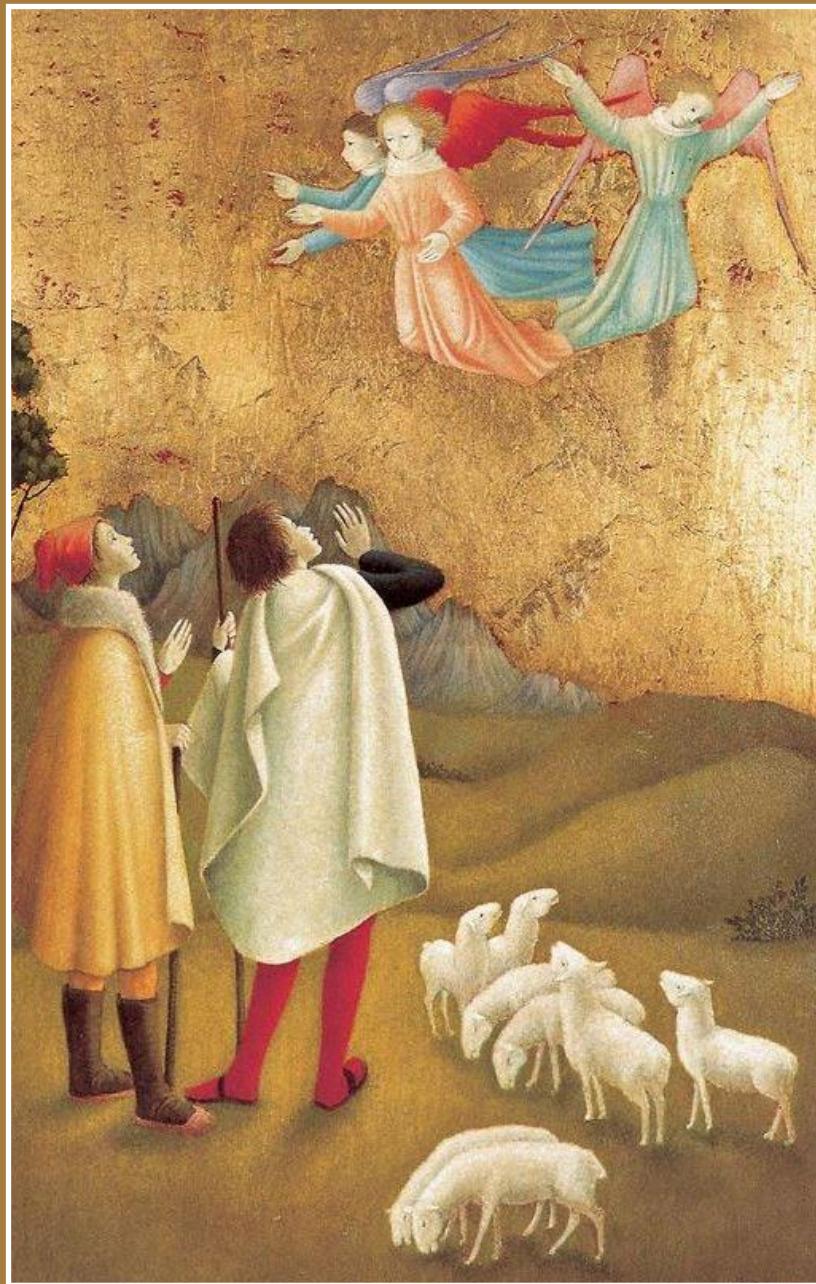


UP SAILS!

The international letter of Faith and Light N° 46, December 2020



My friends, let's sing all our joy!





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Editorial



Merry Chrismas !

Raúl Izquierdo
International coordinator

Dear Faith and Light communities around the world,

May your small community be like the gateway to Bethlehem: a place to welcome and care for those who are fragile, to warm up the little one, to protect the most vulnerable from the storms, to form a family around Jesus himself.

May it also be a place of silence and celebration, of sharing life, faith and goods. May it be a place where we can support and comfort each other, where we can all huddle together so that everyone can enter, even those who come at untimely hours and without notifying.

May it be a place of gratitude to God for having loved us so much and becoming one of us, for loving the mud of our history. May it be a place where forgiveness abounds in the embrace of reconciliation, with an outstretched and open hand. May your community be the place where God dreamed of incarnating Himself and be present.

Only then, we will truly live Christmas today.

Therefore, first of all, Merry Christmas! I send these greetings from all my heart to each one of you, to your families and to your communities.

United in Jesus.



NEWS FROM THE INTERNATIONAL

Kirt Bromley (USA) and Ulyana Roy (Ukraine) have completed their term as international vice coordinators. They did not wish to renew their mandate. We want to warmly thank them for the work accomplished within the international team and towards the provinces they accompanied during five years with much enthusiasm and much generosity.

Andrew and Emilia Dean (Canada East) will succeed Kirt. Endre Csány (Hungary) will succeed Ulyana. We are happy to introduce them to you.



Kirt



Ulyana

Andrew and Emilia



Andrew was born in Halifax, Canada, Emilia in Santiago, Chile. Emilia arrived in Canada in 1986 as a refugee. We have three children: Carla, Joseph and Vincent. Joseph is autistic.

