

Teams of Our Lady

Magnificat

A newsletter for married couples published by Teams of Our Lady - USA



The New Faces on the USA Super Regional Team

Beginning August 1, 2020, some new names may have started showing up in your email inbox as well as on Teams website. This was when the New USA Super Regional Team assumed its responsibilities. We are very excited to begin this journey, not only with the new Team, but with each member of the Teams movement! We have added a few new volunteer positions, such as New Team Welcome Celebration Coordinator, Social Media, and Intercessor Liaison Couples. All to serve and inform you better and to illustrate the beauty of how Teams of Our Lady improves our lives as Christian married couples.

We hope you enjoy meeting the new Team and look forward to meeting each of you!

Blessings,

T.J. & Ellen Holt

Summer 2020

We are humbled to serve you as responsible couple of USA Teams of Our Lady over the next five years. We will do our best to continue to build on the growth of the couples that came before us. As we begin we want to reflect on a theme for our term -- the Vine and the Branches from the Gospel of St. John.

“Remain in me, as I remain in you. Just as a branch cannot bear fruit on its own unless it remains on the vine, so neither can you unless you remain in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Whoever remains in me and I in him will bear much fruit, because without me you can do nothing. Anyone who does not remain in me will be thrown out like a branch and wither; people will gather them and throw them into a fire and they will be burned. If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask for whatever you want and it will be done for you. By this is my Father glorified, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.” John 15:4-8

As we are called each day to remain in Christ, we have all chosen this Teams of Our Lady movement as a method to deepen our connection to Christ through the practice of the life giving Endeavors and via connection and support of our base team and the larger movement. As we each grow closer to Christ we grow closer to each other and especially our spouse. This analogy is beautiful because it allows us to visualize the connection – the vine -- and also points us to the larger responsibility of being a disciple of Jesus. We are called to bear fruit - the grapes -- to glorify our heavenly Father.

What is so succinctly stated in John takes a lifetime to learn and act on. We hope you will all join us on this journey. O Lord, help us to produce fruit that becomes the best wine. We know the rain will come in due season, pruning is necessary to make us grow in good soil and stretch us to gather the sun you graciously shine upon us. Help us to dig our roots deeply so we can take your blessing and convert them to fruit.

We have listed major aims for our term. These can only be accomplished with the help of support of all Team members, leadership at all levels and most importantly the Holy Spirit. We seek a more robust and vibrant movement, fertile soil for our common spiritual growth.



T.J. and Ellen Holt Super Regional Couple

We live in Kingwood, Texas, have been married for 25 years and involved with Teams for over 20 years. We are the proud parents of three adult daughters, whom many of you know. We have had the pleasure of serving as Information and Pilot Couple, Sector Couple, Regional Couple, Province Couple, Satellite Couple and National Conference Coordinator. We are humbled by the opportunity to be of service of this wonderful ministry.

US Super Region Goals 2020 – 2025

1. Open a Teams National Office by 2025 to improve continuity and better support for Teams.
2. Improve Materials Distribution to Team Members (timeliness, trackable, reasonable cost).
3. Improve the Training System for all responsible couples (comprehensive for all service levels – role “how to” and leadership/skills coaching and reference materials).
4. Implement College Meetings for improved communication and training that includes all service levels (Super Region, Province, Region, Sector and Team Responsible Couples).
5. Increase participation in giving and service.
6. Implement Second Wind Weekends by 2025 to improve connections and vitality for longer standing teams (more than 5 years).
7. Have New Teams Welcome Celebrations in all Regions by 2025 to continue to build knowledge and connection for newer teams.
8. Increase Involvement by Spiritual Counselors (percentage of Teams with a SC) by providing more education, materials, training via website and in-person and contact via meetings.
9. Improve Movement Communication coordination (webmaster, content, newsletter, social) to get the information into more members hands.
10. Document the History of God’s Providence in Teams of Our Lady in the US.

We request your support via your active membership in Teams, prayers for the movement and its leadership at all levels and suggestions on how to help us all grow in holiness and produce more fruit.

Yours in Christ,

T.J. & Ellen Holt

Dear Friends:

THANK YOU for the outpouring of love and support as we all endure this pandemic. Although our gatherings have become different with social distancing and Zoom, Teams beautiful mission statement is more timely then ever!

