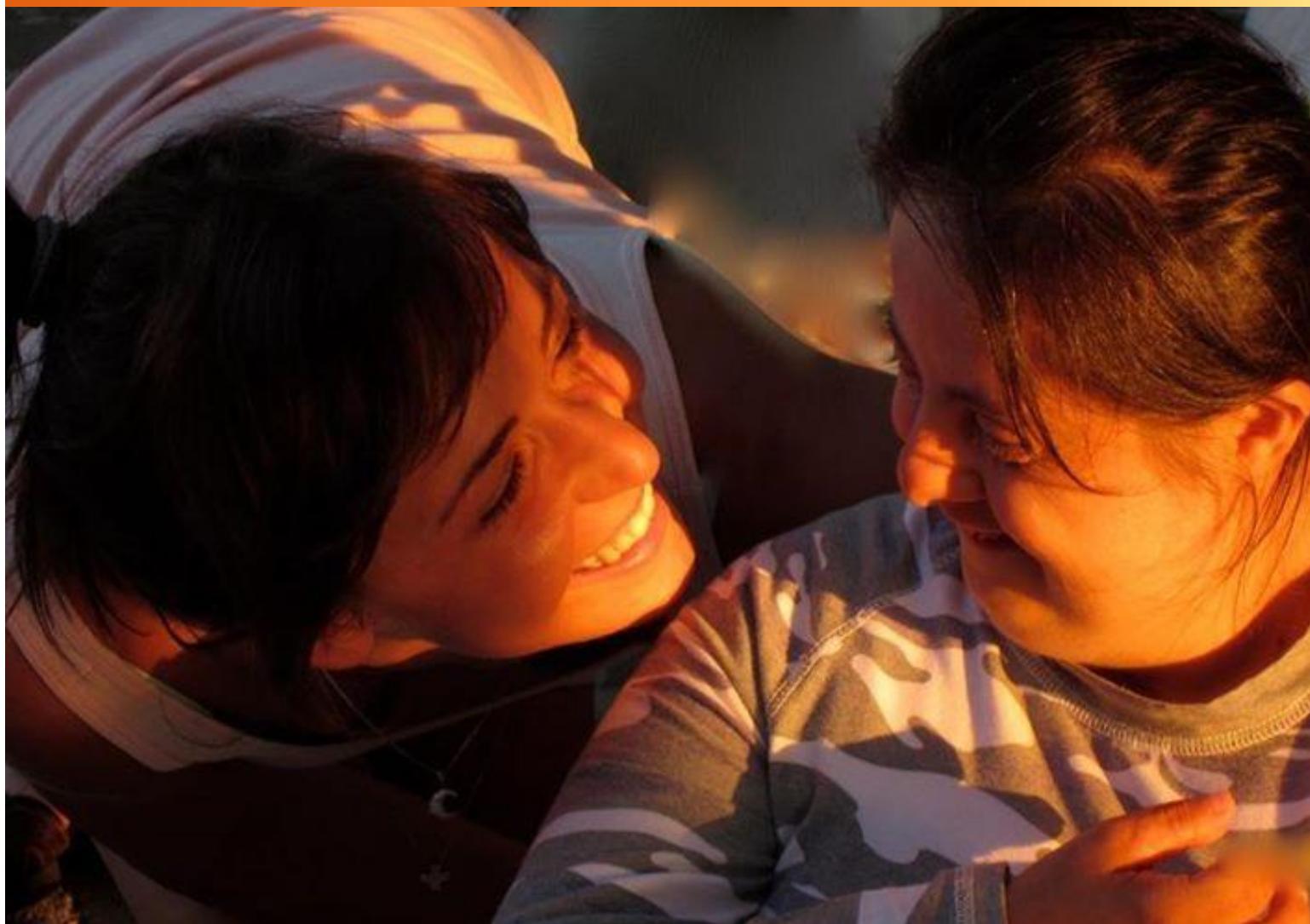


Up sails!

The international letter of Faith and Light N 66, September 2025



Sun and friendship



Contents



Editorial by Raúl Izquierdo Garcia

Hope never disappoints 3

Gems

- The stars, poem by Marie-Claude
- Drawings by Paula

Testimonies

- Announcing and Sharing day in Lebanon 7
- Lebanon. Testimonies from the pilgrimage « United in hope » 8

Reports

- Italy. Being together, an inexhaustible source of joy 12
- Ukraine. Go out into the whole world 13
- Lebanon. Prayer, celebration and friendship 16
- France. A day at the sea ! 18
- Albania. A meeting with special guests 20

For our reflection, Ghislain du Chéné

Saint Pier Giorgio Frassati 21

International news

23

Family album

27

- Marie-Hélène Mathieu, Great Officer of the Légion d'Honneur
- Birth of Antoni and Gabriel
- Farewell to Yvon Tremblay and Father Antonio Thadeu Xavier

International agenda and Solidarity

29

The friends of Faith and Light

- The Night of Disability Awareness 30
- Shadows and Light, suscribe 31

Marie-Hélène's letter

The brothers and sisters 32

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Raúl Izquierdo Garcia
International coordinator

« Hope never disappoints »

Words and reflections in these troubled times

Dear communities,
Dear friends of the great family of Faith
and Light.

It is with these words from the late Pope Francis, "Hope never disappoints," that I begin my brief reflection for our magazine "Up Sails," at a time when the waters of the world are troubled and turbulent. Yes, we are living in unstable times, when we cannot find bridges to cross from one shore to the other and when we run the risk of finding ourselves in the poverty of black or white, without any shades of grey.