Andrew is manager for an aerospace company. Emilia works as a school librarian.

We have been part of the 'Holy Family' community from 2008. Before we felt very isolated. Joseph's behaviours were quite complicated and we felt much alone. The first time we dared to visit the community, we were very touched. Never before had we felt so accepted and welcomed. We became community

coordinators in 2012 and then provincial coordinators of "Canada East" in 2016. At the international level we participated to the coordinators' meeting in Poland (2016) and to the international meeting in Lebanon (2018). Yes Faith and Light is really the work of God.

Andrew and Emilia accompany the provinces USA East, USA West, Canada East and Canada West.



Endre

In 1987, when I was a student, I joined a community in Budapest "Búzavirág". I read Jean Vanier's book on the community and it touched me. I then decided to stop my studies for one year and live in a German speaking L'Arche community "Tecklenburg". I lived there for four months. Since then, I have been in Faith and Light. When we moved to Kecskemét, we decided with my wife to create a new community "Gödölyék", it is fifteen years.

We have five children, Zsófia (28), Bálint (26), Júlia (24),

Ambrus (22) and Sámuel (15). Bálint and Júlia are already married. Zsófia and Júlia are part of Faith and Light in different cities and both of them have recently been nominated provincial coordinator and vice coordinator. Only our youngest son, Samuel lives with us. He has Down syndrome and a great sense of humor...

I am a teacher of Hungarian and German language. For the last four years, I was the coordinator of the communities in Hungary.

Endre accompanies the provinces Between the Seas, Danube and Ukraine.

Statement from the Board of Directors of Faith and Light

Since the publication of the first findings of the investigation initiated by L'Arche International into Jean Vanier, Faith and Light has taken a clear stand.

Immediately after the revelations from l'Arche, three letters were written by the International Coordinators (Raúl Izquierdo and Maria-Silvia de Jesus Tavares), by the International Chaplain (Don Marco Bove) and by the co-founder of Faith and Light, Marie-Hélène Mathieu. These letters were issued with the full support of the Faith and Light Board of Directors.

At the last meeting of the Board of Directors on 14th November, we deemed it necessary to explicitly reaffirm:

1. Our clear condemnation of the abuses committed by Jean Vanier that were revealed by L'Arche International. We cannot tolerate this behaviour because it is against the spirit of Faith and Light and totally contrary to the teachings that Jean Vanier himself gave throughout his life.
2. Our shared pain with those abused by Jean Vanier. The Board of Directors assures them of the prayers of all Faith and Light members and of their gratitude for having had the courage to speak out about events that are incompatible with the rules of respect and integrity of others and contrary to the fundamental principles of Faith and Light.
3. Our rejection and zero tolerance of any kind of abuse, clearly expressed in the Faith and Light **Code of Conduct**, which was shared several months ago with all the provinces.
4. Our solidarity and fraternity with the large l'Arche family that has been so close to Faith and Light since its creation.

However, we cannot remove Jean Vanier from the history of Faith and Light. Together, with Marie Hélène Mathieu, he was the inspirer of our movement.

The Faith and Light international association set up a code of conduct relating to the well-being and the protection of the most fragile persons of its communities, especially the children and the persons with an intellectual disability, young and adult, who join the local communities during the traditional meetings or the occasional activities on weekends, summer camps, pilgrimages...

Today we want to remind you of the importance of knowing it and sharing it widely.

You can download it online :

<https://www.faithandlight.org/rubriques/haut/about-us/code-of-conduct.pdf>

A pilgrimage... online!

On October 12, we received a beautiful gift : a pilgrimage organized in Chile completely on line by Zoom. Chile had invited the countries of the province "Jesus Light of the Andes" (Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru) and Brazil.

More than 50 Zoom screens were on at certain times, most of them attended by entire families. Before starting the activities, we had some free time to interact on the screen. Father Isaac (Peru) and Father Julio (Chile) were there to accompany us.

In the morning, we saw and listened to a video of the Pope saying we should not feel orphaned because we have Mary as a mother. Then, with pictures, they spoke of Camille, Gerard and their children, the first pilgrimage in Lourdes and our Foundation. All accompanied with songs pre-recorded that everyone followed with enthusiasm.

In small groups, we were invited to share. Between parents: Who is our child for us? With the persons with an intellectual disability : Who are our parents for us ? Between friends: What is Faith and Light for us?

In my group, there were three families, one with a 2 years old son, another one with a 32 years old daughter



and another one with a 45 years old son. It was a time of heart to heart sharing between parents, children and friends. It was fantastic.

After lunch at home, we were invited to bake bread, for the second part of the pilgrimage. We took pictures during this activity and sent them to the team.



We participated in the mass celebrated in the small chapel with the Little Brothers of Jesus.

The priest gave his homily that we each received at



home. The next meeting was scheduled for 4PM.

At 4PM, all of us came back virtually in the room with our bread and Father Julio gave us a speech on the five loaves of bread and the two fish. He spoke of the abundance of God's love for us and also the abundance of the love we find in our Faith and Light communities. The speech was accompanied with songs and images. Father Julio blessed the bread and asked us not to eat all in order to be able to give some to somebody who might visit us.

