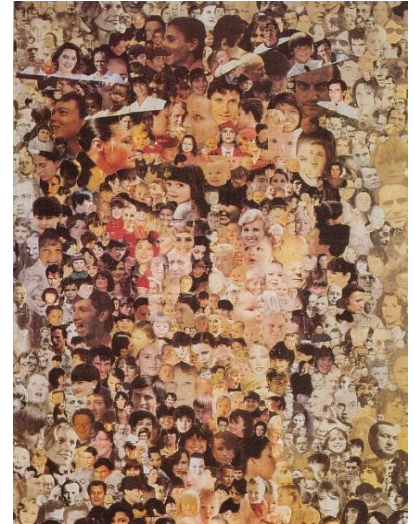


### 1- A word from the French Council:

During this period of preparation for the Congress, it is dear to our hearts to start now meeting each other and praying for each other to prepare ourselves for this important meeting.

To start this dynamic, on top of this prayer, we put the photos of the “ French delegates”, their names and their mission in Fondacio on a drive (click on the following link) and we invite you to do the same for each of the country’s delegations. This would allow us to start, right now, the international Congress adventure **together** and become the body of Christ, as the following image shows.



### 2-Text in English, French, Spanish

#### Book of the Acts of the apostles 2 :1-12

- 1 When the time for Pentecost was fulfilled, they were all in one place together.
- 2 And suddenly there came from the sky a noise like a strong driving wind, and it filled the entire house in which they were.
- 3 Then there appeared to them tongues as of fire, which parted and came to rest on each one of them.
- 4 And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in different tongues, as the Spirit enabled them to proclaim.
- 5 Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven staying in Jerusalem.
- 6 At this sound, they gathered in a large crowd, but they were confused because each one heard them speaking in his own language.
- 7 They were astounded, and in amazement they asked, "Are not all these people who are speaking Galileans?
- 8 Then how does each of us hear them in his native language?
- 9 We are Parthians, Medes, and Elamites, inhabitants of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia,
- 10 Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the districts of Libya near Cyrene, as well as travelers from Rome,
- 11 Both Jews and converts to Judaism, Cretans and Arabs, yet we hear them speaking in our own tongues of the mighty acts of God."
- 12 And they were all surprised and in doubt saying to one another, What is the reason of this ?

#### Livre des actes des apôtres 2 :1-12

- 1 Quand arriva le jour de la Pentecôte, au terme des cinquante jours, ils se trouvaient réunis tous ensemble.
- 2 Soudain un bruit survint du ciel comme un violent coup de vent : la maison où ils étaient assis en fut remplie tout entière.
- 3 Alors leur apparurent des langues qu'on aurait dites de feu, qui se partageaient, et il s'en posa une sur chacun d'eux.
- 4 Tous furent remplis d'Esprit Saint : ils se mirent à parler en d'autres langues, et chacun s'exprimait selon le don de l'Esprit.
- 5 Or, il y avait, résidant à Jérusalem, des Juifs religieux, venant de toutes les nations sous le ciel.

6 Lorsque ceux-ci entendirent la voix qui retentissait, ils se rassemblèrent en foule. Ils étaient en pleine confusion parce que chacun d'eux entendait dans son propre dialecte ceux qui parlaient.

7 Dans la stupéfaction et l'émerveillement, ils disaient : « Ces gens qui parlent ne sont-ils pas tous Galiléens ?

8 Comment se fait-il que chacun de nous les entende dans son propre dialecte, sa langue maternelle ?

9 Parthes, Mèdes et Élamites, habitants de la Mésopotamie, de la Judée et de la Cappadoce, de la province du Pont et de celle d'Asie,

10 de la Phrygie et de la Pamphylie, de l'Égypte et des contrées de Libye proches de Cyrène, Romains de passage,

11 Juifs de naissance et convertis, Crétois et Arabes, tous nous les entendons parler dans nos langues des merveilles de Dieu. »

12 Ils étaient tous dans la stupéfaction et la perplexité, se disant l'un à l'autre : « Qu'est-ce que cela signifie ? »

### **Libro de los Hechos de los APóstoles 2 :1-12**

1 Cuando llegó el día de Pentecostés, estaban todos juntos en un mismo lugar.

2 De repente vino del cielo un ruido como el de una ráfaga de viento impetuoso que llenó toda la casa donde estaban sentados,

3 y se les aparecieron lenguas como de fuego que, repartiéndose, se posaron sobre cada uno de ellos.

4 Todos fueron llenos del Espíritu Santo y comenzaron a hablar en otras lenguas, según el Espíritu les daba habilidad para expresarse.

5 Y había judíos que moraban en Jerusalén, hombres piadosos, procedentes de todas las naciones bajo el cielo.

6 Y al ocurrir este estruendo, la multitud se juntó; y estaban desconcertados porque cada uno les oía hablar en su propia lengua.

7 Y estaban asombrados y se maravillaban, diciendo: Mirad, ¿no son galileos todos estos que están hablando?

8 ¿Cómo es que cada uno de nosotros les oímos hablar en nuestra lengua en la que hemos nacido?

9 Partos, medos y elamitas, habitantes de Mesopotamia, de Judea y de Capadocia, del Ponto y de Asia,

10 de Frigia y de Panfilia, de Egipto y de las regiones de Libia alrededor de Cirene, viajeros de Roma, tanto judíos como prosélitos,

11 Cretenses y árabes, les oímos hablar en nuestros idiomas de las maravillas de Dios.

### **3- Our experience in the French Council :**

On the 25th of October, during our first French Council, we had a time of prayer in English with some songs (« Oh Happy Day », « this is the air I Breathe », « Bless the Lord my Soul ») followed by a meditation on this text from the Acts of the Apostles, that opened us in a new way to our Lord and to communion with our brothers. That is what we would like to share here with you.

First, singing and praying in English brought us to a shift from our own personal language and existence to the immediate awareness of belonging to a wider people.

Besides, the difficulty for some of us to speak, stripping us from our "words", leaving more space to our inner life to welcome the active presence of the Holy Spirit as well as each of our brothers and sisters, humble and small.

This text was given to us as a founding moment for the Church and for our Christian community as part of the charismatic renewal. It particularly moved us with the image of the Holy Spirit coming down on each of the apostles and it invited us to open to the international dimension. So it proposes us to prepare for the Congress and welcome the spirit of communion that brings each of us into "the same house" with our uniqueness and our differences. Through this passage, we received 2 invitations : stay open to hear and receive the Holy Spirit and concretely start working on English, Spanish or French to be more open to meeting others beyond the languages that separate us as God speaks to each of us in our own languages and hearts, revealing parts of what he wants to tell and show us.

This moment also brought us to be more linked to you all by reading the text in John 15 proposed by the October prayer from Colombia as well as the prayer for the Congress.

The French Council (from left to right in the picture ):

Marianne, Benoît, Martine, Blandine, Marie-Reine, François

