



**Noélia & Jorge Sousa**  
Super Regional Couple



**Teams of Our Lady**  
Equipas de Nossa Senhora  
Equipos de Nuestra Señora

**MAGNIFICAT - Summer 2019**  
A Newsletter for *Teams of Our Lady* Members

Dear Team Family,

The Teams of Our Lady put on a great National Conference at Navasota, TX, from July 16 -19, that was truly informative and inspiring with much time to learn, meet new people, socialize, and relax. The presentations by Bishop Strickland of Tyler, TX, Elizabeth and David Costa, Msgr. Chester Gorski, Richard Gaillardetz were informative and challenging. The personal testimonies by Team couples who have overcome personal or team challenges were truly inspiring and again showed to all of us the importance and benefit of Teams on our daily lives and of the Teams Movement in the world.

We witnessed great liturgies by Cardinal DiNardo of the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston, Bishop Strickland, Fr. Adam McClosky and Fr. Manuel Sousa, the US-SR Spiritual Counselor. The entertainment by the Christian/Catholic singer David Kauffman, The Texas A&M Aggie Wranglers Western line dancing and the singing of Teams' member John Klocke while all of us danced the night away...

We want to thank Ellen and TJ Holt and their team for hosting and putting on a great National Conference!

In all the celebrations we had a sense of sadness, grief and disappointment. Out of 4500 couples in the US Super Region, we had less than 100 couples participate. What a loss!! One is reminded of the great feast as described on Luke 14:16 and following where "A (Movement) gave a great dinner to which many were invited..."

Hoping to increase the number of participants, the next National Conference will be held not only during a weekend but also during the summer. The next National Conference will be held in Turlock, California on July 8-10, 2022. We hope to see you all there!

Let us come together to celebrate, rejoice, share and support each other as a Teams family!! God bless!

*Noélia and Jorge Sousa, USA SR Responsible Couple*

### ***The Teams of Our Lady beginnings in the U.S.A.***

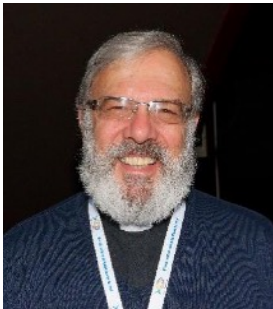
*Editor's Note:* In 1976 Andy Favret wrote a series of three articles for the national newsletter on the early history of Teams in the United States. Part I, called "*Beginnings*," covers the period from 1958-1960; Part II describes "*Early Growth*" during 1961-1963; and Part III, during the years of 1964-65, portrays the role of "*American Leadership*" in the Teams of Our Lady. This newsletter contains the first of the series. Parts II and III will be covered in the Fall issue and Winter issues of the Magnificat, with a final story to be included in the Magnificat in 2020, written in 2006 of François & Annie Vilarem.

If by chance you have any photos from those early formation years of Teams in the USA, we ask that you submit them to us @ [magnificat@teamsofourlady.org](mailto:magnificat@teamsofourlady.org). Please do collect and document the history of Teams in your areas. Thanks so much!

With love & blessings, *Paul & Monique Harris*, Magnificat Newsletter Couple



**An Experience of Collegiality & Fraternity**  
**TEAMS Leadership Gathers in Lebanon**



My very dear Team members,

Sharing with the brothers in the Movement is always an enriching experience, no matter where, because, although it is true that we are united by the same spirituality, mystique, and pedagogy, nevertheless, the particularities of each culture, country or region, generate immense wealth that adds up to a common focus shared by all Team members. The ERI was lucky enough to experience this collegiality and fraternity at their most recent meeting in April in Lebanon. On top of it being an ordinary working meeting, we were able to meet local couples and other couples from the sectors in the Middle East (Lebanon, Syria, Jordan and the Emirates).

Their warm hospitality, concern for every detail, their welcome and human warmth, overflowed and filled us. The spiritual wealth of believers who have suffered and continue to suffer because of human ambition is transformed into a continuous incentive not to forego the efforts undertaken to journey towards holiness. Knowing what has been endured and what is being experienced in these regions generates commitments that become greater every day.

Thinking about the absurd human behavior of the few, but which affects so many, is an internal engine for the constant and profound revision of one's own behavior. Noting the ravages of war, violence and injustice, the forced displacements and the greed to seize places and things, enables us to examine our own lives and ask ourselves about what is truly essential and fundamental. How many times do our concerns emanate from excessively earthly issues and interests?!

The observation of the history of faith, beliefs, cults and rituals, of the commitment to Jesus' project, of the sufferings and pains of so many brothers, could be transformed into an effective stimulus to give meaning to what we experience and live. Approaching the reality of the human soul with its shadows and mistakes can lead us to search for the clarity of the project that God wants to accomplish in us.