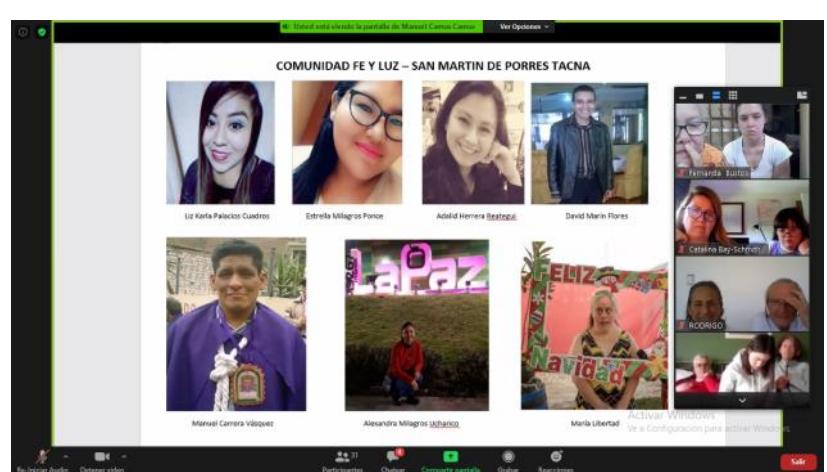
We have changed sharing groups and have exchanged on what we have largely received in Faith and Light.

Another break and then back at 6.30 PM for the last part.

The pilgrims have been called to share what they have received in abundance in Faith and Light in their lives. They showed videos of persons with an intellectual disability who were sharing their testimony. It was very beautiful. We have watched a video with pictures of several of us in our communities highlighting how much we are living this abundance.

We have prayed, sung and celebrated this life received in abundance in Faith and Light. Congratulations to the whole team, it was a marvelous day of prayer and sharing.

MARIA-SILVIA DE JESUS TAVARES
Deputy international coordinator



The province "Jesus, Light of the Andes" includes Chile, Peru, Colombia, Ecuador

- Chile: 4 communities
- Peru: 12
- Colombia: 3
- Ecuador: 1

Let's remain faithful!

The pandemic has indeed affected Cyprus as well and measures have been taken from the beginning of March to prevent the spread of the coronavirus. During the three months of confinement, the Faith and Light communities of the country (three recognized in Nicosia and one on probation in the occupied zone) tried to keep in touch thanks to the social networks, the phone and video calls ! We really appreciated the new technologies that offered these possibilities!

At the end of May, the government announced the end of the total confinement. It was time for us to meet again. One after the other, the communities of Nicosia met. Our coordinators insisted on



not kissing each other, not shaking hands and keeping our distances. As the masks were not compulsory yet, we could see happy faces and smiles!

Since the second wave, in October, we had to put on a mask, to protect ourselves and the others.

In July, the council gathered around fifty persons coming from all the communities in order to take news from each other and say how we had lived the confinement. It was a big disappointment to learn that the summer camp could not take place this year, neither the pilgrimage for the 50th anniversary of Faith and Light in 2021!

In August, we were invited by the Maronite parish of Saint Charbel in Limassol, the second biggest city in Cyprus. Several months before, our vice provincial coordinator Marios had been interviewed by a young parishioner about Faith and Light.





This invitation has been considered as a call to bear witness of the treasure we have been given. It has been a nice outing after the confinement.

Beginning of September, the national council met in the mountain to prepare the program of the year. The guidelines have been presented and the coordinating teams have immediately started the preparation of the first meeting of the year. We were in a hurry to meet again, to share our joys and sorrows, to pray and celebrate.

At the October meeting, the question was asked if in the community we find God. Georges Kouumi's answer has been very spontaneous: God is love, in the community



there is love... isn't there?
Thank you, Georges for having revealed it.

Let us remain faithful to our communities!

Let us reinvent the way we meet in order to continue to find joy and peace in our Faith and Light communities.

JOSÉPHINE YAMAKI
Member of the Board of directors
of Faith and Light international



FINALLY TOGETHER

We were so excited to be together after not gathering since the beginning of March due to Covid. We played a connecting game where we walked around to music and when the music stopped we shared some news with the nearest person.



We remembered with love John Piper and Monica Cavanagh who died in April and June while we were closed due to Covid 19.

As the guidelines suggested, we listened to and acted out the story of Jesus calling his first disciples. Then we reflected on the truth that we too are called to follow Jesus... We sang about being called by name and placed our boat with candle lit on the sea of God's love as a sign that we are saying "Yes" to God's invitation.



We welcomed Margaret Barwell from Marralameda and Fr Edwin who came to see what Faith and Light is all about and helped out by playing the guitar.

There were lots of birthdays to celebrate from April to October.

Finally back together again... yay!!!!



"Nuku Mai", Christchurch



WELL DONE ITALY !

The three provinces of Italy "Seas and Volcanoes", "Kimata" and "Peace River" have renewed their national Board of Directors for the four upcoming years (two confirmations and five renewals). Good job! Good job to the whole council and to the president Angela Gattuli! We have far to go... Avanti !



From left to right: Mario Ferrini, Pierre Vetro, Angela Grassi (who introduces the new council) Don Marco Bove, Roberto Bertin, Angela Gattuli and Emi Mammoliti.
Elected remotely: Salvatore Leoci and Tommaso Bertolini.



