



## **50th Anniversary Neocatechumenal Way:**

The Pope receives the responsible team

Press release of the Neocatechumenal Way

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Pope Francis received this morning, April 19, 2018, the international team responsible for the Neocatechumenal Way in the Apostolic Palace of the Vatican. The main objective of the meeting - informs the ecclesial movement - was "to speak of the 50th anniversary of the Way that will be commemorated with a great meeting presided by the Pope in Tor Vergata on May 5".

During the meeting, the Pontiff gave thanks for the good that the Way is doing to the Church and showed his joy at knowing that he will send 36 new *missio ad gentes* to the whole world, in addition to 20 communities on mission that will go to the peripheries of Rome. Among other topics, they spoke about evangelization and the missionary work that the Way is carrying out. Kiko presented the Holy Father to María Ascensión Romero, who, at the request of the Holy See, and as established by the statutes, completes the team in the absence of Carmen Hernández, who died on July 19, 2016.

Encounter in Tor Vergata Next Saturday, May 5, the Neocatechumenal Way will celebrate a great international meeting in Rome on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of its arrival in Rome, after its beginnings in Madrid at the end of the 60s. The meeting will begin at 11 am and will be chaired by Pope Francis, who showed his enthusiasm by receiving the proposal a few months ago from the initiator and international head of the Way, Kiko Argüello. The place chosen is Tor Vergata, a university area located on the outskirts of Rome, in homage to Saint John Paul II, who throughout his 26 years of pontificate welcomed and supported the Way. In Tor Vergata, located on the outskirts of Rome, the unforgettable World Youth Day (WYD) was celebrated in 2000.

Some 150 thousand people from around the world and from 5 continents will participate, and the 135 nations in which the Way is implanted will be represented, as well as cardinals, bishops and other personalities. The meeting will also be a reason for thanksgiving for the love and fidelity of God in these years, Pope Francis will send 36 new *missio ad gentes* that, at the request of many other bishops, will evangelize in secularized areas or with little presence of the Church, in cities around the world.

Francisco will also send 20 communities from the parishes of Rome - which have completed this Christian initiation - to others in the periphery of the city whose parish priests have requested their help to call those who are far from the faith. The meeting, which will conclude with the singing of *Te Deum* as thanksgiving for these 50 years, will be led by the international team of the Neocatechumenal Way, Kiko Argüello, Fr. Mario Pezzi and Ascensión Romero, who recently joined the team.

Carmen Hernández, co-initiator of the Neocatechumenal Way with Kiko, who died on July 19, 2016, will be remembered in a very special way.