“Teams of Our Lady is a movement of Christian Marriage Spirituality, which brings together couples united by the Sacrament of Matrimony, and who wish, together, to deepen the graces of their Sacrament. It offers married couples a pathway toward love, happiness and holiness. This movement’s aim is to help couples live fully their Sacrament of Marriage. Teams of Our Lady have as their essential aim, to help couples strive after holiness—no more, no less.”
-Fr. Henri Caffarel

One responsibility of being a Teams member is the annual contribution. The Teams Charter states members are “to give annually, by way of subscription the equivalent of one day’s pay.” Contributions cover annual expenses such as website, printing materials, postage, translations, leadership training and travel, as well as the tithe assessed by the international body (ERI) based on GNP and membership, to support the International movement.

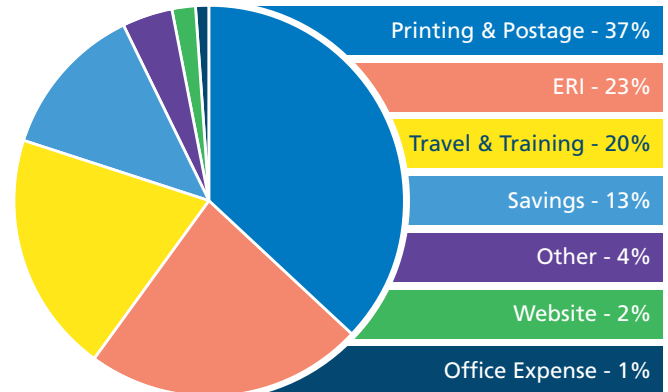
During these unusual times we realize many Teams are not meeting face-to-face which makes it challenging to hand in an envelope with your contribution. So along with the options of giving online or through bill pay, we recently mailed out the contribution letter with an attached response card. You can detached the response card and mail into the Teams office with the envelop that was enclosed. Another option is to donate online by logging in first to the Teams’ website at **TeamsOfOurLady.org/contributions**. Logging in ensures all donations are recorded properly in your name. Or you can also contribute through Bill Pay for annual, quarterly or monthly payments.

Teams is a self supporting 501(c)3. All donations are tax deductible. Without your generous support our movement could not exist to continue our mission to support Christian marriage in the US Super Region.

If you do use the attached response card, please **DO NOT SEND CASH**. Please note your Team name and number, Sector and Region in the memo section of your check or bill pay. Please note the new Teams postal mailing address: **Teams of Our Lady, 4582 Kingwood Dr., Ste. E-276, Kingwood TX 77345**.

T.J. and I, along with Steve and Glynis, cannot thank you enough for your service, love and devotion to our movement! We hold each member and Team in the United States deep in our heart through prayer. As Father Caffarel shared,

“Wherever persecution is rife, the mission of Christian couples is even more important. They are, as it were, the final fortress where the church takes refuge. In these families, tested but faithful, Christ works at a new springtime for his Church. Again it is necessary that these couples, whenever it is possible, should have been prepared for their heroic mission.”



We remain in service to Christ through Mary,

*Ellen and T.J. Holt
US Super Region Responsible Couple*

*Steve & Glynis Sturm
Finance Couple*



Steve and Glynis Sturm - Finance Couple

We reside in Southern Minnesota and have been Teams members for 44 years and married 48 years.

It has been our privilege to be of service to Teams as RC Couple, LC Couple, Pilot Couple, Sector Couple, Regional Couple, Province Couple and Finance Couple. We will continue serving Teams as Finance Couple as we dedicate ourselves to the ministry of marriage through Teams of Our Lady by the grace of God and Mary, Queen of Teams.

Howdy!

I'm grateful for this opportunity to serve this movement. My identical twin brother and his wife have been part of a team for over 10 years and my parents are the Sector Couple in their parish. Therefore, I've heard much about Teams over the years. Clearly Teams is filling a need for community by creating a space for couples to know other couples and be known by them, not just in their success and joys, but in their failures and sadness. I am impressed with the endeavors, especially that of daily prayer with scripture and with spouse and family. As a priest preparing couples for marriage I tried to teach couples to pray together so that they could experience God drawing them together in the marriage bond. However, I think that I failed most of the time because there was no follow up after marriage and no community of couples endeavoring to do this. I look forward to starting Teams in my parish and can't wait for this pandemic to end so that we can begin.