Salvatore



Tommaso



All the communities hoped to be able to meet as before... But with this second confinement, Don Marco continues with the video broadcasting in order to keep in touch.

This time, the reflections are about the monthly meetings of the guidelines. We can find them subtitled in French, Spanish and English on the Website and on the Facebook group :

www.faithandlight.org/rubriques/haut/video/the-vocation-of-faith-and-light-you-have-called-us-to-follow-you



Masks, security distances and many treasures to share as this small clay pot. The 2020 assembly is coming to its end, as we leave, we are ready to share the fruit of the discernment and of these three days meeting.. Thank you to all those who managed to connect remotely. See you next year!



ANGELA GRASSI

International vice coordinator for Italy, Greece, Cyprus, Galilee

ONE DAY TO STRENGTHEN US



On Sunday 22nd November, the day started very early for the province "Jesus Light of the Andes". The coordinators were all there with their enthusiasm, holding in their heart the communities in Ecuador, in Chile, in Colombia and in Peru. We had a Zoom meeting in order to live a Day of formation enriched by the presence of Angelito, José, Juan, Luis Eduardo, our friends who are at the heart of our communities.

Faithful to our traditions we have started our meeting by praying and singing, thanking God for the marvellous gift of being together and sharing.

At the moment, I accompany and share more closely the life of this province. I thank

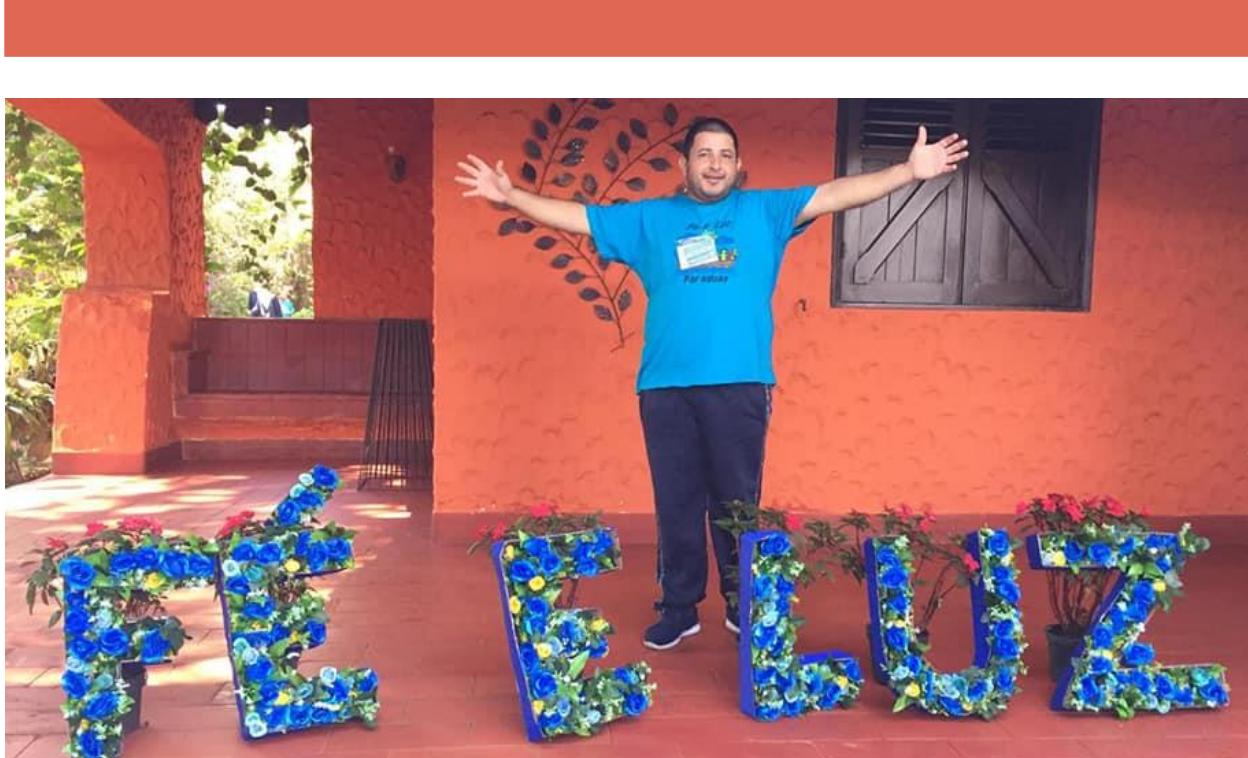
God for this privilege. This gives me the opportunity to serve my province and with the provincial team, to take care and give life to the communities.

My welcome word specified that this day would be dedicated to the persons with an intellectual disability in our communities. I resumed the dialogue of Jesus with Peter: *"Feed my sheep"*. I reminded everyone that it is a different time for Faith and Light but it is precious. In spite of the circumstances, the life of the twenty communities of the province strengthens and enriches itself each day thanks to the involvement and the faithfulness of their coordinators who

feed the flock Jesus entrusted to them.

The theme of this formation: the role of the community coordinator and of the coordinating teams has been clearly presented by Erika. We have to return to our origins and reaffirm our commitment to continue to write the story of Faith and Light with joy and hope. The community is the real purpose of our movement. We are setting out to celebrate our fiftieth anniversary and to live this Jubilee in our heart.

