We dedicate this work to our fathers: Nilson Luiz Schlemmer and João Frederico Backes.

Nilson Luiz Schlemmer has dedicated his life to education and cooperation. His way of living and sharing and of being in the world have deeply marked him. My father frequently stated, “I am what I am, but I am not always the same,” evidencing the importance of having values that steer our lives. At the same time, he reminds us of the timeless time, of the flow of space in which we move on and, therefore, as beings of moving relations, we are constantly in the learning and changing process. He would also say, “the one who cooperates, grows,” evidencing that we are stronger and better when we share, recognize the other as legitimate in the interaction, and when we build together.

João Frederico Backes, Geography Teacher, has helped me to understand space as a relational reality, in other words, that everything is related through interaction among men, women, nature, culture, history, society, and work. He saw no difference between the men and women he lived with. He was a man of all times and spaces, my forever inspiration. He was the one who introduced me to Milton Santos. He has always believed in a more human and fair world. Mateus da Rosa, his student at Presidente Castelo Branco State School – in Lajeado, RS, Brazil, had posted on Facebook, “You have thought us not only Geography, but made us know the world....” Carlos Augusto Portela, his student, in the same space had also registered, “Reaching the stars is not easy, but if I ask you, you will teach me the best way!” He was a teacher who had turned his life into a big classroom to all of us. So, having lived with a teacher allows me, today, to identify the complex movements we live in the contemporaneity, called sociality, by Maffesoli (1998).

This way, the fact of having lived values like that, in the complex dynamic of our space of daily living makes us understand, with Nilson Luiz Schlemmer and João Frederico Backes that it is possible to build a society lined by mutual respect, internal solidarity, and cooperation capable of providing everyone’s development, and therefore, leading to a more sustainable and supportive growth.

Both are great poets, who recreate life through us and everyone who they live and share with (wives, children, sons-in-law, daughters-in-law, grandchildren, students, work colleagues, friends, neighbors).

But beyond that...

Nilson Luiz Schlemmer and João Frederico Backes, beloved and loving fathers, are among us, lively as ever. People, like them, will never die, they simply change plans, dimension. Their presence is so strong, remarkable, and good that even when physically distant, we are able to feel.

We understand that we are a little or a lot from them: gens, blood, values, principles, and character. This way, their lives live within us and through us, making us think that:

We will always be together!