Father Brian Eilers Super Regional Spiritual Counselor

Fr. Brian Eilers was ordained June 12, 2004.

His last assignment in our Diocese of Austin was at Texas State University in San Marcos.

In 2013, he was appointed as part of the formation team at St. Mary's Seminary in Houston, where he has been serving as a Vice-Rector of the Seminary.

As Spiritual Counselor for the US super-region, my primary role is to offer spiritual support and prayer for the Super Regional couple and team. Additionally, I hope to work with other experienced priests to provide an introduction to Teams for other priests. Marriage is a beautiful gift of God but married couples should not be left to fend for themselves. Teams provides a space for couples to know other couples and the guidance needed to live it beautifully. If it be God's will, may he multiply this movement!

To Better Connection in Christ Jesus,

Fr. Brian Eilers



Jeff and Denise Stanley - Secretariat Couple

Jeff and Denise, live in Kingwood, TX and have been married for 16 years. They have been members of Kingwood, TX #17 for 11 years and parishioners at St. Martha Catholic Church. Over the last three years, they have served as a Sector Couple for Kingwood, TX. Prior to moving to Houston in 2007, they lived in Louisiana. Jeff and Denise both were formally educated in psychology, with Jeff obtaining a B.S. degree and Denise a Ph.D. They have four active children, ages nine through fifteen, who Denise spends her days homeschooling. Jeff works as a cyber-security consultant and is blessed to work from his home allowing them to enjoy an enriched family life. They are very excited to help Teams in this National role.



Jeff and Rachel Marek - Newsletter Couple

Jeff and Rachel married in 2013 and have 3 beautiful daughters, Aleska, Emmeline, and Lorelei. They live in Fort Worth, Texas in their restored 1918 home. They have been active in Teams since 2016. They love spending time with family, friends, being outside, gardening, cooking, old homes, art, playing games, supporting local businesses, brewing beer, DIY construction, and traveling.

Jeff graduated from Texas A&M with a degree in Mechanical Engineering. Jeff is Vice President of Vision Commercial and leads their office division working sales and leasing.

Rachel graduated from Austin College in Sherman Texas with majors in Art and Spanish. While she loves fine arts, most of her career has been in graphic art. She worked for Catholic Charities Fort Worth for 4 years before starting her own business in 2012, RW Marketing and Design. Most of her work is with local businesses and non-profits. Rachel provides a variety of design services to her clients including business cards, billboards, brochures, newsletters, logos, websites and other graphic art.

Let's Celebrate with a New Teams Welcome Celebration!

A New Teams Welcome Celebration (NTWC) is relatively new to the United States but is gaining in popularity and looking to come to a Region near you! A NTWC is an exciting, day-long Regional event to recognize, support, and celebrate new teams in the Region that have recently completed piloting and made a commitment to the Movement. A NTWC concludes the piloting or initial formation stage of Teams. The day consists of prayer, presentations, discussions, team building, and of course, celebration! Through the testimony and witnessing of the NTWC Formation Team, the couples in attendance experience how the vocation of love is embodied in the reality of team members' lives.



A NTWC deepens couples' knowledge and perception of the methods of the Movement and encourages and strengthens unity within the Movement. This event is a great opportunity to experience the larger movement outside of a couples' base team as they meet and interact with other Teams couples from across the Region. A NTWC celebrates couples' integration into the Movement and their continued commitment to their marriage. The Sacrament of Marriage is celebrated and honored at a NTWC.

Since June 2017, five New Teams Welcome Celebrations have occurred in the United States, four of them in the South Province and one in the North Province. The goal over the next 5 years is to make a NTWC available in each growing Region in the United States. Regions that have experienced growth of 6 or more new teams over the last few years will be provided an opportunity to host a NTWC for those new teams. However, this can only happen with prayer, guidance from the Holy Spirit, willing volunteers, training, and the support of both your Regional and Provincial Couples.

In the coming months, the US Super Region is working diligently to identify those Regions in the United States that are experiencing tremendous growth and looking for Teams' couples willing to volunteer and be trained to be a part of a NTWC Formation Team in your Region. Be on the look-out for a NTWC Formation Team Information Meeting to be offered in a Region near you! Come and learn more about this opportunity. We are looking for couples of all ages who are passionate about the Movement and open to sharing their experiences and testimonies with other married couples.