In the small working groups, the sharing was very rich, everyone was able to share their experiences. This has been a time of motivation and mutual enrichment with enthusiasm and hope.



The time we all got together was the height of the meeting. Everyone expressing his commitment, in love, hope, faith, prayer and friendship. We really are a large family, where our friends with an intellectual disability are at the heart of our communities, where we love each other. We faithfully receive the Gospel and in unison proclaim that we have a treasure to share.

To end the day, we gave thanks to God for this wonderful gift and we sang: *Thank you Lord... Hallelujah for Faith and Light... Hallelujah.*

Thanks to Fr Isaac Martínez, our chaplain, and to the provincial team. They have brought all their gifts, their commitment to make this day a rewarding time in the hope that this message will

reach the communities and bear rich and abundant fruit.

Without being discouraged and with joy, let us continue to accompany and to strengthen the life of the communities of our province, with the certainty that Jesus accompanies us in our mission.

ELVIRA GOMERO
International vice coordinator
for Latin America and the Caribbean



- Ecuador: 1 community
- Chile: 4
- Colombia: 3
- Peru: 12

IF THE CONFINEMENT LASTS...

HERE IS A GREAT IDEA PROPOSED BY MARTINE CESBRON, COORDINATOR OF THE "HOPE" COMMUNITY FROM THE PROVINCE « FRANCE CENTRE ». AN IDEA THAT WE COULD TAKE EVERY MONTH AS LONG AS WE CANNOT MEET EACH OTHER. AND, AS IN MANY COUNTRIES, EXPERIENCING THE DIFFERENT TIMES OF THE MEETING PROPOSED BY THE GUIDELINES VIA ZOOM, FOR THOSE WHO CAN. OUR CHAPLAINS CAN ALSO FOLLOW DON MARCO'S EXAMPLE, SEE PAGE 11.

In connection with the 2nd meeting of the guidelines, it is possible to make a tree as suggested by the artists' workshop on page 12.

The theme could be: Rest under the tree from Genesis 18,4. The community is like a tree under which we can rest.

In the absence of a meeting, the community still remains alive and present in our hearts.

In order to shape our belonging to our community, each member can send a leaf of around 5-6 cm either by picking it up in the nature or by drawing it. Then just colour it or decorate it with different elements.

Write your name or stick a picture and send it by mail to the coordinator of the community.

All the leaves will be gathered to make the tree of the community. The ideal would be to take a picture of it and send it to each member

either by email, phone or mail. Small detail: one leaf per person.

It will be good to be creative, the tree will be original and varied just like the community.

Put your shoes on and get ready to pick up your leaf, or get your pencils, scissors, glue and other materials to make your leaves.

MARTINE CESBRON



**Live the essential
of Faith and Light**
in the middle of a pandemic



A small booklet bringing together all the ideas gathered from around the world to experience the essentials of Faith and Light, will be published.
27 countries answered our call!

A small booklet bringing together all the ideas gathered from around the world to experience the essentials of Faith and Light, will be published.
27 countries answered our call!
It will be published around Christmas in a PDF format that you can download from the website.

IN JOËLETTE

In Austria, our communities are still unable to meet because of the confinement. Nevertheless, the Klagenfurt community, "Herz Jesu", had the idea to borrow a joëlette belonging to the neighbouring diocese.

This initiative was very successful and Alenka and Georg Haab took advantage of the good weather to go out with Heinzi.

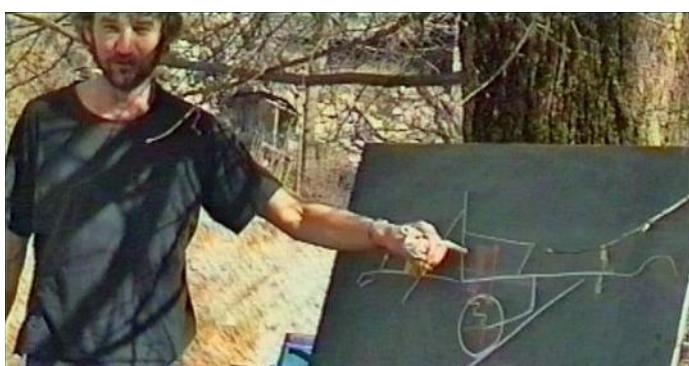
The "Catholic Youth" sent young people to help during this outing with persons with an intellectual disability.

Everyone was very happy about this outing in nature.

SAM AND BERT COLYN
Coordinators of the Province
"Heart of Europe"



At the origins of the Joëlette, a French person's invention: Joël Claudel



It was in 1987 that Joël Claudel, a mountain guide, imagined the first Joëlette for his nephew, with myopathy. It is a kind of sedan chair with only one wheel. He will need only 2 days to build the first prototype. Bucket seat, central wheel and four handles for the 2 carriers, today it is still the basis of the Joëlette.

Thus, despite his degenerative disease, Stéphane, his nephew, can enjoy the great outdoors. At 17, he discovered the paths of Reunion Island, then those of the Atlas mountains in Morocco. Passionated man, Joël Claudel shares his project through the creation of "Handi Cap Evasion" associated with the "Paralysés de France" that allows these incredible hikes and races to exist in France and around the world.

