

## *Called and sent as Peter*

Dear Faith and Light communities

The events of our General Assembly and International Meeting, which took place from 4 to 11 July in Strasbourg, France, are still very fresh in our minds. Under the motto "*Called and sent like Peter*", we gathered around 130 people, including delegates from the provinces, members of the international team and board of directors, secretariat, nominating team, interpreters and logistics team of the Faith and Light community of Strasbourg. Some representing Faith and Light communities from all over the world.



The figure of Peter, the apostle and friend of Jesus, was the guiding thread of the meeting, in which we had time to share faith, formation and celebration. All this through prayers and liturgical celebrations, talks and workshops, evenings and music. And above all, thanks to the work of so many people who did their bit, shared their skills and gifts, so that the responsibility was shared. We also had time and space to dream, review, plan and reflect on the present and future of Faith and Light. And of course, time for discernment and the election of the members of the new board of directors, and the priorities that will mark the coming years.

But in addition to all the times that were scheduled and prepared, we have experienced other moments like sharing a meal, times to toast and dance, to listen to each other and to share life. Time to be together, to get to know each other and to strengthen our bonds. Time to enjoy a day out together in Strasbourg and time to be family. All this we did and all this we are called to do and continue to do in our communities. Because we already know that one of the essences of Faith and Light is to recognise Jesus at the centre of our community, and to share and live together everything that helps us to strengthen our bonds and to build our community. The main belonging in Faith and Light is lived in our small community, and from there, we create links with other communities, form the provinces and take care of our international family.



We have spent time on finances, on ecumenism, on revitalising the life of our communities, on retracing the history of Faith and Light to see where we are going, on challenges, on deepening our mission today in the Churches and in societies, on the mission of leadership. And what we live, let us show it to the world, without fear, with joy and hope!

In the midst of this event, on 7 July I was re-elected international coordinator for another five years. I welcomed the discernment of the assembly with an open heart and open hands. I am aware of my fragility, which I shared with the assembly, but



also that I accept this mission not because I can or know everything, but because I want to make the exercise of trusting God. I trust that he will pour out his gifts so that those of us who have said "yes" to this call may carry out our mission with joy, wisdom and a spirit of service. I ask you also to pray for this intention.

Like Peter, we are called by Jesus to follow him. And once we are on our journey, like Peter, we experience the fear or temptation of power. And like Peter, Jesus tests us to renew our trust each day even in the midst of the storms, to keep asking the question: who is Jesus for me? And to remember that our call to serve must be in the style of Jesus himself as he did in the washing of his disciples' feet (which we also celebrate there). And finally, like Peter, witnessing to the Resurrection of Jesus himself that we cannot be left to ourselves alone and receiving a mission of leadership to shepherd and march alongside others.



I encourage you to do all you can at the beginning of the year to take care of your community. The small community is the place where we of Faith and Light are called to incarnate the mission and vision of Faith and Light. Caring for our community means finding times to be together, preparing meetings, and being attentive to people. There, in our small community, we live the call of Jesus together with others to care for life, faith and to pay

special attention to our friends with intellectual disabilities.

Finally, I would like to thank all the people who gave time, work and talent into making our general assembly possible. There are so many of them! And to the people who over the years have served in positions of responsibility and are now giving way to others.

We are what we are because others before us were. And there will be others who will continue to be...

A hug to each and every one of you and may the Holy Spirit embrace every community.

Raúl Izquierdo García

International Coordinator of Faith and Light