

Letter from the International Leading Team March 2026

Cristiane & Antonio Brito, Brazil Liaison couple for the American Zone

We are Cristiane and Luiz Antonio Brito, born in Brazil, in the state of São Paulo, in the city of São José dos Campos. We have been married for 36 years and have two daughters, two sons-in-law, and two wonderful grandchildren who are a joy in our home.

We began our mission as the liaison couple for the Americas Zone on the International Responsible Team at the Turin Meeting in 2024. From the very start, we asked that you never forget to pray for this entire team, asking for the gift of discernment, strength, and perseverance throughout the duration of our mission.

Cristiane is a businesswoman and runs three cosmetics stores in our city together with our daughters, who are her partners. Brito is an engineer and divides his time between engineering work and teaching undergraduate and graduate courses at a university. We remain professionally very active.

We began our journey in Teams of Our Lady in May 1999. In 2001, we served as the team responsible couple, then as liaison couple, and later as responsible couple for a Sector and a Region, a mission we completed in 2013.

From 2014 to 2018, we were part of the Brazil Super-Region Team, where we were responsible for communications. From 2018 to 2022, we collaborated on the International Intercessors Animation Team and coordinated the Editorial Council of the Brazil Super-Region, which carried out a review of several documents, including the manuals for the liaison couple, team responsible couple, sector, and region.

As we have already shared, we have now taken on our role on the International Responsible Team as the liaison couple for the Americas Zone. Since joining the Movement, we have continually been in mission, and we see each of these calls as a gift from God. We thank Him at every moment for these opportunities.

Alongside our missions within the Movement, we have served in our parish marriage preparation program since 2002 and as ministers of the Holy Eucharist from 2005 to 2022, serving at Mass and bringing the Eucharist to the sick in their homes and in hospitals.

We would like to share in this space some of our experience regarding the importance of availability for mission in Teams of Our Lady. Mission is a reality for everyone in the Movement. If the call has not yet arrived, do not worry — it will, because every responsibility in the Movement has a beginning and an end.

There is a rotation among the couples who serve in these roles, so that everyone, at some point, will be called.

At the start of these various calls, our main question was: why were we receiving this mission and not other couples whom we considered — and still consider — to be better prepared and more capable than us? In the first calls to the missions we have already described, like good team members, we sought out our team's spiritual advisor priest, who calmed our hearts a little. He offered us a reflection based on the passage from John 15:16: "You did not choose me, but I chose you," and he challenged us: "Instead of asking why you, ask why not you." This reflection touched us deeply: "Why not us?" What would keep us from accepting this service? Then our humanity kicked in, and we made a long list of reasons not to accept the call. But after a little reflection and, above





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all, prayer and the Eucharist, our excuses fell away one by one. There was nothing that prevented us from taking on the responsibilities to which we were being called. We learned during this time that if a problem is too large for you to solve, if it exceeds your abilities, it stops being yours and becomes the responsibility of the one who is capable of solving it — and as it is written in Matthew 19:26: “With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.” Since then, we have handed our mission and our obstacles over to God. In prayer we say: “We accept the mission to which You have called us in Your Church, but please help us with what we cannot resolve.” As we said at the very beginning, we are still professionally active, and we always entrust our professional commitments to God; He takes care of our schedule. God is merciful; God abandons no one. He promised us this in Matthew 28:20: “And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

Another reflection came to us from an editorial in the Monthly Letter written in 1964 by Father Henri Caffarel: “More modestly, I want to invite each person to ask themselves: Why did I join the teams? To receive or to give?” This passage helped us with the question of “why not me?” that we had already raised. But as we went deeper, it raised another question for us: our responsibility when we take on something in the Movement — toward those who are here now, and toward those who came before us, whether or not they are still part of our lives. Today, when we think about it carefully, being a team member is relatively comfortable: it simply requires our dedication and effort. Our Movement has various levels of responsibility, a very clearly defined rule for handing on service, its own methodology for monthly meetings, formative documents that prepare us for our journey toward holiness, annual study themes, encouragement to deepen our specific points of effort, and many formation opportunities within the Church and the Movement. But what about those who came before us? Can you imagine how hard it was to build all of this? Have you considered what it meant to deal with a new way of seeing marriage within the Church — conjugal spirituality? Have you thought about how many gave up, but above all, about how many persevered? And it is precisely out of respect for those who persevered that we too must think about giving our part to the Movement, not just receiving. If it were not for the great dedication of many pioneers, the Teams of Our Lady would simply not exist today; and it is also through our dedication that others will be part of the Movement in the future. Or does someone think about letting the Movement end or grow weak in their country because they are unwilling to serve, unwilling to take on a mission as a Pilot Couple, Sector or Region Responsible Couple, or any of the other many opportunities the Movement offers us?

Mission also involves prayer and discerning what God wants from us. Accepting a mission does not mean stopping being a team member; it does not release us from retreats, prayer, meditation, reading the Word, and especially the Eucharist — on the contrary, it commits us even more deeply.

The specific points of effort are a powerful tool we have received from our Movement to discern God’s will. Let us remember that it was not we who chose the mission we have taken on, but that God chose us for this mission; that God enables our participation in this mission, that God supports us in our fears and insecurities — and He does all of this so that His will may be done, not ours. And to know God’s will, only through prayer, meditation, and the Eucharist will we be able to surrender to the action of the Holy Spirit so that the mission may bear fruit.

We can also recall another word from Father Henri Caffarel, who was already inspiring Teams of Our Lady in 1959 with his characteristic radicalism: “With even more conviction than on the day when I was writing this for the first time, I believe that Teams of Our Lady should not be a refuge for adults, but rather guerrilla corps made up exclusively of volunteers, whose members earnestly seek to deepen their Christianity in order to live it without compromising it in the family, in the workplace, and in the world.” Two words we ask you to reflect on, in a mature way, perhaps while taking a moment to sit down: refuge for adults and volunteers. Think about these two options: which one is more pleasing to God? And at the close of this reflection, we are sharing with you, we leave you with a conviction we have built during this time in mission: “The yes may be hard, but the no is impossible.”

A big embrace to all of you — count on our prayers. Stay with God.

Cristiane and Brito, Liaison Couple for the Americas Zone, International Responsible Team (ERI)