Armed conflicts and social tensions are often a reflection of our own internal divisions and a vision of the future that leaves little room for hope. And in all this turmoil, those who lose are often the same as usual: those who already start the race of life at a disadvantage, those who are forgotten or ignored, those from whom we almost always turn our gaze away. But what does all this have to do with us, the Faith and Light communities?

Faith and Light is called to be a sign, not a solution, amid the shifting sands

and mud of our cultures. A sign of communion, joy and hope, even in the midst of storms. We, the members of Faith and Light, know something about this, symbolised by the boat and its twelve characters, sailing in the midst of a stormy sea. Our communities, built on the human experience of pain, transcend it to discover celebration and light, even in the midst of suffering. And we take no pleasure in suffering, no. But we know in whom we place our trust, we know that the cross or death do not have the last word. All Christians should know this and, therefore, be living witnesses, showing hands that support, lift up, forgive or hold back, and not hands that crush, strike or abandon.

The Holy Spirit breathed at a moment in history to bring forth this international family of communities. Why at that time? God knows, but it is up to us to discern and actualise our vocation. What does the Lord expect of us, the Faith and

Light communities, today? How can we be a credible and sufficiently prophetic sign in the midst of the tensions and conflicts we are experiencing?

First, by not hiding, even if our comfort offers us warmth and protection. Let us act without fear, let us come out into the open, and let us show who we are, with simplicity and courage. And beyond loving one another deeply, which would already be a big step, let us know how to open our communities to others, even to those who might upset our balance. Many people do not know Faith and Light and may need it without yet knowing it. And let us affirm clearly that Hope does not disappoint, because it places us in an exciting and hopeful perspective. Not our poor hope based on calculations and balances, but the Hope that comes from God. And if we stray, we can count on our friends with disabilities to guide us.

The world needs hope more than ever. Thus, intellectuals, sometimes without knowing it, guide us and show us what is essential: not to be content with feeding on ideologies or personalities that come and go, but to seek the eternal sources of hope, the kind that never disappoints.

Best wishes to all communities,
United in Jesus

Raúl Izquierdo García
International Coordinator of Faith and Light





Marie Claude Pretseille

Community « Hope and Friendship »
Le Plessis-Bouchard, France



The stars

The stars twinkle in the night sky
when everything is lit up
they look like tiny sparks
struck by a match in the sky.

When everything is calm and quiet
I contemplate with my own eyes
this magical spectacle
for me, it's a fantastic moment.

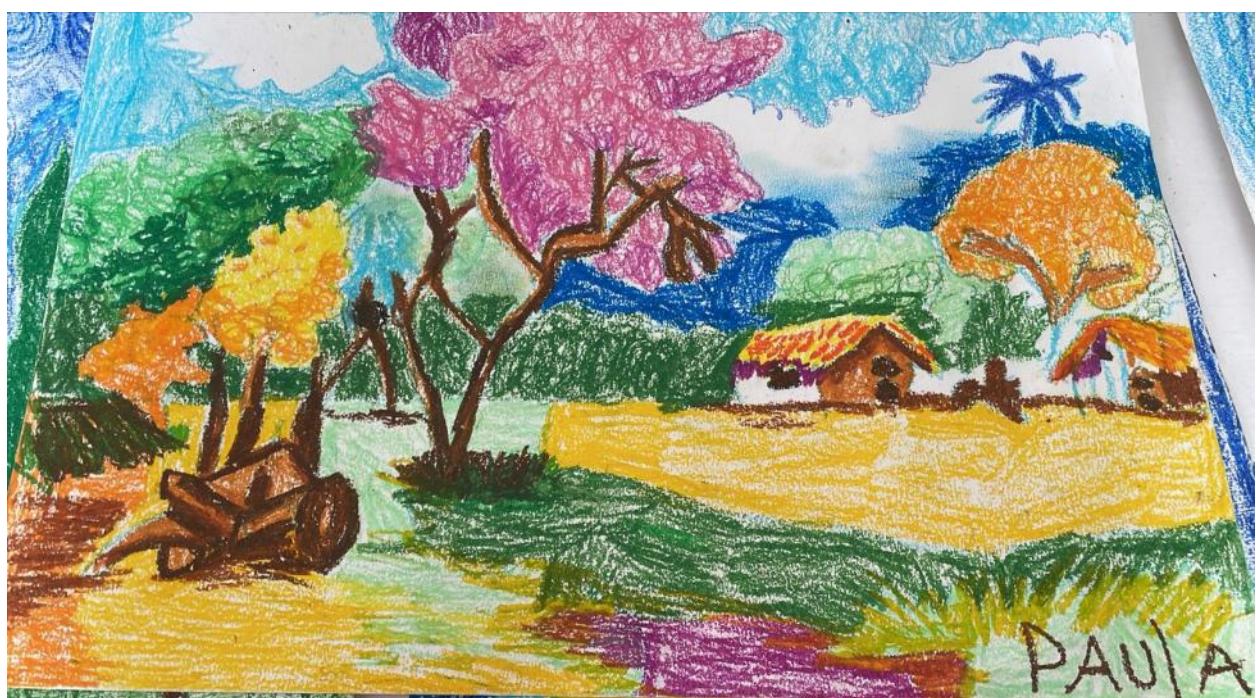
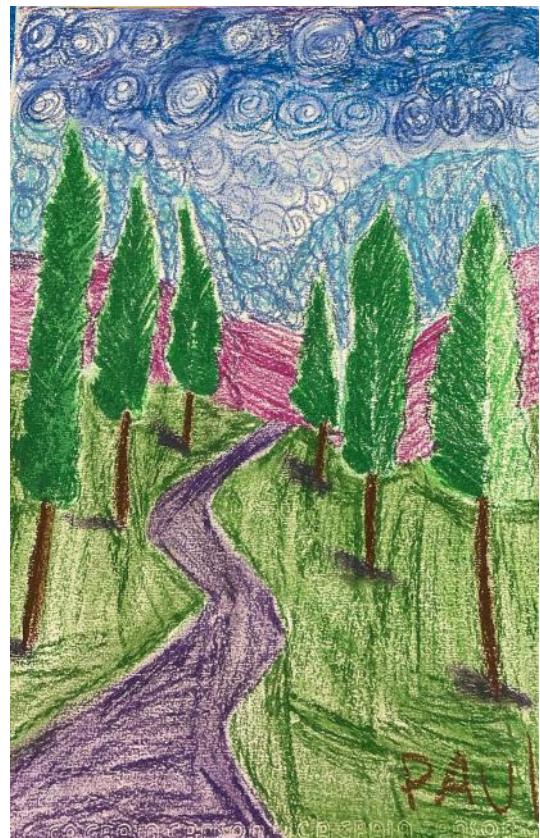
It is also an invitation to travel
to venture into space
into the starry night
to explore the stars that surpass us.