In expressing my sincere gratitude to those who offered their affection, homes, warm hospitality, their history and the significant gifts with great generosity, I would like to invite all Team members to never lose sight of those in the world who suffer and endure because of the overflow of negative human passions that make us forget that we are brothers, that we live in the common home and that, in the end, we will take nothing with us. Blessings to you all,

*Ricardo Londoño Domínguez, Spiritual Counsellor*

## **Are Teams Exclusively for Middle Class?**

Someone recently stated, rather strongly charged, that Teams of Our Lady was only for the middle class. We would venture to say that the statement is true for most Super Regions, especially if one includes in this, the working or “blue collar” class. The statements may not be true for Teams starting or growing in Africa or the East European countries where the International Teams (ERI), with the financial help of all Super Regions, including the US Super Region, are financing the initiation and growth of Teams. The largest portion of the USA Super Region budget is paid in a tithe to the ERI, in part to support the formation and support of the Teams of Our Lady in developing countries.

Someone then mentioned that there do not seem to be many African-Americans in Teams. This stands to reason, since only 5% of African-Americans are Catholic, and that their presence in Teams would be limited. If we look at the Hispanic population with its large Catholic percentage, one would expect large numbers of Hispanic Teams in the US Super Region but that is not the case. There are more Portuguese-language Teams in the US than Spanish-language Teams.

In response to, or clarification to the two statements above, (not in defense of Teams), one would have to say:

1. The Movement does not turn away or refuse Teams participation to anyone on the basis of economic class, color or ethnic group. All are welcome!! The only limitation is that one of the spouses be Catholic and that they have a sacramental marriage.
2. All economic classes need spiritual formation and evangelization including the middle and working class.
3. Most of the Movements in the USA are middle or working class: Marriage Encounter, Knights of Columbus, Life Teen, National Evangelization Teams (NET), and our parishes. It does not mean that they do not have a significant impact in the life of the Church at all levels, as well as in their communities. We frequently hear that, where Teams are present, the couples are very involved in their parishes and communities.
4. Teams provides materials, books, information, piloting material, etc. at no cost and with no questions asked in terms of economic or ethnic class.
5. We are the face, hands, feet, and mouth of Teams. If there are no more poor or African-American or Hispanics in Teams it is because we, all of us, are not doing an adequate job of proclaiming the gift of Teams, whether by personal contacts, pulpit talks, Information Meeting, piloting, etc.
6. Be the change that you want to see and that Teams needs. See a need, fill it! Work with your local leadership and become the leadership that Teams needs.
7. Recent Popes have asked Teams to take our Charism, our gift of married spirituality to other couples. To “the peripheries” as asked by Pope Francis.
8. Teams has called us to go on ‘mission” and make a difference in the world. Read The Couple of the Teams of Our Lady on Mission (2005) and Vocation and Mission at the Dawn of the Third Millennium (2018). (The publications may be ordered from the Teams office at [materials@teamsofourlady.org](mailto:materials@teamsofourlady.org).)

We appreciate the question and the challenge of “Is Teams just for the middle class?” Of Course Not!! The response from us, and also from you, should always be “How can we help?” Let’s go out and take the message of Teams, that of conjugal spirituality, to all the USA. Let’s be the change we want to see in Teams. God bless!!

*Noélia and Jorge Sousa, USA SR Responsible Couple*

## THE SHAKY BEGINNINGS of TEAMS USA - a Search for Fraternity

It's not possible to pick a place and a date and say "That's where it all began." Nevertheless, during 1958, three separate seeds began to germinate at widely different locations in the United States. Each of these initiatives would lead to the establishment of a new Team—and additional Teams would eventually form in each area: Los Angeles, California; Washington, DC; and Boston, Massachusetts.

It would seem that the first stirrings occurred in California. Here the key couple was François and Annie Vilarem. They had been members of a Team in France and were then living in Los Angeles for several years. They were appalled at the divorce statistics in Los Angeles County and in December 1957, they wrote the Sipsoms in Paris asking about the possibility of starting a Team in California. The Sipsoms encouraged them but explained that none of the basic material—Charter, themes, monthly letters for New Teams—had been translated into English. In fact, they had been trying for two years to get someone in London to translate the Charter. (The early translations had a very British flavor.)

Finally in about May of 1958, there was a meeting at the Vilarems of "five 100% American couples and our chaplain Father Quinn." They agreed to meet several more times to study the Charter. It was a great joy for the Vilarems and also for the Sipsoms back in Paris.

The Vilarems went back to Europe for the summer and after those first couple of meetings, the group did not meet again until December 1958. Some of these first couples were the Smurdas (John and Genevieve), McDonnells, Tom and Maria Teresa Laughlin, and Joe and Barbara Costello who eventually became the first American Responsible Couple. Ron and Barbara O'Reilly joined the Team about this time and a few months later Alain and Rosemary Enthoven (who would later move to Washington) joined.

One little incident sheds some light on the problems of those early days. In January 1958, the Sipsoms wrote the Vilarems that Father Caffarel's book, "Marriage is Holy", had been published in English by Fides House. They were so excited and they wanted François Vilarem to purchase 100 copies so they could be sent to India. They presumed the bill could be sent to them in Paris. A few days later he wrote back, "Your idea is good. The only problem is that I do not have the necessary 300 dollars?" Shortly thereafter they managed to pay at least part of the price and get the books shipped.

