

**I would like to begin by giving my cordial greetings to one and all. I am very happy to be here with you today to present our... "Education Workshops"**

**I am French, and with my husband, we have eight children WHO ARE aged 12 through 27. We live in the village near Rennes in the west of France.**

We discovered the "Education Workshops" when they were first created in 1991. They have been very helpful for us in the everyday task of raising our children. This is, *of course*, the reason for which we are *happy* and... honored to present them to you today.

The official definition of "education workshop" as written in the Vademecum is:

"A place of meeting and exchange for mothers who join together in a *workshop* to review and enrich their daily experiences concerning the human and Christian education of their children, and who... *furthermore seek* to restore... the value of the... *respective educational tasks* of the mother... and the father."

*Is there anyone among us today...* who does not wish to do *everything possible* for the happiness of their child?

This is *indeed* the issue that our teams of mothers discuss and treat, in close cooperation with the fathers, within our... "education workshops".

If I may, *Ladies and Gentlemen*, I would like to explain in a just few words...

- ◆ An "education workshop" is the sharing of ...*daily educative experience*, as well as a reflection on ...*the mission of each parent*.
- ◆ Practically speaking, about a dozen mothers, each having one or several children between the ages of 0 and 20, meet together for two hours per month and discuss a theme which...*they have chosen together*.
- ◆ In each group there is a leader and a moderator who prepare a questionnaire. The participants prepare the questionnaire at home, and... *with their husbands whenever possible*, ....**before** coming to the meeting.
- ◆ During the meeting, the aim is to begin with *the experiences of the members of the team*.
- ◆ A workshop is **not** a place for listening to conferences, but,... instead ...
  - a place for *advancing together*,
  - a place *of exchange* based on education, and *e s p e c i a l l y*...
  - a place for *mutual encouragement*.

## The Goals of the “Education Workshop”

- ◆ **Sharing**... Yes... sharing our experiences,... the simplicity of our everyday lives. This dimension of personal witness, ... *with deep mutual respect*,... is primordial.
  
  - ◆ **Restoring self- value**... Yes, so that parents rediscover their personal worth in order to then *develop their educative talents*. By listening to one another, each parent can
    - *relativise his or her own awkwardness*,...
    - **all the while becoming** *aware of his own talents*.
  
  - ◆ **Richening**... the mutual reflection, by considering a global point of view This makes it possible...
    - ◆ *to rediscover the educative fundamentals related to each theme, and...*
    - ◆ *to integrate them into family life*.
- The association between... each theme and the corresponding “*common sense*” educational fundamentals... is underlined by the group leader.
- ◆ **Giving sense**: through reflection,
    - seeking the deep meaning and reason for education
    - seeking the needs of each child
    - allowing each parent to choose his or her educative values

*What am I aiming for? What do I wish for concerning my children?  
What goal do I wish to achieve through education? What am I reaching for?*

### ***In conclusion, Ladies and Gentlemen,***

Each person that commits herself to an “education workshop” accepts the Charta. That is ...

- ◆ To accept the Christian outlook on education with *a positive attitude*
- ◆ To accept the educative experiences of the participants without judgement
- ◆ To preserve the confidentiality of the exchanges
- ◆ To participate, as much as possible, in meetings throughout the year
- ◆ To accept an eventual division in two of the group
- ◆ To materialize one’s participation and commitment by a financial contribution which will allow for the partial coverage of the workshop’s expenditure