Shooting stars appear slowly
all the time
contemplating the atmosphere
of the entire earth.



Here are some beautiful drawings of Paula !

Community Santa Rita, Peru



« Announcing and sharing day» in Lebanon

As every year during Lent, our « Saint Sauveur » Faith and Light community in Lebanon organised the « Announcing and Sharing » day, a powerful moment of solidarity, faith and unity. Through this initiative, we shared the message of Faith and Light with the parishioners, presented our mission and testified to the joy of living together, despite our fragilities.

We prepared for this day a month in advance, lovingly crafting a small souvenir: a decorated candle, linked to the Gospel of the day (the healing of the blind man), to be given to each worshipper after Mass as a sign of gratitude and communion. Everyone pitched in: people with disabilities, friends and families, in a wonderful spirit of collaboration.

Throughout the weekend, we actively participated in 12 Masses in our parish, in three different churches, dividing ourselves into groups of six people in a warm atmosphere, sharing a moving testimony about the life of our community through testimonies and photos. We also set up an



information and collection table at the exit of the Masses to raise awareness and invite parishioners to support Faith and Light and also to become part of it.

The donations collected enable our community to continue experiencing these moments of faith and celebration, to cover the costs of our annual pilgrimage and summer camp, and above all to send a financial contribution to Faith and Light International for solidarity, in order to support other communities in need around the world.

I invite all the communities around the world to organise an « Announcing and Sharing day ». It is an experience that nourishes our faith and, above all, strengthens the bonds between us. Even with our simple means and limited abilities, when we offer with love, God does the rest. The essential thing is the desire to do it, trying and letting ourselves be guided by the Spirit. ■



Michat ABBOSH

Saint Sauveur community, Lebanon

United in hope

Pilgrimage of the ILA Trinity Province (Armenia, Iran, North-West Lebanon) which brought together around 1,000 participants in Byblos on June 1st.

We express our gratitude and appreciation to Faith and Light International, and more particularly to the Province of Paris and the Levant, for the fraternal solidarity they have shown towards Lebanon by providing our ILA Trinity Province with €1,000 in support. May the Lord bless them and all the others. We are all united in prayer to continue our apostolic journey with love, joy and dedication, in all circumstances and in the face of challenges, both internal and external. Thank you, and greater glory to the Lord Jesus!

Jean KASSIS



Testimonies from Lebanon



During the national pilgrimage, we had a lot of fun. It was very sweet and joyful, especially because I was able to participate in the choir and had a great time. The most beautiful moment that really touched me was when we all got together, and my heart was filled with love and joy.

Aline Ghosban

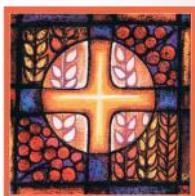


Testimonies from Lebanon



My name is Josephine. I really enjoyed the pilgrimage: the prayers, the Mass, the processions, the dances, the games. I love Faith and Light, everyone, both young and old... At Faith and Light, there's always a party!

Joséphine Gideon



Testimonies from Lebanon



Asma on the right

In his message on the occasion of the jubilee of 2025, Pope Francis invited us to be pilgrims of hope and joy and to share it with others.

It was in an atmosphere radiating joy that I took part in the pilgrimage 'United in Hope.' From the very first moments, the warm welcome made me feel the importance of everyone's presence. Quickly, we felt like family at Faith and Light, even though many of us didn't know each other. The songs created an atmosphere of joy and the Mass was a moment of peace, unity and communion. Then there was the party – what a joy it was to dance together! What struck me most was the joy on everyone's faces, a joy that was contagious!

Thank you, Lord, for Faith and Light, which radiates your love and hope in this world.

Asma Bou Raad, « Notre Dame de la Délivrance » community in Bickfaya

Hello, my name is Pascal Abi Nader, from the Faith and Light community in Batroun.

Today, I am delighted to share with you the announcement of the Faith and Light national pilgrimage, a day that I love and look forward to every year.

On this day, we feel like one big family, without distances or differences, united in prayer, sharing and love, which strengthens us and allows us to walk this path together. Personally, this day gives me a new sense of hope and reminds me that God is present in each of our hearts, and that our weakness is transformed into strength thanks to others.