Back in Washington, Jean and Agnes van der Mensbrugghe (affectionately referred to as the VDMs) were a Belgian couple who for some years had been members of a "Team by Correspondence." Jean was working for the International Monetary Fund and they were part of a group of French-speaking couples (not a Team) who met together regularly. In March 1958, the Sipsoms wrote the VDMs suggesting that this group might consider becoming a Team.

Also in the spring of 1958, three French-speaking couples (two were French and one Italian) began meeting together in Boston. They wrote the Sipsoms about the possibility of becoming a Team eventually. The key couple in Boston was Jack and Maria Joubert. Both of these Teams seemed to be in a very "tentative" state; but nevertheless by October of 1958, Harold and Rachel Neel of Sevres, France, were appointed as Liaison Couple for these two groups and they began to receive the Monthly Letters for New Teams (French version).

In these early years it was difficult to find chaplains. Even when they existed, they had trouble attending meetings on a regular basis. In the fall of 1959, the Multriers (he was a French Army Colonel) became responsible couple for Washington I and the Costellos for Los Angeles I. The latter situation created some problems because even though the Neels supposedly "knew English very well", they found it very difficult to communicate some of the technical jargon of the Teams to a non-French-speaking couple like the Costellos.

This phase ended about the end of 1960. There were still 3 embryonic, widely separated Teams. It was sort of a "colonization" phase during which all of the impetus, initiative, and leadership was provided by foreigners. But roots had been established and soon the Movement would begin to grow and spread in the U.S. (First part of a series on beginnings of Teams, written by Andy Favret, 1976)



## Don't be afraid to say yes...

What an absolute blessing to be a part of the Northern Province of Teams of Our Lady as the Lake Michigan Regional Couple! When Steve and I started in Teams 18 years ago, we never thought we would be in leadership. We were the first couple in Detroit 8 to be the Responsible Couple for our Team many moons ago. It was at that time that we got our first glimpse of the vastness of the Teams of Our Lady movement. We met people twice our age; people our age, and some in-between. We learned what was working for other Teams and what was not. Most importantly, we started to develop friendships beyond our Team, with like-minded Catholics. As time went on, we were challenged to take on the role of the Detroit Sector Couple. There was some hesitation, basically because we felt so inept, but we decided to accept the challenge. Our role as Sector Couple was not very long before we were approached to consider taking over the role as the Lake Michigan Regional Couple. Frank and Bev Lentine were embarking on their 8<sup>th</sup> year of a 4 year commitment and had very little interest from others in taking on the role to replace them. Even though we knew for some time that they were in need of a couple to 'step up to the plate', we were not that couple for a long time. But, God knew what we needed to do and at the right time, He placed it on our hearts to accept this role. You see, we are ALL part of a bigger movement to spread God's truth about sacramental marriage and be a 'harvester' in some small way to keep the movement started by Fr. Caffarel alive and active in the United States. In volunteering our time, Steve and I have slowly discovered this and with some 'kicking and screaming' at times, have embraced it.

Teams of Our Lady cannot continue to grow, it really can't, unless people step up and say "YES!" when asked to take on a role outside of their own Team. It doesn't have to be a Regional Couple role, but maybe a Pilot Couple or Information Couple role...who knows? Just be open, that's all. I, we, have been truly blessed getting to know some of the very best people. The above picture to the left is the North Provincial Team at our College Meeting in Texas last month. We are just ordinary people, with busy lives, that really, just said "YES!"

*Julie & Steve Whitmore, Lake Michigan Regional Couple*

## Our Collegiality:

### The Spirit of Teams in our Hearts and Minds



Glynis & Steve Sturm  
North Provincial Couple

Here we are in the dog days of summer and I wonder when that happened. We pray that all of you have had wonderful times with your families and time to quietly reflect on the goodness of God in your lives.

The college meeting with the regional couples in Texas was a real blessing for us. We witnessed very engaged and enthusiastic couples from all over the country including our Regionals who have the spirit of *Teams of Our Lady* in their hearts and minds. Teams are growing in

numbers with some challenging distances to overcome while we also have some aging teams that need assistance, so we looking at ways to meet the needs of all members.

The National Conference in Navasota was outstanding and I wish you all could have been there. There will be some postings on our website with highlights from the conference. All the speakers had messages of God's love and desire to be a real person to each of us, to trust in His promises, and that marriage is a blessing that has endured from the beginning. A very rich witnessing by couples from each province provided us with real examples of God's mercy and grace when we surrender our lives to Him. We all have stories that we can share to bring hope to others.

Our desire for each of you as a new Team year begins is that the Endeavors bring you closer to each other and to God. Teams is about the person we can become if we allow the Holy Spirit to work in us as Msgr. Borgski reminded us.

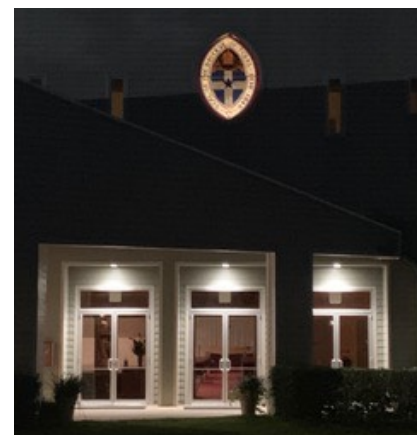
May we all be examples of marriage as a sacrament and blessing to the world.