Testimony

A small domestic community

A beautiful conjunction of dates was looming in 2020... Julie's birthday and Easter Sunday were going to be celebrated on the same day, April 12. A very beautiful celebration ahead! And perhaps with our community where we love these birthdays so much... But the coronavirus and the confinement that resulted from it deprived us of our beautiful meetings.

But we remembered that through marriage, the couple and the family are transformed into a small domestic Church, a place where the presence and the love of Christ are manifested. Jesus' love grows in the love of spouses and in the lives of the children : thus everyone is invited to love and to be loved as Jesus loved us! And why not transform us with Isabelle and Julie into a small domestic community ? This is what we have tried to do, especially during the Holy Week.



Then she left for Jerusalem and we shouted "*Hosannah to the son of David!*" waving laurel branches and throwing coats on the floor.

On Holy Thursday, we had a liturgy of the washing of the feet; there were only the three of us, but it was done with great reverence, as if we were in communion with the rest of our community.

On Holy Friday, we attended, always virtually, the Stations of the Cross of our Lady of Laus and we venerated an image of the Shroud of Turin.

Finally, on Easter Day we celebrated the Resurrection of Jesus and Julie's birthday in many ways: the WhatsApp group got very busy that day, we had a small (but virtual) family party with our other children and our grandchildren.

And in the morning, when I went out to buy bread (and a beautiful birthday cake), I was able to walk quietly in the middle of the road without taking the risk to be crashed... and I wished "Happy Easter!" to all those I met, a lot of them answered me and I even heard somebody saying: "*He is really risen!*"

Our small domestic community has lived the time of confinement in a very specific way, praying together every day, what we still do today.



First on Palm Sunday, we mimed the Gospel of Jesus' entry into Jerusalem: Julie asked me to go and get a little donkey and settled down there after covering it with a coat (the little donkey was a broom handle, one end of which was covered with a design representing a donkey's head).

Testimony

The Pilgrim Virgin

There is a corner on this earth where everyone wants to return, where her face is enthroned, on which we see two scars...The Polish shrine of Jasna Góra located in Częstochowa houses the icon of the Black Madonna.

The words of this beautiful song accompany us from our birth. Each one of us knows that at Jasna Góra there is a Mother who looks at us and remembers each of those who have been on a pilgrimage there at least once in their life. During the holidays, before the baccalaureate, by foot in August, to meet a desire of the heart, to implore and to give thanks... We have also made Faith and Light pilgrimages in communities, retreats, entire provinces went there.

At the very beginning of our movement in Poland, on May 3, 1979, the first Faith and Light pilgrimage at the Luminous Mountain was organized.

In April 1983, another national pilgrimage of our communities took place at the Black Madonna, bringing together 800 persons from different communities! In 1998, in Częstochowa, 3 000 pilgrims came to give thanks for the 20 years of Faith and Light in Poland!

Next year, we should go to Częstochowa to celebrate the 50th anniversary of Faith and Light. However, the pandemic may severely thwart our plans. The prohibition of holding gatherings is still in effect and we must think of the health and the security of our pilgrims.

So, if we cannot make the pilgrimage to the Black Madonna, we want to invite her to join us in our homes, our communities, our churches and our provinces! The theme of the jubilee is "A treasure to share", so we want to see the one who carried the Treasure within herself! Mary is like a safe haven in which God has hidden Himself. From his birth, the Son remained in his mother's heart and whoever loses Jesus can find him there. When John held Mary by the hand at the foot of the Cross, Jesus said that now she was his mother and that he should take her to his house.



Today, we want to accomplish Jesus' command: we will welcome Mary at home so that she can share her treasure with us, to lead us to Jesus!!!

The "Bethlehem" community made a copy of the icon of our lady of Częstochowa for us. The icon will travel on a pilgrimage to our provinces according to an established order, from September 2020 and during twelve months (three months in each province). It is Ula Czyrnecka who is responsible for the icon, who is committed to transferring it from one province to the other. With the icon, each province will receive a 25cm x 25cm support, on which it will have to print its mark, graphically representing its province with its features by referring to the jubilee and its theme. The paintings produced by the four provinces will be reunited and at the end of the pilgrimage will be placed at the foot of the Black Madonna in thanksgiving for the 50 years of Faith and Light in the world!

Faith and Light Prayer

*Jesus come and live in us and in our communities
as you first lived in Mary.
She was the first to welcome you.
Help us to be faithfully present, with her,
at the foot of the cross,
near the crucified of the world.
Help us to live your Resurrection.
Amen.*

ANNA WOLSKA



Testimony

My soul is sad...

Over more than 25 years ago I met a deacon while he was preparing for his ordination. It was one week before the community's summer camp. Noujoud told me that a deacon who was a friend of his at the university, was going to help us to carry our stuff to prepare the place before the arrival of the community.

That day we loaded the Peugeot and went to Ghosta. When we arrived, we were surprised to learn that our booking was cancelled and that in other words, we no longer had a place for our camp. Father Mounir took us back to his car and we went in search for a new place, which was practically impossible a week before the scheduled date. Eventually he found a convent belonging to his congregation in Der Shomra. The day after, Father Mounir loaded his car with all our things and took us to the convent. He even cleaned up with us to make the place more welcoming.