I hope with all my heart that this day will continue to bring us together and strengthen our relationship with each other and with God, and that Faith and Light will always remain a symbol of love, joy and unity. Thank you from the bottom of my heart, I love you very much.

Pascal Abi Nader



Being together, an incredible source of joy

We met on 4 May for a gathering that was different from the usual. We decided to put aside the guidelines in order to make room for a moment of reflection on happiness, inspired by Pope Francis' letter and his recent death, which touched us deeply. The Pope's words helped us to take a fresh look at the little things that make us happy every day: a smile, a hug, the presence of others. That is precisely what we praised, the fact of being together, which is an inexhaustible source of joy for us.

It was a simple yet deeply moving moment, filled with attentive listening, genuine sharing, and heartfelt affection. Personally, it gave me the opportunity to rediscover how wonderful it is to be part of a community that knows how to pause, reflect and recognise happiness in the most humble but sincere gestures.

We concluded the meeting with a deep sense of joy, letting this atmosphere of serenity and gratitude accompany us until we returned home. It was a valuable reminder: happiness is often found where we least expect it. ■

Marta GUERRA,
Community San Giovanni Battista (BA),
Province Seas and Volcanoes



Go all over the world...

On behalf of the communities of the province of Ukraine, I would like to thank Faith and Light International for its supportive assistance with our formation session for friends, which took place from 30 May to 1 June 2025 at the Basilian Fathers' monastery in Yasna Hora, in the Lviv region.



The general theme of the meeting was inspired by the words of our Faith and Light song, « Go out into the whole world and proclaim my love! » And the legend was the story described by British author C. S. Lewis in 'The Chronicles of Narnia.'

It was a wonderful time to be together, get to know each other, grow together in the spirit of Faith and Light, give thanks for the gift of our movement and thank God for the treasure that this community is to us.

This formation session brought together 62 participants, including three friends with intellectual disabilities, four chaplains, new young members, and long-standing friends of the community.



Report in Ukraine



It should be noted that a Faith and Light family, whose husband currently serves in the Ukrainian army, was able to participate after obtaining a two-day leave from his military unit specifically for this event.

We organised this session in three parts, one of which was led by a mother from a community in Lviv who is also a psychologist.

She leads the parent support group at the 'Emaus' centre for people with disabilities and their families, located at the Ukrainian Catholic University. She shared her personal experience as the mother of a daughter with an intellectual disability, offering advice on how to be a supportive friend to people with disabilities.

Our provincial chaplain, Fr. Volodymyr Bytiuha, gave a teaching on the spirituality of Faith and Light, followed by small group sharing. On Sunday, Sister Emanuela, a friend of our Faith and Light communities for twenty years, led the third session. She emphasised the inestimable value of people with



Report in Ukraine

intellectual disabilities and the friendship we share with them, explaining how these relationships can bring us closer to God. We reflected on and shared what sustains our commitment to Faith and Light.

At the end of the formation session, participants shared their thoughts on these different stages. It was very rewarding to learn that these formation courses had enabled them to deepen their commitment to Faith and Light, while providing a valuable resource for renewal and reflection. It was a truly blessed and creative time!



On behalf of everyone, I would like to express our sincere gratitude to the international community for their unwavering support and prayers, which we deeply felt. ■

Mariana MYKYTIUK
Provincial coordinator of Ukraine

Prayer, celebration and friendship

Lebanon South-Jordan Province

Our pilgrimage on 1 June to the Convent of Saint Saviour of Joun, in the Chouf region south-east of Beirut, was much more than just a spiritual journey: it was a whole day of sharing joy and unforgettable moments.



We began with a pleasant coffee break and a fun photo session in a beautiful setting. Immediately afterwards, we entered the church together for a moment of prayer and reflection.

Then we gathered to express our gratitude to the Paris and le Levant Province for their generous donation of €1,000, a truly supportive gesture that helped us to fund this day, which brought together nearly 1,000 pilgrims!

The day continued with some free time. Many took this opportunity to relax, mingle with others and get to know each other better. It was heart-warming to see people from different regions meet and form new friendships, sitting together, chatting and laughing.



Report in Lebanon



At lunchtime, the atmosphere became festive thanks to the presence of a DJ, entertaining activities, dancing and lots of smiles. Everyone really appreciated how well the day was organised. Everything went according to the programme that had been communicated to the groups in advance.



At the end of the event, everyone left with a joyful heart, new contacts and wonderful memories of a truly exceptional day.



Here are some comments from participants:

- ♦ *It was the perfect balance of prayer, fun and sharing. I left with a heart full of joy.*
- ♦ *The atmosphere was so friendly that I felt like I was with family all day.*
- ♦ *The photo shoot was a great idea. These are beautiful memories that I will cherish forever.*
- ♦ *I really enjoyed this time to pray, reflect and also have fun. I can't wait for it to happen again! ■*

Diana HATEM
Treasurer of the province
Lebanon south Jordan





A day at sea !



The entire community, and especially our friends with disabilities, came back really DELIGHTED with this sea trip! We were incredibly lucky with the weather, which was exceptional, and there was enough wind to give us a real thrill...

After meeting the boat owners on Friday evening to get to know each other, we set sail on Saturday with 12 sailboats and 2 motorboats, each carrying one person with a disability and one accompanying person. We sailed from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., leaving from the port of La Turballe and heading out to sea to the Château de Suscinio (south of the Gulf of Morbihan), via Dumet Island. At the end

of the day, we shared a picnic on the port terrace.