Peace and Joy to each of you.

*Steve and Glynis Sturm*



Couples from the Northern Province



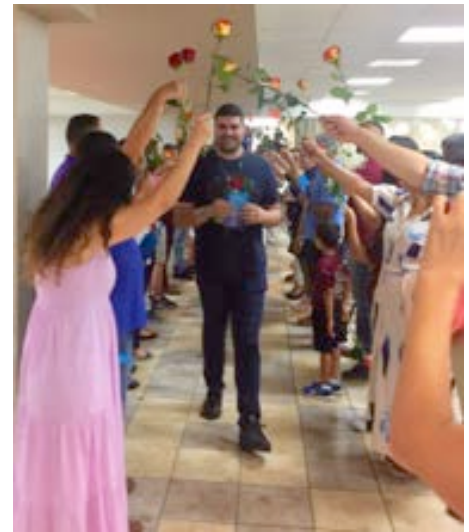
## *Howdy!!!*

Our greeting reflects the ten days we spent in Texas at the Super Regional and Super Regional College meetings, and the Teams National Conference. We are still filled with the deep sharing by the presenters, and the love and enthusiasm of Teams couples gathered for a single purpose: the Sacramental aspects of marriage—to be fed so that we might serve.

On the feast of St. Bonaventure, July 15, Nilson and Marioli Marques and Dave and Carol McCaffrey were installed as Regional Couples of the Metro and Coastal Regions, respectively, at our US College Meeting.



**Janie & Bob Mericsko**  
East Provincial Couple



Soon after our return from Texas, we attended a welcoming ceremony and celebration in Trenton, New Jersey (Metro Region) of three Portuguese-speaking teams that will begin the Piloting process. What a great idea, for existing Team members to gather and encourage these couples on this journey! It was wonderful to witness the enthusiasm of the Brazilian Team couples. After a good night's sleep in the home of Jefferson and Engracia Arnoni, we were surprised to wake to a "thanksgiving breakfast" in gratitude for our coming. As we walked to the car to make our trip home, Nilson Marques gently said "This is the first time in 17 years that somebody from outside our region visited us. It meant so much to us and all of our couples. Thank you very much." We responded "You are most welcome. We had such fun!" During our trip home, we reflected on our experience and Nilson's parting words.

We look forward this November to our first East Province College Meeting of Regional Couples and Sector Couples. The years have taught us that in working together and with the Lord's guidance "Nothing is impossible with God." Our hope is that our mutual sharing and prayer together, might be transformed into better service to couples in Teams and those couples who seek to learn about the specific spiritual journey that Teams offers.

Please pray for this.





**TJ & Ellen Holt**  
South Provincial Couple

### **Celebrating Marriage on the Trail to Holiness**

How exciting it was to welcome over 200 Team members to the South Province at the 2019 National Team Conference, which was held at Camp Allen in Navasota, Texas. The conference began with Mass, celebrated by Bishop Strickland from the Diocese of Tyler, then evening entertainment was Christian entertainer David Kaufman. Over the next two days we heard inspiring talks from Bishop Joseph Strickland, David and Elizabeth Costa, Msgr. Chester Borski, and Dr. Richard Gaillardetz.

On Thursday, Daniel Cardinal DiNardo celebrated afternoon Mass! Conference participants learned a few new western dance steps from the Texas A & M Aggie Wranglers and Team member John Klocke entertained us Thursday evening, as we celebrated marriage - complete with wedding cake!



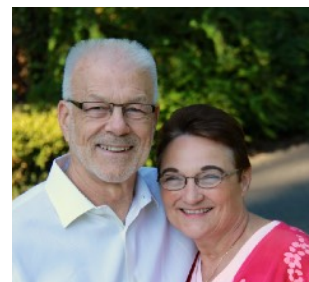
There was time to relax and meet other couples from across the country, be it in small group discussions or at meal time.

We would like to thank the Team that helped with all the preparation prior and during the conference - Mike and Trice Towns, Paul and Chris Sanchez, Jim and Lillian Burke, Sandy and Mike Higgins, Greg and Melanie Gehrt, Lori and Steve Heese, Michael and Connie Kersten, Heidi and Cody Clark, Larry and MaryKay Kuchta, Charla and Larry Macicek, Tom and Gay Locke, Steve and Glynis Sturm, Bob and Janie Mericsko, Barb and Mike Timm, and Jorge and Noelia Sousa. It was a conference filled with enriching messages, fellowship and fun! Camp Allen provided conference-goers a peaceful and relaxing setting.

If you weren't able to join us at the conference this year, we hope you will put [July 8 - 10, 2022](#), on your calendar as the next conference will be in Turlock California!



Our National Conference experience, from July 16th through July 19th, was phenomenal. We want to thank and commend all of our West Province attendees. We of course are delighted to have had both of our Regional Couples and our Super Regional Couple (they had to come!) We had a total of 13 couples that attended from the West Province, which was awesome. David and Elizabeth Costa and Jim and Connie Busse are two couples that presented at the conference and moved hearts.



