

25<sup>th</sup> of July, 2019

Dear friends,

Last month, we wrote to you to announce that L'Arche International has commissioned an external organization to conduct a thorough and independent inquiry to allow us to better understand our history, refine our work to prevent abuse and improve our own current policies and practices. As we did in June, we want to reiterate that the priority of this inquiry is to ensure its objectivity, transparency and confidentiality.

We would like to share with you the system we have put in place, which involves a two-pronged approach with an external, independent body and an independent oversight committee.

We have entrusted our external inquiry to an independent UK-based organization, GCPS Consulting, whose mission is to help institutions improve their systems for preventing and reporting abuse. They have been given access to important documents and information relating to our history and are also speaking to a number of people who are providing evidence contributing to the investigation.

To ensure the integrity, quality and legitimacy of the process, L'Arche International has also established an Independent Oversight Committee composed of two former senior French civil servants unrelated to L'Arche, who will evaluate the process quality and review the outcomes.

We were also informed that our requests for access to the archives of the Dominican Order to which Father Thomas Philippe belonged have been accepted. Although the relevant documents in this archive predate the founding of L'Arche, we expect they will provide us with further information surrounding the actions of Father Philippe, as well as the context and reasons behind his canonical trial in 1954. As we continue to look at the history of our own organization, this information may be valuable to our work.

We initially indicated that we would have more to share on inquiry findings during the month of September. GCPS has informed us that to conduct interviews, analyze the data collected and produce a report, one to two months of additional work are needed to produce the findings in full. We do not wish to rush this process or compromise the inquiry's results and will ensure that the organization has the time and resources that such a serious matter deserves. We will continue to keep you updated on timing as well as other information we are able to share.

Finally, we want to provide you with a confidential e-mail address, [larcheinquiry@gcps.consulting](mailto:larcheinquiry@gcps.consulting), for those who wish to contact the inquiry team directly or share information with them independently from L'Arche. Messages sent to this address will only be

available to GCPS and you will receive a response from them – they can work in English, French and Spanish. Your details will not be shared with L’Arche unless you give permission.

You can of course also contact one of us directly at [stacy.cates-carney@larche.org](mailto:stacy.cates-carney@larche.org) or [stephan.posner@larche.org](mailto:stephan.posner@larche.org). We would encourage you to share any information you think is relevant for the inquiry to consider regarding the case of Father Thomas Philippe or other abusive behavior you may be aware of in relation to others in L’Arche, past or present.

To all of you around the world, whether you are in the height of summer or the deepest months of winter, we would like to reiterate our affection and our privilege to serve the Federation.

In union with each of you,



Stephan Posner



Stacy Cates-Carney