Our young people came back with a sailing certificate. We are preparing a souvenir photo album for each of them to remember this wonderful day (a surprise for our next community meeting...). These few testimonies are worth more than a long speech:

"What a wonderful day Chantal, Michel and I had, thanks to the entire organising team. It was the first time we had ever been on a sea trip like this. Thank you so much for giving us the opportunity to experience such an adventure that will remain forever in our memories. »

The icing on the cake was that we had the chance to sail with dolphins!

Report in France

«What a crazy day!! Wonderful!!»

« A HUGE THANK YOU for this wonderful, fantastic day. Thank you for this gift after months of hardship. Seeing my darling standing up, laughing, sharing, interacting... All these moments are precious. Thank you to our skippers and crews. » ■

Community Port de l'Espérance,
of Saint-Nazaire, Loire-Atlantique
Province France West



La Turballe

A fleet of 12 ships at the service of people with disabilities.



On Saturday, 12 people with disabilities set sail for a day of discovery from the port of La Turballe.

On Saturday, under glorious sunshine and calm seas, twelve people with various disabilities were welcomed by the skippers of twelve boats and their crews at the port of La Turballe.

For some, aged between 15 and 80, the day was an opportunity to discover sailing or motorboating on a course covering several nautical miles. It was also an opportunity to make new friends.

The experience offered by the Faith and Light association gave the opportunity to these sailors to surpass themselves and prove, if necessary, at least for a day, that disability is not necessarily an

obstacle to adventure.

Once their initial apprehensions had passed, these passengers were able to try their hand at steering and adjusting the sails.

Claude Blouet, the initiator and organiser of the day, himself the skipper of a 13-metre sailing boat, liked to say: "It is a great pleasure to have been able to bring together all these boats, with friends, people from different backgrounds, with different sensibilities, but who ultimately worked for the same cause, supporting people with disabilities. For this first time, we all sailed in a beautiful light."

Article from the Newspaper Ouest-France, 20 May 2025



A meeting with special guests



We kicked off the summer season with a special event, rich in emotion and meaning: the monthly meeting at the Casa della Pace (House of Peace) in Tirana, where we had the pleasure of welcoming our dear friends from L'Arche in France. Twenty years ago, we embarked on an unforgettable journey with them through the Casa delle Stelle (House of Stars) project. Their visit was a sweet return to memories and a renewal of hope for building new bridges of friendship and collaboration for the future.

During the meeting on Sunday, 8 June, we shared our experiences, which came from a small group that grew day by day until it gave rise to numerous activities: carpentry workshops, candle making, farming, drawing, team games such as football and basketball, and cooking together with parents and volunteers.

Each activity was an expression of a lively, supportive and joyful community. Special thanks were given to Bertrand, Sister Maria Lucia – Little Sister of Jesus – and Vincent, a French volunteer, founders of the 'Maison des Étoiles' (House of Stars) who, with great dedication, have left a deep mark on the lives of many boys and girls with disabilities.

The meeting ended with sharing desserts and seasonal fruits in a warm atmosphere providing an opportunity to get to know the members of the French group who had come to Albania to offer their services in the parishes of the outlying areas. ■

Elidon Dodaj

Article taken from the Italian Faith and Light website :
<https://www.fedeeluce.it/2025/07/11/iniziate-estate-all-a-casa-della-pace/>



For our reflection, Ghislain du Chéné

Saint Pier Giorgio Frassati

On 7 September, Pope Leo XIV canonised two young people, Carlo Acutis and Pier Giorgio Frassati, whom he wanted to present as role models for today's youth. At the end of his homily, he said: « *Dear friends, Saints Pier Giorgio Frassati and Carlo Acutis invite all of us, especially young people, not to waste our lives, but to aim high and make them a masterpiece. They encourage us with their words: « Not me, but God» said Carlo. And Pier Giorgio: « If you put God at the centre of everything you do, then you will go all the way. » This is the simple but winning formula of their sainthood. It is also the witness we are called to follow, in order to enjoy life to the full and go to meet the Lord in the feast of Heaven.»*

It so happens that Saint Pier Giorgio Frassati accompanied us in February 2015 in our guidelines. Here is the text I wrote at the time, without suspecting that he would become a saint!

Pier Giorgio Frassati was born in Turin in 1901, at the very beginning of the 20th century, into a wealthy family: his father had founded the prestigious newspaper *La Stampa* and his mother was a painter. More inclined towards fantasy than studies,



he often failed his exams, and his father was very disappointed not to find in his son the worthy successor he had hoped for his newspaper! This led to him being sent at the age of 12 to a private school run by the Jesuits: a fortunate decision, as it marked the beginning of an intense spiritual life and numerous charitable activities: the Apostolate of Prayer in 1914, St Vincent de Paul conferences after the war to care for destitute soldiers after the end of the fighting, the Militia of Mary in 1922, and then the Dominican Third Order. For seven years, he helped many poor people, showering them with his intrepid generosity and, above all, communicating his joy of life ! He shared this joy and his natural imagination with many lively friends with whom

he founded "La compagnie des types louches". Together, they often went on excursions to the mountains: "going higher" was one of his mottos.

In 1925, at just 24 years of age, he experienced severe pain in his back muscles. The fatal diagnosis was made: acute infectious poliomyelitis. A few days later, he died, saying: « *Let me die in peace, in your holy company.* »

His funeral was an extraordinary event, as the streets of Turin were filled with a multitude of people who were not members of his family: his many friends, but also all the poor people of Turin whom he had helped during the last years of his life, had insisted on paying him a beautiful tribute that left a deep impression on the entire city...