Sharla & Rob Walsh  
West Provincial Couple

David and Elizabeth have been in Teams since being in YATOL as young singles and Jim and Connie have been married 54 years and brought a wealth of experience from their marriage when they joined the Teams of Our Lady Movement. Jim and Connie gave one of the panel presentations, which was inspiring and beautiful, on how Teams had enriched their lives. They said that the Endeavors are the core to helping each other become saints and that they had never prayed together until conjugal prayer helped them to realize that God speaks to them as a couple; “we are one”. They also said that the Fatima gathering was truly a “spiritual experience”: “we felt we were in heaven.”

David and Elizabeth Costa talked about the priorities in marriage. Marriage comes first...then the kids. David noted that the more he sees what happens to couples when God falls out of married lives, the more he and Elizabeth cling to God in their own marriage. Relationship with God is the key to happiness and holiness.

The outward and immediate signs as we entered Camp Allen, were a pre-cursor to what lay unknown and ahead. The facility and grounds were gorgeous and spacious. The food was excellent and unending. Everything was immaculate and well organized. However, the best part was the camaraderie of the participants and the inspirational words of all the presenters from the Teams leadership, Team couple presenters, to the presiders and celebrants of the Masses with the homilies and talks by the priests and professional speakers.

We were very impressed by Fr. Manuel Sousa’s homilies, Monsignor Borski’s talk, Bishop Strickland’s opening Mass and homily and His Eminence Daniel Cardinal Di Nardo’s joy filled Mass, just after having returned from Rome! Very monumental!

The entertainment was professional and fun. We so enjoyed the Aggie Wrangler Dancers, David Kauffman and of course John Klocke and the dancing. We think this National Conference will be a hard act to follow!

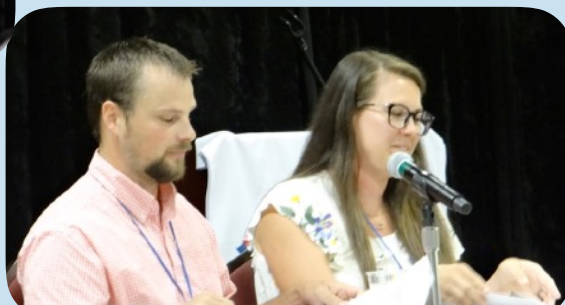
However, we are already planning on 2022 to celebrate the “Fruits of the Vine”. Save your money, save the date. We are going to have a blast!



# Rekindle the Fire on the Trail to Holiness National Conference 2019 Navasota, Texas July 16—19, 2019



The National Conference began with a “big bang” from two big-hatted Texans, T.J. and Ellen Holt, as they warmly welcomed us. Our highlights were: seeing all the children and families, and hearing the witness-sharing of Team couples. To us, these lived experiences show the fruit of Team membership.



## Greetings from the Secretariat

We've seen big changes in the past year or so with the transition to the new website. Has everyone logged in already? If not, give it a try, and let us know ([secretariat@teamsofourlady.org](mailto:secretariat@teamsofourlady.org)) if you have any problems! There is a lot of information available there, but for us, one of the most important aspects of the website is your ability to see your current Teams information and change your contact information when needed.



Robin & Colette  
Quinn  
Secretariat

**Log In:** To log in, just go to the website ([www.teamsofourlady.org](http://www.teamsofourlady.org)) and click on Member Login in the upper right hand corner of the page. This will take you to a page that contains login instructions and helpful contacts as well as the link (Login in the upper right corner) to log in. Please note; when the rosters were imported into the website, separate records were created for each spouse. The email on record in the original Teams database was auto assigned to one of the spouses. If the other spouse has an email and would like to login, please provide us the spouse's name, Team name and email address. Having the ability to login individually gives each spouse the freedom to receive different newsletters, sign up for events, make contributions, etc.

**Zip Code:** When you log in, please check to make sure you have a full 9 digit zip code. The complete 9 digit zip code (zip +4) allows the organization to save money by using bulk mailing rates. Those members that do not have a 9 digit zip code on record may not receive postal mailings. Complete 9 digit zip codes (zip +4), can be found at <https://tools.usps.com/go/ZipLookupAction!input.action>.

**Contribution History:** Another bit of information imported into the website was your contribution history for the past several years. You can review this information once you're logged in by clicking on the My Information tab, Activities tab and then the Donations tab. You can also make online contributions by clicking on the Donate button next to one of your contribution records and filling in the contribution information on the form that appears.

**If you contribute online, make sure that you log in before contributing; otherwise your contributions will not be tied to your Team record. If you contribute by check, make sure your name, Team name and Sector name are listed on the check; otherwise your contribution may not be tied to your Team record.**

**WARNING:** If you reach a form that automatically fills in your name and address information, and you change any of that information and submit that form; your Teams record will be updated with the new information.

We hope you are able to use and appreciate the capabilities of the website. It is the result of a lot of behind-the-scenes work by dedicated Teams members, least of all us. May God bless all your endeavors!

