

How to support communities in their end of life

1) Introduction

Faith and Light has existed since 1971 and in certain provinces there are still communities who participated in the first pilgrimage.

Some have lived renewals, others still live with members of the beginning and the dynamism of the origins has given way to fatigue and lack of energy.

There are good initiatives to keep in contact with these communities and this note is a proposal to take the best from the past experiences and to share it with all the communities.

2) What are the signs?

2.1 The community can't participate anymore in the province's activities (assemblies, training, pilgrimages, meetings...)

2.2 The community still expresses the desire to keep in contact with the province (mail, guidelines, subscription...)

2.3 The community doesn't give any more signs of life, because its members have dispersed, but links still remain with some former members.

3) Suggestions for accompaniment

3.1 As between two community meetings, we live the "4th time", we could say that these communities enter their "4th time", the time of fidelity.

3.2 This passage has to be made in a most solemn possible way: visit from the provincial coordinator (with the vice coordinator who accompanies the community and the provincial chaplain), ceremony in the parish...

3.3 We will list these communities in a specific way in the directory (a third star?)

3.4 These communities will be asked to keep the concern of Faith and Light's life, by praying particularly for the birth of new communities and the continuous growth of Faith and Light.

3.5 The community will go on receiving the mail sent to the communities, the newsletter, so that the community can know and pray for what happens in Faith and Light around the world.

4) Other cases

When a community doesn't answer any more to the mail or shows the desire not to keep in contact, this choice will be respected and the community will be withdrawn from the directory.