As Teams couples, we have the responsibility of announcing the Good News of Jesus Christ to couples around the world and to help them on their path to holiness through their marriage covenant. Let's start by recognizing and supporting the new teams in your Region and welcoming, honoring, and celebrating their commitment to the Movement through a New Teams Welcome Celebration! We look forward to celebrating with you soon!



Greg and Melanie Gehrt - New Teams Welcome Coordinators

Greg and Melanie Gehrt began their involvement in Teams of Our Lady as part of Cypress TX Team 1 over 15 years ago. They have served two terms as Cypress Sector Couple and one term on the Cypress Service Sector Team as the Communications Couple. They were on the inaugural New Teams Welcome Celebration presenting team in the United States. Greg and Melanie have attended two National Teams Conferences, assisting with the past conference in 2019.

Greg and Melanie Gehrt have been parishioners at Christ the Redeemer since moving to Houston from Kansas over 21 years ago. They have been married for 23 years and have 4 children (2 boys and 2 girls) ranging in age from 21 to 13 years old. Greg and Melanie continue to learn and traverse the challenges of marriage, raising children and navigating family life every day.

"I exercised my priestly ministry with young couples who discovered, amazed, the thought of God on love and marriage - so much more exhilarating than their teenage dreams!" Fr. Herni Caffarel, "Prends chez toi, Marie, ton épouse"

-Friends of Father Caffarel

"Why Recite the Prayer for the Canonization of Father Caffarel?"

By Father Paul-Dominique Marcovits, o.p.

(Prayers shape our relationship with God)

The prayer asking for the canonization of Father Caffarel educates us. If we meditate upon it, word after word, we recall Father Caffarel's life. Above all, we are guided in our faith, in our trust in God, in our desire to do the Lord's will, just as Father Caffarel wanted to help us to do.

We pray, therefore, so that we may follow Christ, as well as for those who live the sacrament of marriage and the sacrament of orders, for those who are widowed. We pray that we may make progress in our private prayer, "so that all may find joy in following the Lord." By learning the prayer off by heart, the heart's orientation takes shape. We become familiar with what Father Caffarel wanted so much: that we discover that "God loves us," that, like him, we may experience the meeting with the Lord, that we may hear the call, "Come, follow me!" There are so many ways to follow Christ.

This prayer is not only "individualistic." Like all prayers, we pray in connection with others, in the Church. Thus, this prayer joins together the Teams of Our Lady members, the widows of the Fraternity of Our Lady of the Resurrection, the Intercessors. We pray for the energy, fidelity, and joy of all those who are attached to Father Caffarel. We pray also so that we may be strong and welcoming witnesses to marriage and prayer. So many people await the good news of God's love.

Finally, in this prayer, we ask for graces and miracles for the beatification of Father Caffarel. The pertinence of our request is the following: that God answers us through the intermediary of his servant so that he may be known, so that his message may be heard in our world that so needs it: the good news of marriage, the good news of prayer and private prayer. The Lord loves us!"

In future editions of the Magnificat, in addition to news from the Friends of Father Caffarel, we will try to include short summaries/extracts from Father Caffarel's teachings and from books or articles that you may not have. As many of you know Father Caffarel's cause for Canonization was submitted almost 2 years ago and the process could take many years to complete. Please help support the canonization effort by joining Friends of Father Caffarel by clicking or going to the following link: TeamsOfOurLady.org/friends_of_fr_caffarel.

God Bless All,

Paul & Monique Harris



Paul and Monique Harris Friends of Father Caffarel Liaison Couple

Paul and Monique have been married for 49 years, have 2 children (Caroline and David), and 4 grand children. All reside in the Portland, Oregon metropolitan area. Paul retired from the U.S. Air Force in 2001, after serving for over 31 years, and Monique was a Medical Technologist and homemaker. After moving to Oregon in 2003, and joining Saint John the Apostle Catholic Church in Oregon City, they have been active in Teams of Our Lady for 12 years and have held numerous Teams of Our Lady leadership positions from Information and Piloting Couple to Sector and Northwest Regional Couple.