*Robin & Colette Quinn, Secretariat*

## The Role of Spiritual Counselor & Spiritual Advisor - clarified



### **Dear couples, widows, widowers, Spiritual Counselors and Spiritual Advisors:**

It is no secret that in recent years, due to a significant increase in some countries, it has become more difficult for each Team to be accompanied by a priest. The priest, as Spiritual Counselor, is invited to walk with the other members of the Team or even with several Teams in our Movement. This difficulty is due to the combination of two simultaneous factors: the strong growth in the number of Teams and the reduction of vocations and priestly ordination. Therefore, what was once meant to be a temporary measure of inviting a spiritual Advisor to assist a Team, has now become an increasingly common practice. Note that this Spiritual Advisor may be a deacon in preparation for the priesthood, a permanent deacon, a layman or religious.

The position of the Movement is very clear as to integration of a Spiritual Advisor into a Team of Our Lady assuming all efforts of acquiring a Priest Spiritual Counselor for this Team have been exhausted. The mission of this Spiritual Advisor is to promote the growth of new Teams and support the functioning of existing Teams; it is not a means of seeking the impossible "substitution" of a priest: it is an intrinsic characteristic of our Movement that each Teams be accompanied by a priest who is an ordained minister and who performs his priestly function in the team ...

Thus, the Spiritual Advisor is neither an option nor an obligation of each Team, it is the response from the organization of the Movement to a Team's need to progress in faith and love. However, such Teams should never forgo the integration of a priest into their Team. On the other hand, it is necessary to ensure the bond of each Team with the priestly ministry: this bond can be ensured by the priestly presence within each Team, a personal and lasting presence of a Priest Spiritual Counselor, who may participate in one or more Team meetings throughout the year.

The International Responsible Team (ERI) is constantly receiving questions from all over the world on this important issue; therefore, we consider it necessary to send this communication to the whole Movement in order to maintain unity in the modalities and fidelity to the principles that inspire us.

The Spiritual Advisor, as we have already said, renders a precious service and despite being well trained, they must be knowledgeable in the Charism, the Mysticism and the Pedagogy of the Movement and, in a special way, understand the specific scope of their service and the meaning of the irreplaceable role that the Priest Spiritual Counselor has in each Team.

It is necessary, then, to create information and training sessions for the Spiritual Advisors who are already linked to a Team, so that they keep a clear focus regarding their capacity and to avoid dualities or confusion with any other type of involvement they may have with other Teams in the Movement.

Although the Movement has a duty to inform and prepare each Spiritual Advisor designated for a specific Team, we must be very careful not to send erroneous messages. For example, offering open training for people who could "potentially" provide this service, we risk confusing a Spiritual Advisor to be the same as a Spiritual Counselor. The Regional and Sector Responsible Couple as well as the Sector's Priest Spiritual Counselor must approve the integration of the Spiritual Advisor on a case-by-case basis as an exception and not the rule for each Team.

We know that there are already responsible initiatives taken by several Super Regions in the world regarding the use of spiritual Advisor, and we know the seriousness and the intent with which they were taken; but at the same time we have a duty to draw attention to the dangers to those who misunderstand the spirit and purpose of such initiatives, which may begin with good intentions but endanger the unity of the Movement and fidelity to the founding charism.

Therefore, the International Responsible Team (ERI), with its Spiritual Counselor, send out this brief reflection to provide serenity and to dispel the doubts that are frequently posed:

### **The Spiritual Counselor and the Spiritual Advisor**

At times the work and functions of the Priest Spiritual Counselor and Spiritual Advisor are confused, it is necessary to clarify the difference in their role and in their mission. As for the priest, we emphasize his function "capital" (in the name of Christ "head") in the Christian community. In Teams of Our Lady (a small cell in the church), the presence of a Priest Spiritual Counselor is explained well in the principal official texts of the Movement: Charter or Statutes (1947), Supplement to the Charter or Statutes (1976), Second Wind (1988), Guide to the Teams of Our Lady (both versions, 2008 and 2018), Canonical Statutes of Teams of Our Lady (2014), The Counselor (1980), The Priest Counselor (1993), The Priest Spiritual Counselor (2006), The Priest Counselor and the Spiritual Accompaniment in the Teams of Our Lady (2017).

The Spiritual Advisor (does not appear in the first documents) is understood to be as the collaborative spiritual presence in a team in the absence of a Priest Spiritual Counselor that is explained by various circumstances (few priests in certain locations, inability of finding one...etc.). The Spiritual Advisor is assigned to a Team with the approval of the Sector's or Regional's Responsible Couple with the desire and expectation that a Priest Spiritual Counselor will be found. This desire by the Movement must be discerned with care for each Team. The Spiritual Advisor does not have the priestly function, but as a collaborator for the spiritual development and growth of each Team member.