Pier Giorgio was beatified by John Paul II in 1990; he is a role model for all young people around the world (he was one of the patrons of World Youth Day in Sydney in 2008) because of his charisma and joy, a true messenger of joy! Faith and Light did not exist at that time, but he would certainly have worked wonders in the communities of Turin: his infectious joy, his boundless enthusiasm, his solid faith rooted in prayer, the Eucharist and the Virgin Mary would have made him an excellent coordinator! All people with intellectual disabilities would have been proud to be friends with him!

Our Charter specifies that Faith and Light communities are places of celebration and festivity: « *Meetings are characterized by moments of joy when we sing or dance or share a meal. From time to time a day of celebration enables us to invite guests who are moved by the discovery of the capacity of someone with an intellectual disability to create this joyful atmosphere.* » And the it adds an important clarification:

« But in the community we must not forget those who are not able to enter into the celebration and shut in with their sadness and their fears. They also have their place at the heart of Faith and Light. They need to receive special attention so that gradually they may know the joy and peace that Jesus came to bring us, even when the difficulties and pains remain. »
(Charter I. 2).

I see in this text a great similarity with the apostolate of Pier Giorgio Frassati, who himself said:

***«Sadness must be banished from hearts animated by faith.
Pain is not sadness,
which is the worst of afflictions.
As long as faith gives me the strength, I will always be happy.»***

I hope that the young people in our communities will not be afraid to take Pier Giorgio Frassati, that missionary of joy, as their role model. Let us not be afraid to call out to young people tirelessly. I am sure that among them there are those for whom Faith and Light can reveal a vocation as missionaries of joy! ■



International news

Elections in the Holy Family province

We are delighted to announce that **Ashraf Zakhari** has been re-elected coordinator of the **Holy Family Province** (Northern Egypt, Sudan) and will continue his mission for another four years. A big thank you to Ashraf for saying YES!



Pilgrimage to Pompeii for the 50th anniversary of Faith and Light Italy

After several months of preparation, more than 500 pilgrims from all over Italy, as well as friends from Croatia, Slovenia, Cyprus, Greece and Albania, gathered at the Shrine of Our Lady of the Rosary in Pompeii (Italy) from 18 to 21 September. Families, young people, coordinators, priests and volunteers all came together to share three days of faith and friendship. Our international coordinator, Raúl Izquierdo García, came from Spain to walk with us. *See you in the next Up Sails for more information...*

Election of a new coordinator in Poland

I am delighted to announce that on Saturday, 20 September, **Anna Kalisz** (below on the right) was elected Coordinator of the **Northern Poland Province**, succeeding Joanna Walczak, to whom I extend my sincere gratitude.



We wish you all the best on your mission, Anna!

Izabela Rabiasz
Vice international coordinator

New chaplain for the Reborn province



Dear friends, may the peace of God be with you. On 18 August, the communities of the **Reborn Province** came together to share in a great moment of celebration.

On this occasion, they introduced their new provincial chaplain, **Father Djavan Ribeiro Araujo**, who succeeds Father Claudomiro Alves Rocha.

International news

Meetings of the provincial treasurers

Last April and May, Antoine de la Taille (international treasurer) invited the provincial treasurers and coordinators to participate in a videoconference to share information and discuss finances at Faith and Light. About a hundred persons participated in these meetings, which were organised on four different dates according to time zones and languages, with the invaluable participation of our faithful interpreters. Several major topics were discussed: financial rules common to all levels, financial contribution, the role of treasurers at each level, and the schedule of various tasks. A PowerPoint presentation is available (in French, English, Spanish, Portuguese, Italian, Arabic, and Polish) upon request from the International Secretariat at international@foietlumiere.org

Provincial assembly of Northern Lights

On 13 and 14 September, the Northern Lights Province Assembly was held at Åh Stiftsgård, Sweden, with the theme « Together on the Way ». A new provincial team was elected: **Ole Herman Winnem** and **Mari Finholt Engedal** will accompany the communities in Norway, **Åse Ellerbek Larsen** and **Birgitte Malmkjær Nielsen** those in Denmark, and **Krista Mändar** those in Estonia.

Anne-Mette Pleijel Johnsson was elected **province coordinator** and will continue to accompany the communities in Sweden until a new vice provincial coordinator is appointed. **A big THANK YOU to each and every one of you for saying YES!!**



From left to right :
Mari, Ole Herman, Åse, Birgitte, Krista and Anne-Mette

Thanks also to **Birgitt Aarestad**, who served as provincial coordinator for eight years. Birgitt presented a puppet show, using puppets she made herself to tell the story of Faith and Light.



A new puppet, Saint Bernadette of Lourdes, illustrates the reason for our pilgrimages to Lourdes. Over the years, she has presented this story to most of the communities in the province. It was a great pleasure for us to see her again.

Priests' Jubilee and Vocations Day in Ath-Chièvres-Brugelette, Belgium



A celebration dedicated to vocations

On Pentecost Sunday, the community of Ath-Chièvres-Brugelette gathered to celebrate the jubilee of several of its priests, under the inspiring theme of vocations. The event was an opportunity to celebrate Father André's 40 years of priesthood, **Father Xavier Nys's 35 years of ordination**, and Father Marc Lamotte's 30 years of ordination. Alongside them, Sister Bernardine, a member of the Salesian Sisters of the Visitation community, was also honoured for her 25 years of consecrated life.

A very moving thanksgiving mass

The Thanksgiving Mass was presided over by Episcopal Vicar Giorgio Tessolin, surrounded by many priest friends who came to show their support: Father Paul Druet, Father Malfait, Father Xavier Huvenne, Father Martin and Father Kris. A group of Polish friends, who had travelled especially for the occasion, brought an international touch to the celebration, one of them giving a speech in Polish to Father André.