Brother Mounir was ordained and became a friend of our community and a friend to everyone. Every year he visited us at the camp and spent time with us.

Many of us went to see Father Mounir for spiritual accompaniment. He had the gift of confession par excellence. During his participation to a camp he told us: *We are going to live penance during this camp. We will need a time of reconciliation which will be followed by a mass.*

I was the coordinator and I told him: *Father, this is not possible in our community. You can see the persons with an intellectual disability we have. Most of them can't speak, what will they say? How are you going to understand what they say?* He replied smiling as usual: *It is not between them and me that it is happening, it is between them and Jesus. Even though I don't understand, Jesus listens and unders-*



tands. You will see, at the time of confession, you will all flee except persons with an intellectual disability, they will not have any problem.

Once again, he was right. They were the first to go to confession, I was the last. As I sat down next to him on the stone to confess, he looked at me and smiled without any words.

Today, the picture of your big blue Peugeot full of our things is in front of my eyes; I can see you sitting one the stone in the garden, waiting for us to confess; I can see you smiling at Nail, kissing Samir and speaking with Elie and Philippe.

We are sad. We will miss you...

HODA ELTURK, Lebanon
President of the international Board of directors

For our reflexion

The donkey of the manger

In her book "Never again alone", Marie-Hélène Mathieu tells the story of Antoine, Benedict's dad. Benedict was going with Ann, her Mam, to the Faith and Light community meetings but not Antoine, it was too hard, he couldn't. He was accompanying them and coming to look for them, but that was all he could do, you shouldn't have asked him for more... Until the day of a meeting for Christmas during which it was scheduled to mime the Gospel of the Nativity and someone was missing to *play the role of the donkey of the manger...* *Would you like to play the donkey?* we asked him... And in front of Benedict's amazed eyes, Antoine played the donkey"! And from that day, he did not miss many community meetings!

Faith and Light dads are a rather special population. The relationship they have with their son or their daughter with an intellectual disability brings so much to the treasure of each community. At the beginning of course, there is a big wound and mourning to be done of a hoped-for child is maybe more difficult than the one of a mother. A mother will play her role of mother by ensuring the well-being of her child, but the dad is very helpless to guide him -or her- on the paths of life. What to teach him -or her-? What to pass on to him -or her-? He or she will understand very little... and the temptation to flee will be great. It will be perhaps football for Francesco, Sabina's dad or even separation when the suffering becomes unbearable...

Faith and Light is certainly a place where the dads can rebuild themselves: you have to go and find them, even if it is -at least at the beginning - to do silly things like playing the role of a donkey for the Christmas mime. They will then discover how much good their child can do to the friends who are there - initially - to provide service and help with material tasks, how they feel at ease in this unique atmosphere; the dads will then be able, rightly, to become proud of their child,



to change the way they look and let themselves be transformed.

I know a lot of fathers in many communities around the world and each time I have seen that they make their community more beautiful. I have also seen that a council whether provincial or international, works rather better when there are dads. For the international coordinating team, a special thanks to Fred and Judex with whom we didn't just play donkeys! We may have done good for Faith and Light, but it is nothing compared to what we have received!

If dads are missing in our communities, go and get them, ask them to play the donkey or Santa Claus; insist, on time and off time, you will not be disappointed! And the Jubilee of 2021 will be a great occasion, your treasure to share will be even greater!

Ghislain du Chéné



Family album



Oksana



Beginning of October, the provincial assembly of Ukraine elected the new coordinator : Oksana Lipetska. She succeeds Pavlo Koval who had assumed this function since 2017. Many thanks to both of them.

Christine and Christ



Christine Saroukhan and Christ Jansezian got married at the beginning of the summer. Christine was the secretary for Syria. All our wishes to the young and beautiful newlyweds!

Sister Anawimel

Kristina Jasinskaité was international vice coordinator from November 2013 to October 11, 2015, the date on which she entered the convent of the Little Sisters of Bethlehem at Paparčiai in Litunia. She made

her first profession last October 17. Always very close to Faith and Light, all the monastery holds us in their prayer. Thank you little Sister Anawimel!



A Website for France

We are very happy to present you our new Faith and Light France website and our new logo:



The Holy Spirit, represented by the rays of the sun inspires all the persons of the Faith and Light communities symbolized by their smiling head. The sea is illuminated by it, it is lighter than the sky. This one is dark, darkened by the storms that everyone in the boat has learned to face in order to move forward.

They are 12 like the apostles of Jesus, they are close together in the boat, symbol of brotherhood and friendship between all, in disorder because it is the creativity of Love that reigns within the communities.

They themselves bear this light as persons created in the image of God, all shine in the same way, whether they have a disability, parents or friends and reflect the sun of God in their lives.

They sail together to make known and share the beautiful treasure discovered in the community. The joy of the community has the capacity, thanks to the Faith of its members, to remove the clouds to bring down the Light.

[Foietlumiere.fr](http://foietlumiere.fr)

Ann Emmott's mother



Doreen, Ann Emmott's mom, international vice coordinator, returned to God on October 20th. We sympathize with her family and assure Ann of all our affection.



