



Inquiry and historical timeline

Some key elements from the chronological timeline

- 1946 : Father Thomas Philippe founded L'Eau vive, an international formation centre in Soisy-sur-Seine.
- 1950: Jean Vanier arrived in L'Eau Vive following his departure from the Royal Navy and Father Thomas Philippe became his spiritual father.
- April 1952: following testimonies and accusations from women against Father Thomas Philippe, the Master General of the Dominicans removed him from L'Eau Vive. The Holy Office conducted an inquiry. Father Thomas Philippe appointed Jean Vanier to replace him as director of L'Eau Vive.
- May 1956 : The Holy Office convicted Father Thomas Philippe and sentenced him to dismissal from the clerical state: he was forbidden to teach, to exercise his ministry and to administer sacraments. The Holy Office also decided to close L'Eau Vive and to disperse its members who were permanently forbidden to regroup in another setting.
- 1963: Father Thomas Philippe was given permission to relocate to France. He went to Trosly and became the chaplain of The Val Fleury, an institution for people with intellectual disabilities.
- 1964: Jean went to live in Trosly and founded l'Arche.
- 1993 : Father Thomas Philippe died.
- May 2019 : Jean Vanier died.

Timeline of the inquiries

- June 2014 : L'Arche International and the Catholic Church received testimonies from two women accusing Father Thomas Philippe of serious sexual misconduct during spiritual direction in the 70's and 80's.
- December 2014 – March 2015: a canonical inquiry was conducted at the request of the Leaders of L'Arche International and under the supervision of Bishop d'Ornellas, the accompanying bishop for L'Arche International.
- March 2015 : L'Arche International received the conclusions of the canonical inquiry, which were subsequently communicated in a letter (available on the [website of L'Arche International](#))
- May 2015 : Jean Vanier sent out a letter following the results of the canonical inquiry (available on the [website of L'Arche International](#))
- May 2016: L'Arche leaders received a testimony from a woman, a former member of L'Arche, calling into question Jean Vanier's behaviour towards her after L'Arche was founded.
- May 2016 – October 2016: external experts scrutinized the testimony. The International Leadership Team and the President of the Stewardship Board were informed of the contents of the file. Jean Vanier acknowledged the relationship, which he had believed to be 'reciprocal'. He initiated a request for forgiveness with regard to this woman. The latter was kept up to date of the steps taken by L'Arche subsequent to her testimony.
- October 2016: Jean Vanier wrote a second letter to reiterate his condemnation of Father Thomas Philippe's conduct (available on the [website of L'Arche International](#))
- March 2019: the leaders of L'Arche International were informed of a new testimony from a woman with accusations against Jean Vanier.
- 8th April 2019: the decision was taken to assign the inquiry to an independent body.
- May 2019 : Jean Vanier died.
- June 2019: the inquiry is assigned to GCPS, a U.K based organization whose mission it is to help institutions to improve their system for preventing and reporting abuse.

- May - June 2019: L'Arche International had access to Jean Vanier's archives, and also archives relating to Father Thomas Philippe from the Province of France for the Dominicans in Paris.
- July 2019: Antoine Mourges, historian, was instructed by L'Arche International to write an historical note with a view to broadening the work of GCPS.
- February 2020: the results of the inquiry came in and were followed by a public communication on behalf of L'Arche International.