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A Fraternity on the Path to Recognition, the Fruit of History

The experience of the District of France

When I met Colette, I was very impressed, especially by her liveliness and her enthusiasm, but also by a kind of temperance or reserve. She was contagious and, at the same time, she seemed not to want to invade. **Proposing, not imposing**.

I had gone to Paris to talk to her about the Fraternities. Our District, at that time, was once again looking **for ways to revitalise the processes of Association for the educational service of the poor between Lay Partners and Brothers** and we thought we could see in this model a mirror and a guide.

Years later, **Colette provides us with this systematic and meticulous reflection on the historical development of forms of Association for the mission in France**. It is not an object of study that she looks at externally or dispassionately. Her life and this process are interwoven in a fruitful dialogue.

She helps us to offer keys for reading the context and guides us along the path from the 1970s to the present day. It has not been a linear route. **It represents a serious and committed search, trying, erring and getting it right.**

We hope that the reading of this Bulletin will awaken creativity, enliven searches, open questions and remedy mistrust. That is our prayer for each of you, kind readers.

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