During the celebration, each jubilarian was presented with a personalised stole, decorated with humour according to the 'devotion' associated with him. This symbolic gesture reinforced the conviviality and warmth of the event.

International news

A community rich in talent and diversity

In his homily, Father Xavier highlighted the linguistic and cultural richness of the priests in the area, who are able to express themselves in many European languages such as French, Dutch, German, English, Italian, Spanish, Polish and Russian.

This fact was highlighted as a true sign of Pentecost, illustrating the universality and diversity within the community. Each priest, with his own vocation and particular gifts, thus contributes to the collective vitality. The choirs, for their part, play an essential role in parish life, animating celebrations and encouraging everyone to participate.



A time for socialising and sharing

After the celebration, a small bar was set up on the church square, allowing everyone to continue chatting in a relaxed atmosphere. The new giant, Monsieur Vincent, arrived accompanied by his bearers and musicians to liven up the party, adding a festive and local touch to the event.

Finally, the programme included a simple, convivial meal in the vicarage garden. Around 150 people gathered around the table, prolonging this moment of fraternity and celebration in good spirits.

Father Xavier Nys
Provincial chaplain, Belgium



Family album

Marie-Hélène Mathieu



Photo Yves d'Hérouville 2009

We are delighted to announce that, by decree of the President of the French Republic dated 11 July 2025,

**Marie-Hélène Mathieu
has been elevated to the rank of
Grand Officer
of the National Order of the
Legion of Honour.**



Birth of Antoni

We are delighted to announce some good news: Antoni was born on 12 June, so our Faith and Light community has a new member. Marta and Marcin, their children Klara, Jadwiga and Antoni

Marcin and Marta Wierzchosławscy (Poland) have adapted the Faith and Light prayer into pictograms for the 2025-2026 guidelines.

Birth of Gabriel

It's a time of great joy for Céline Doudelle and her family: their little Gabriel was born on the morning of 29 July. His big sister Kathlyn, who will soon be celebrating her fourth birthday, is delighted and proud to welcome her adorable little brother.



Family album

Yvon Tremblay



It is with great sadness that I inform you of the passing of Mr. Yvon Tremblay on Saturday, 28 June 2025, at the age of 84... Together with his wife Solange, Yvon was a very important 'pillar' of the Joie de Vivre community in Chicoutimi for many years... In the early 2000s, the couple also served as Provincial Coordinators for Faith and Light, Canada East.

I will always have fond memories of his beautiful simplicity, his generosity, his warm welcome and his broad smile... Rest in peace, dear Yvon, and THANK YOU for your great involvement in our movement!

To Solange, to the entire extended family and friends, to all the members of the Faith and Light Joie de Vivre community, we offer our most sincere condolences. Yvon has returned to the Father's House, where he will surely watch over you all. May peace be in your hearts.

Simone Desgroseilliers,
on behalf of Faith and Light Canada East.

Father Antônio Thadeu de Oliveira Xavier



It is with deep sadness in my heart, but sustained by faith in the resurrection, that I announce the death of our dear Father Thadeu Xavier, which occurred on Sunday, 27 July 2025, in Salvador, Brazil. Fr. Thadeu was chaplain of the Nossa Senhora da Saúde e Glória community in Salvador (Reborn Province). A Mass was celebrated at the Nossa Senhora da Vitória parish for his eternal rest.

May God comfort the hearts of his friends and loved ones.

Denisson Barros Vieira,
Vice international coordinator



International agenda

SEPTEMBER

- Assembly of the Northern Lights Province in Åh Stiftsgård, Sweden, from 12 to 14 September.
- Anniversary of Faith and Light, Reborn Province in Aracaju, Brazil, on 14 September.
- Pilgrimage to Pompeii to celebrate 50 years of Faith and Light Italy, 18-21 September.
- Provincial meeting of all communities in Mexico City, 24-28 September.
- Canada East Provincial Meeting at St John Fisher Church, Pointe-Claire, 27 September.

OCTOBER

- Retreat for parents from the four communities in South Korea, Cheongju Missionary Sisters of the Precious Blood Retreat Centre, 6-7 October.
- Holiday and formation session in Vainuapea, Estonia, 9-10 October.
- Pilgrimage of the France « Entre Deux Mers » Province to Lourdes, France, 3 October-2 November.

NOVEMBER

- Annual meeting of South Korean communities in Cheongju, 8-9 November.
- Formation for chaplains in France via videoconference, 16 November.
- Formation session and meeting of the Reborn province in Rio Grande do Norte, Brazil, 20-23 November.

International Solidarity

Projects supported during the summer

- Pilgrimage from the Lebanon-South Jordan province to Our Lady of Maghdouché, 1 June.
Support provided by a Faith and Light province: €1,000
- Holiday camps for four communities in South Sudan, postponed to a later date due to flooding: Support provided by a generous donor: €500
- Summer camps in two provinces of Egypt (July-August 2025) bringing together just over 1,000 participants: Support provided: €725

Projects to be supported in the second half of 2025

- Provincial meeting and election in Rodrigues (Rainbow province), 28-30 November.
Support needed: € 600
- Formation session for coordinators in Rio Grande do Norte, Brazil, 28-30 November.
Support needed: €1,068

Would you like to make a donation ?

Online on our secure website

<https://www.foietlumiere.org/en/donate>



The friends of Faith and Light



The fifth edition of La Nuit du Handicap (The Night of the Handicap) in Ouistreham Riva-Bella lived up to its promise under sunny skies. Six hundred visitors gathered in the public square in a festive spirit on 14 June.

