

# Faith and Light International 1971-2011

## Press Release

### January 2011

**The person with an intellectual disability at the heart of a great 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations 1971-2011.**

**More than forty pilgrimages across the world in “Messengers of Joy”**



- **The greatest tragedy is not the disability, it is the rejection**

The Faith and Light communities were founded in 1971 by Jean Vanier and Marie-Hélène Mathieu. Many parents, and among them young couples in big difficulties found a real support. The persons with an intellectual disability themselves, in united and peaceful surroundings, revealed all their human and spiritual abilities. Spending time with them, friends, especially the young ones, discovered a new meaning to their lives.

- **Faith and Light has grown a lot since 1971**

79 countries, 1648 communities that carry the good news throughout the world about the joy that exists in the communities.

- **What is going to happen?**

More than 40 pilgrimages are going to take place from February 2011 to November 2012 on five continents. These pilgrimages are going to change minds. They confirm that a civilisation is judged on the place that it gives “to the smallest”. Their presence in the heart of society and Christian communities is a call to love, unity,

## Identity

- **Creation:** 1971
- **Founders**  
Jean Vanier  
And Marie-Hélène Mathieu
- **Mission**  
Create meeting communities that, every month, bring together disabled people, their families and their friends especially young ones. A time of intense friendship, prayer, sharing and celebration
- **Activities**  
Monthly meetings, pilgrimages, holiday camps, retreats and formation...

## Figures

**1648 communities**  
**79 countries**  
**50 provinces**

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**To take part in a pilgrimage  
Join a Faith and Light community  
close to you**

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