

Blessing Preparation Course

Les Ulis, France, 21. March 2015



By Franz-Pol Ladouce

Julia and I had this project since the beginning of this year. We wanted to create a Blessing preparation course for our youngest Second Generations in France.

The reality is that we are not prepared enough for the Blessing. Apart from **the 2 day Blessing WS's held times to** times in Europe, the second generations in our movement do not receive clear and practical guidance in order to prepare for what is the most important day in their life. Moreover, most of the second generations, at least in France and from what we have heard and seen, go through adolescence with many doubts and some anxiety. Of course, adolescence is an exciting yet fearful time and second generations have to overcome their own challenges. However, we believe that it is possible to prepare in a more serene atmosphere for the big day. Ideally, second generations should get brighter and brighter from year to year and this is not always the case.

So we wanted to create a preparation course for those interested. The plan is to create a course with 12 lessons, one lesson per month. A lesson is 3 hours long and includes a lecture, a testimony and group discussions. Between the group discussions and the lecture, we share the diner together so

that we can create a family atmosphere.

We had our first session on March 21st 2015, in Les Ulis. The theme was **"Purity" and David Perry came with his wife Sylvie to give us the lecture.**

In total, 19 people came, including 10 staff members (second generations already blessed). So we had 9 participants (6 brothers, 3 sisters), from 17 to 24 years old.

We started off with a short introduction given by Franz-Pol Ladouce summarizing the purpose of this course.

Guillaume Marion then gave a testimony explaining how this Blessing preparation course would have been helpful for him when he was younger.

We moved on to the group discussions (40 minutes). Brothers and sisters were separated this time and we just shared on what was purity, not only sexual purity, but all the aspects of what would be a pure lifestyle.

After a delicious diner prepared by the staff, David gave his lecture.

He spoke of the importance of having a global vision of our spiritual life. Our goal is to go through the three stages of growth to restore our relationship with **God. In God's original plan spiritual maturity should be accomplished before receiving the Blessing but**

because of the fall we receive the Blessing before achieving spiritual maturity.

So David focused on progressing in the three stages before being matched and Blessed. This lecture focused only on the formation stage, which he sees as a stage of purification, of self reflection and of self discovery. We need to see ourselves as we are before we can begin to move forward spiritually.

Internally we need focus on applying virtues such as temperance, mildness, generosity, happiness, humility, chastity, diligence and wisdom to overcome the fallen character inherited through the fall. Externally an effort must be made to overcome selfishness and to begin living for others. Everyone was encouraged to make an effort in their family to serve and show more concern for others.

He also stressed basic spiritual discipline of prayer, hoon dok hae and communicating with an Abel figure, who should be their parents. The relationship with the parents will be important in the matching process so **it's better to reinforce that relationship** as soon as possible.

The next evening in this Blessing Preparation Course will take place on Saturday April 18th.