Father Bernard Paulet



Father Bernard, former chaplain of the Reunion Island died in Paris on October 25th. He was born in Inezgane (Morocco), on August 1st, 1957, entered the Company of Jesus on October 1st, 1990. He was ordained a priest on July 1st, 2000. He worked as a chaplain in Franklin, before being sent to the Reunion Island, where he worked for nine years. When he returned to France, he was at the service of the Center of Ignatian Pedagogical Study (CEP-1). He has been the superior of the Jesuit community of Paris-Raynouard and had just been appointed superior of the community of Sèvres. We give our sincere condolences to his family and his Faith and Light's friends.

Maria-Celia Vidorette

Maria-Celia has been a member of Faith and Light for 30 years. She has been a community coordinator in Cordeiro-polis (Brazil), and a vice-coordinator as well until three years ago. She was responsible for the summer camp. She was the mother of two children



and a grandmother. With her husband, they adopted Léo who has a disability and together they participated to pilgrimages, assemblies and meetings. All the communities of the province cry her departure. Today, we want to follow her example and her life testimony.
Elvira Gomero

Father Jean-Guy Vincent



It is with great sadness that I inform you of the death of Father Jean-Guy Vincent, who was the chaplain of the "La Croisée" community for nearly 40 years. In my opinion, he was a holy man and I

will always keep an excellent memory of his compassion towards the little ones of God, his humility, his unifying smile and his great generosity towards Faith and Light...

On behalf of the members of the provincial team, I offer my sincere sympathy to all the members of La "Croisée"; I have no doubt that he already is in the arms of the Eternal Father...

Suzanne Belisle
Provincial secretary "Canada East"

News from Cameroon

Here, life resumes progressively. My health has improved, I have resumed some activities. Faith and Light lives, many communities started their activities, the pandemic is slowing down, many people are not wearing the mask though the government insists on keeping it.

We have received the guidelines that you've sent to us. Thank you.

For the formation session in Western Africa it is not possible yet for several countries. We will have to wait, confident that our project will come true.

I wish you good luck and let us keep hope that life is reborn.
Sr Anne-Marie Ngono



Marie-Hélène's letter



LETTER TO HUBERT'S PARENTS

Dear friends,

I have read your letter with great emotion and I am very touched by your confidence that expressed to me so simply your temptations of despair or revolt in the face of your ordeal: the birth of your little Hubert, who does not see, hardly hears, whose brain is severely affected and who, without a doubt, will never walk.

You say how much you have lacked help in this ordeal, one of the heaviest a family has to face. The way the doctor gave you the diagnosis remains a sharp wound. The gap has widened with your entourage, even the closest one. You have known physical exhaustion of the nights without sleeping; worry and discouragement in front of the lack of progress, in spite of all the care; anxiety in front of diversity and even contradiction of medical advice; the more or less motivated conflicts between you both that have been exacerbated; your parish pastor's embarrassment when you asked him for Hubert to be confirmed.

You also say your constant anxiety with the decisions to take for his education, and for his future when you are no longer there.

Yet your letter shows that among all these difficulties, you have already known what to do. Your little Hubert, however limited he may be, deeply perceives the quality of the love you have for him. By your words (because he needs you to speak to him), through your gestures of gentleness and tenderness, when you give him his bath, when you dress him, make him eat, cuddle him, you



fill him with what is essential for him to live: the feeling of being loved.

A nun who devoted her life to children with a heavy intellectual disabilities, told me the overwhelming experience she had known with Geneviève, a very deeply affected little girl. Every day, the nun took care with tenderness and respect of this small body apparently deprived of spirit. The nun was called abruptly to her seriously injured father and remained three days away. When she returned, she learnt that Geneviève, since she had left her, moaned and refused to eat. Without anyone's knowledge, Geneviève had formed deep bonds with the one who served as her mother, that she refused to live as long as she was no longer there. When she saw the nun, Geneviève smiled.

In the heart of our brothers and sisters with a very deep intellectual disability, there is a life that we can only sense. For a few seconds, Geneviève had shown that she was ca-

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pable of an answer of love. This makes us think of Saint John of the Cross writing: The smallest moment of pure love is more useful to the Church than all the works put together.

Your little Hubert, like Geneviève, as all the little children whose consciousness is not yet awake, feel deeply whether they are a cause of sorrow or a source of joy. In order to be able to live and progress, they vitally need to be surrounded by persons whose eyes, hands, voice make them understand: *We love you. You are precious to us. We are aware of the hidden beauty in your heart.*

A mother told me: *To answer to my son's silent call, I had to overcome my own suffering, even if it remains present. All changed when, one day, I understood that when I cried, it was on me because my son, he doesn't need tears, he needs smiles and songs...* All alone, it is nearly impossible to overcome grief and bitterness. We must try to build bridges, reconnect with relatives and friends, many of whom have moved away, not out of indifference, but out of fear of being clumsy, of hurting. Also, in order to join other parents facing the same ordeal: sharing the burdens of others, to make one's own pain a little less heavy to bear.

I have written these lines with all my heart, as they came to me, thinking a lot of your little Hubert and to all those whose life and possibilities of progress totally depend on the love that surrounds them.