When the Spiritual Advisor is mentioned in the latest official documents of the Teams of Our Lady, it is always inferred to as a result of the concrete difficulties of integrating a Priest Spiritual Counselor: and the Movement points out the differences between the two missions. It is very important that the Spiritual Advisor receive the proper training (different from the Priest Spiritual Counselor) in order to fulfill his role as Advisor. While we wait for feedback from the Super Regions who already offer these "mixed" training sessions, we find it prudent not to combine the Spiritual Advisor and Priest Spiritual Counselor into the same training, as their functions and roles are different.

Dear members of Teams of Our Lady: it is with immense gratitude to all Spiritual Advisors who assume this service with generosity and courage that we invite you to pray with us to Our Father for support in our homes to raise priestly vocations and future spiritual counselors by reciting this prayer that Pope Francis prayed on the World Day for Vocations:

*"Father of mercy, who gave your Son for our salvation and who strengthens us always with the gifts of your Spirit, grant us Christian communities which are alive, fervent and joyous, which are fonts of fraternal life, and which nurture in the young the desire to consecrate themselves to you and to the work of evangelization.*

*Sustain these communities in their commitment to offer appropriate vocational catechesis and ways of proceeding towards each one's particular consecration. Grant the wisdom needed for vocational discernment, so that in all things the greatness of your merciful love may shine forth. May Mary, Mother and guide of Jesus, intercede for each Christian community, so that, made fruitful by the Holy Spirit, it may be a source of true vocations for the service of the holy People of God."*



**Clarita et Edgardo Bernal Fandiño**  
Responsables Internationaux END

# USA SUPER REGION

## TEAMS OF OUR LADY



August 31, 2019

Dear Teams of Our Lady Family:

We want to THANK YOU for your generosity in contributing this past year to the Teams Movement in the United States. Thank you to the Sector Couples for being the link to seamlessly help with the flow of contributions.

Teams of Our Lady Charter sets out the responsibilities for each couple and specifically identifies the need *"To give each year – by way of contribution – the fruits of one of their working days, in order to provide for the material needs and expansion of the Movement to which they owe in part their spiritual enrichment."*

The question is asked; "What are the contributions used for?" Our annual expenses typically include website, printing materials, postage, translations, and primarily leadership training and travel. Another primary expense is the tithe assessed to each country by the international body (ERI) based on GNP and membership, to support the International movement around the world. What does not show as an expense but an investment of your contribution into "promoting Holy Families." As Pope Francis stated, "So goes the families so goes the world." Couples are thirsting for what the world cannot offer. Teams of Our Lady couples are traveling to new areas to be the face of Christ in marriage, thus the increased need to fund this investment, to be walking billboards for marriage in the secular world.

This past year Provinces meetings with their Team (Regional Couples) and College (Sector Couples) have increased the costs for Teams. In July 2020, we have scheduled a training at the national level for all new Sector Couples and, even though it is expensive, it is of primary importance for the Movement.

Teams are accepting contributions in three different ways:

- 1) Placing your contribution in an envelope and giving it to your RC/Sector Couple.
- 2) Through the Teams website, [www.teamsofourlady.org/donation-online](http://www.teamsofourlady.org/donation-online) which allows you to do one yearly contribution or to contribute monthly;
- 3) Through Bill Pay.

Sector Couples will again manage the annual contribution process. Responsible Couples will provide you with an envelope for your contribution. The sealed contributions will then be sent to the Sector Couple who will track, not the amount contributed, but rather the name of the couple participating (only the SR Responsible Couple, Treasurer and Secretariat will see your contribution). We emphasize the importance of submitting an envelope even if your contribution is less than the recommended amount or if you give online or by Bill Pay. Note that cash contributions are not recommended, or paying by one Team check.

Remember to note on your check or bill pay your Region, Sector, and Team number. The mailing address is: **Teams of Our Lady, P.O. Box 1485, Turlock, CA 95381-1485.**