Inclusive shows and workshops on the theme of well-being showcased the talents of people with disabilities and changed the perceptions of participants and visitors. The numerous partners, associations, businesses and medical-social establishments once again committed to offering this free celebration that brings together all vulnerabilities, giving way to emotion and the joy of being together. What a long way we have come since the first contacts with a dozen establishments and associations in the region to organise a first event in 2021! The aim was to organise a festive event that was unique in France, held in several cities, free of charge and open to all, providing an opportunity to share a moment with the most vulnerable, regardless of their disability. This first edition was a great success with visitors.

As these 'pioneering' partners played



along with the idea of a friendly gathering between people with different disabilities and a large audience on the way to the beach, the event convinced other organisations and associations and showed us the way forward on the path to inclusion. In fact, lasting bonds were formed and, as in all cities that organise a Disability Night, a team of volunteers, both with and without disability, worked throughout the year to prepare for the event, coming up with new activities and developing the network.

On 15 June 2024, more than 25 associations and organisations joined the event to expand the programme to include activities focused on adapted sports during this Olympic year. In 2025, well-being was the theme of our celebration. A pair from our pilot team was particularly committed to supporting the volunteers, ensuring that everyone enjoyed their role in running the event.

And to top off the evening, an artist in a wheelchair lit up the dinner with her radiant smile, singing and playing the piano, treating us to a real cabaret evening with her guitarist partner... Talents shared with volunteers and partners for an unforgettable moment of grace.





The friends of Faith and Light

Subscribe to the journal



Published by the OCH Foundation <https://www.och.fr> the magazine Ombres & Lumière (Shadows & Light) has been the Christian magazine for people with disabilities, their families and friends since 1968.

It aims to "share our fragilities, support families and spread hope. Shadows & Light supports people who are ill or disabled and their loved ones by offering practical solutions and in-depth reflection. Embedded in the daily lives of people affected by disability or mental illness, Shadows & Light gives a voice to those who are not heard and makes visible those who are too often overlooked.

Shadows & Light supports individuals, their families and professionals through concrete solutions and in-depth reflection on the fragile nature of human beings, beyond disability.

Inspired by a Christian vision, it bears witness to the dignity and talents of each individual and reveals that, at the heart of suffering, life is at work.

What you will find in the journal:

- Thematic files on different disabilities (sensory, intellectual, motor) and mental illness, such as:
 - We young carers,
 - Single mothers facing disability,
 - Siblings and disability
 - Disclosing your disability at work.
- Interviews with healthcare professionals, philosophers, theologians and individuals involved in disability issues.
- Discovering the everyday lives of people with disabilities and their carers.
- The portrait of a person who has an unusual project, a powerful story linked to disability.

- A selection of cultural events (books, films, exhibitions, etc.). Support this unique media outlet by subscribing and encouraging your friends and family to subscribe too!

Website : <https://www.och.fr>



Marie-Hélène's letter



Brothers and sisters

« Love each other like brothers » is a popular saying used to describe a loyal and deep friendship. Brothers, that is to say, the same blood, the same roots since the beginning of time, the same sap and also the same roof, the complicity of the same memories. This is enough to create very mysterious and very strong bonds. Yet brotherly love is not always easy. From the very first pages of the Bible, Cain, envious of Abel, kills him and rebels: 'Am I my brother's keeper?' Joseph is sold by his older brothers who want to get rid of him for good.

In every family, the love between siblings is usually accompanied by passions, big or small, jealousy, quarrels, and recriminations. This is the horizontal dimension of love, the learning process of social life, which does not happen without friction.

This is even more true when the family is going through a difficult time. The siblings of the child with disabilities are then called to a somewhat special 'vocation'. This vocation differs, of course, depending on their ages, their place in the family, the severity of the disability of the injured child, and the underlying attitude of the parents, ranging from more or less conscious rejection to preferential love for each of the children. Here I will mention two difficulties that brothers and sisters facing this situation highlight.

It is natural for parents to pay more attention to younger children than to older ones. It is also natural to pay more attention to the sick than to the healthy. Children understand this. But in the case of a child with disability, he or she is always, and forever, the youngest. There is always a risk that he or she will be considered the sick one.

Siblings are therefore called upon, by the situation itself, to accept that they are not

less loved, but less surrounded. At an age when children want to receive, they are already led to give up something so that another can receive. At an age when they would have liked to be the most cherished, they have to accept that someone else is.

Thus, brothers and sisters receive less in terms of time and attention. This is often unavoidable. If parents are shy and do not know how to express this in words, it can be painful. But brothers and sisters have also to give more. They have to help their parents. They have to extend their care and service to the child with disabilities. Siblings who may seem to be less loved are therefore called upon to be more loving.

In reality, this is less of an additional difficulty than an element of the solution. We are less tempted to withdraw into ourselves and lament what we lack if we agree to open ourselves up and give ourselves up for the sake of another who is disadvantaged in their intelligence or body.

Siblings who have experienced this difficult fate assure us that it will only be fully realised if the parents have taken the initiative to explain themselves. To those to whom the parents devote less attention, they must say that they do not love them any less. To those from whom they demand more, they must, without fear of repeating themselves, express their trust and gratitude.

In this way, parents and children gradually learn to become close, affectionately close. Around the youngest, around him, the wounded one, the family bonds and opens up, deepens, becomes a community, a place of welcome and inner growth for everyone.

« Mieux vaut allumer une lampe que maudire l'obscurité »,
page 117