

The beginnings of Faith and Sharing in Rouyn-Noranda



By Carmel Thériault

I had just experienced a relationship separation. In the summer, while my two young children were with their father, I went to retreats in Val Morin, animated by Jean Vanier, and others. It made me feel good.

From 1977, I travelled from Rouyn to Montreal for Faith and Sharing meetings. It was with Mary Munroe, Sister Yolande Brodeur, Father Jean-Marie Côté, Pierre Desroches. It did not bother me to drive 7 or 8 hours for that.

Jean Vanier came for a retreat in Rouyn in 1982. Then, with Fernand Larouche, who was a priest then, we organized prayer meetings in Rouyn. In the parish, I introduced Faith and Sharing, a meeting on the first Monday of the month. Also, there were family retreats in the summer at Camp Fatima, which belonged to the diocese, for 25 years. The lectures were recorded by Hugues Turcotte. There were participants of all ages.

At the parish of Granada where I work, with Sr. Rose Robert, we met to pray one Saturday a month. As well at this time, I was bringing people from my area to Jean Vanier's retreats in Montreal, Sherbrooke, Trois-Rivières, Quebec, Aylmer... From time to time, we would visit the Timmins group, whose coordinator was Brother Antonio Robineault.

As I reflect, I notice that Faith and Sharing, and the language of Jean Vanier, is what Pope Francis says today. We share what the Word of God tells us. As much as I can, I do it in our parish. I try to include the Word of God and prayer in committee meetings; the Lord then takes care of us. We are lights in today's church: the Word is for everyone. 💜



Brother Antonio Robineault