**Teams of Our Lady is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. All contributions are tax deductible.**

*We remain in service to Christ through Mary,*

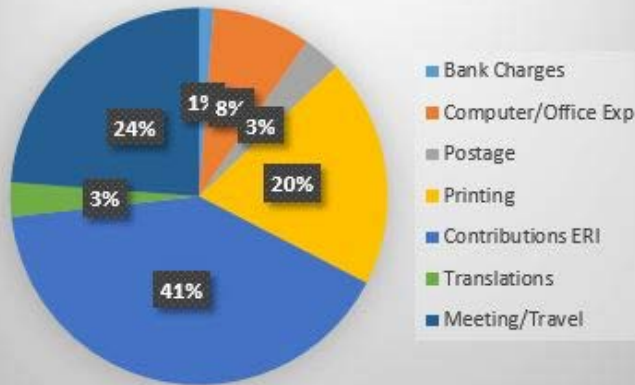
*Jorge & Noelia*

Jorge & Noélia Sousa  
US Super Region Responsible Couple

*Steve & Glynis*

Steve & Glynis Sturm  
Finance Couple

## Expenses 2018



## Profit & Loss Jan-July 2019

<b>Contributions</b>	83,387.91
4500 · Investment Income	2,633.64
<b>Total Income</b>	<u>86,021.55</u>
<b>Expense</b>	
8090 · Bank Charges	1,013.56
8190 · Computer Expense	3,778.70
8300 · Filing Fees	25.00
8500 · Meeting Material Expenses	235.56
8640 · Office Supplies	1,279.85
8680 · Postage	7,184.24
8700 · Printing	
8700 01 · Magnificat	1,506.63
8700 05 · Piloting Materials	15,623.27
8700 10 · Publications & General	14,591.99
8700 15 · Study Materials	10,604.46
<b>Total 8700 · Printing</b>	<u>42,326.35</u>
8900 · Tithe to International	40,078.05
8906 · Translation Cost ERI	2,196.48
8910 · Travel & Meeting Expenses	21,650.11
<b>Total Expense</b>	<u>119,767.90</u>
<b>Net Ordinary Income</b>	-33,746.35
<b>Other Income/Expense</b>	
Other Income	10.42
Other Expense	10,069.80
<b>Net Other Income</b>	<u>-10,059.38</u>
<b>Net Income</b>	<u><u>-43,805.73</u></u>



## Teams of Our Lady

[www.teamsofourlady.org](http://www.teamsofourlady.org)

<https://equip-notre-dame.com/en/>

## What are Vacations For?

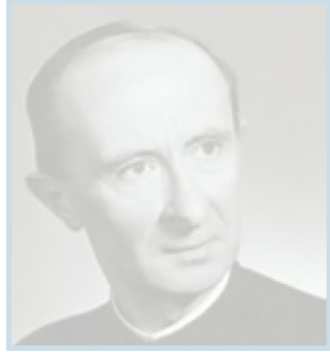
Excerpt from Fr. Caffarel's book, *Love & Grace in Marriage*

First of all, what do we call vacations? I would define them loosely: the time of interruption of habitual work, scholarly, professional, household. While it appears that schoolboys and men generally have vacations, the mothers of the families have just as much need of it (a remark made in passing for the attention of the husbands). Upon return from the holidays, I often observe among parents what the teachers observe among their students—a collapse of spiritual vitality. Their energies are exhausted. Should increase of physical activity necessarily mark the decline of spiritual vitality? This would be very unfortunate, but it seems to be so.

Where does this decline come from? From the abandoning during vacation of habitual religious exercises? Perhaps, but not necessarily. It seems to me that that is not the primary reason. It is rather in the interior order: on vacations one takes a vacation from love of God and neighbor, taking as a motto: I will do as I please. Play, sleep, walk, read, all are commanded by this sovereign law. Understand, it is not the resting, the change of pace, the sports that I find reprehensible —although sometimes these may be abused—but rather the motive: whatever I feel like doing. From this comes the perpetual attention to self, and therefore inattention to God and to others; from this comes the preference of self to the detriment of others. All during the year the question hardly comes up of doing what you please. You try to do the will of God— if not always seen as the will of God, at least under the aspect of duty. Then what happens on vacation: you reverse the values. As if, in order to rest yourself from having loved and served God and others during eleven months, you now love yourself. A holiday is for the indulgence of self.

There is the error. There are no vacations from love. You do not cease to breathe during vacations. Therefore you do not cease to love; love is the respiration of the soul. You are right to interrupt your routine tasks. But do it because it is the will of God and in the measure that it is. Let your love remain awake, alert, vigilant, eager, even more than usual. Breathe with full lungs, love with a whole heart. The soul needs to remake itself, to be renewed: for it is loving which re-creates the soul. And the vacation is precisely a time when it is easier to love, to love God and to love others. Easier to love God because the sea, the hills, the woods relate His glory. Easier to love others because, leaving the rat race behind, one is finally able at leisure to discover, marvel, read, and talk at length.

Then your vacation fulfills its purpose; it is a re-creation; re-creation of the bonds between the soul and God, between husband and wife, between parents and children, between brothers and sisters and all the family. You return home refreshed for your routine duties, vitality is increased, the soul is stronger. Your vacation will be a source of strength because you make it a time of love.



### Fr. Henri Caffarel

Founder of *Teams of Our Lady*

Born - July 30, 1903, Lyon, France

Ordained to the Priesthood  
April 19, 1930, Paris, France

Died - September 18, 1996  
Troussures, France

### *God Our Father,*

You planted deep in the heart of your servant, Henri Caffarel,  
a fountain of love which bound him totally to your Son and inspired him with a wonderful capacity to  
speak of Him.

A prophet for our time, he revealed the dignity and beauty of the vocation of every person in the words  
Jesus addresses to each of us: "Come, follow me."

He made couples enthusiastic about the greatness of the sacrament of marriage, the sign of Christ's  
fruitful love for the Church and of His union with her.

He showed that priests and couples are called to live a vocation of love.

He was a guide to widows: love is stronger than death.

Prompted by the Holy Spirit, he accompanied many Christians on the path of prayer.

Seized by a devouring fire, he was a dwelling place for you, Lord.

God, our Father, through the intercession of Our Lady, we ask you to hasten the day when the Church  
will proclaim the holiness of his life, so that people everywhere will discover the joy of following your  
Son in accordance with their particular vocations in the Holy Spirit.

God our Father, we invoke the intercession of Father Caffarel for \_\_\_\_\_. Amen