Paul and Monique's greatest blessings since joining Teams of Our Lady have been piloting new teams in the Portland, Oregon area, Tacoma, Washington, Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, and more recently, in Boise Idaho; and as well attending Team, Sector, Regional, and U.S. meetings/events, along with attending Teams International Gatherings/Pilgrimages to Brazil and Fatima, Portugal.



As the new Super Regional Friends of Father Caffarel Correspondence Couple, we strongly encourage all Teams of Our Lady Couples to join the

Association of the Friends of Father Caffarel. Through the Association, you can learn more about Father Caffarel's life, his teachings, and the history of the Teams of Our Lady Movement.



Reyes and Julia Guerra Webmaster

Rey and Julia have been members of the Clinton 1 in the Mid-Atlantic Region since August, 2004. They moved to Alexandria, Virginia in August, 2003 for Rey's last Air Force assignment at the Defense Information

Systems Agency and they joined Teams Of Our Lady after responding to a Parish bulletin announcement about an informational meeting. Both of them say TEAMS was one of the reasons they decided to stay in the Washington metropolitan area. Originally they intended to move back to El Paso, Texas, hometown for both of them, after Rey retired from his Air Force career of 33 years. Julia has been very active with parish activities and fundraisers all her life. She is currently serving as vice-president of the Catholic Women of the Chapel at Fort Belvoir, Virginia. Rey and Julia met while attending the University of Texas at El Paso (Texas Western College in 1967), they married on July 3, 1967. They have three daughters, four grandsons and one grand princess.



Roger and Lynn Porzig Webmaster

Roger & Lynn were married on August 6, 1983 in Limerick, Maine. After 5 years of marriage they attended a World Wide Marriage Encounter weekend, which lead them to serving as a WWME presenting couple for a number of years. In 1995

their parish priest, Fr. Vincent Haut, of Saint Catherine's Catholic Church in Orange Park, Florida, introduced them to Teams of Our Lady. They were one of the first team couples of Jacksonville 2. During that time in addition to being RC's many times they also piloted many Teams. They completed the Diocese of St. Augustine's Ministry Formation Program in 2003 after living in Germany for two years.

Roger retired after serving as a Civil Engineer with the U.S. Government and Lynn followed into retirement as they sold their home in Florida and drove to Oregon in 2013. We reconnected to Teams and 2018 we said yes to being the Northwest Region Responsible Couple.

They have a daughter and son in law living in Florida.

John and Jamie Hay - Social Media

We had been married for 5 years when we discovered the beauty that is Teams. Our unique team, with marriages ranging from 10 to 60+ years, was the 6th formed in Houston. We have been a Teams family for 8 wonderful years. John was raised Catholic and Jamie converted in 2017. Jamie heard the calling to convert after her oldest son asked why she couldn't take communion with him at his First Communion. We live in Houston, TX with our two boys, Grant (12) and Charles (10) who attend St. Theresa Catholic School. We look forward to the many blessings ahead while serving on the Super Regional Team.



Jack and Mary Pulick Intercessor Liaison Couple

We have been in Teams since 1971 and it has been the groundwork for our deepening relationship with God and each other for all these years. We were in the same Team

on Long Island, New York, until 2005 when we moved to Florida. After attending the International Gathering of Teams at Lourdes in 2006, we were re-energized and prayed about beginning Teams here in Palm Coast, FL. The Pastor agreed and the first Team began in 2007.

During our almost 55 years of marriage, we raised eight biological, one adopted and seven foster children and have seventeen grandchildren. Praying for Teams of Our Lady in support of marriage is a top priority in prayer for us because being married has been such a blessing for us. We are grateful that the ministry of intercessors in the United States is being reintroduced and we will do our best, with the help of our loving God and the Blessed Mother, to support those who wish to be intercessors.



Judy and Larry Wagner Prayer Couple

We are Larry and Judy Wagner, Members of Rochester, Minnesota, Team 8 as well as Sector members in Jacksonville, Florida the alternate six months of the year. Our first acquaintances upon moving to Rochester, MN in 2005 were the most welcoming Teams of

Our Lady members. One of the reasons we chose Rochester, MN the number of Catholic faith-filled groups, devotions available. This August we will celebrate 56 years of marriage!

This past year, our son-in-law passed into eternal life very suddenly, very unexpectedly Thanksgiving, 2019. From that very moment and especially those first days, weeks, months and yet today--each time we look out, we see Teams of Our Lady couples, families, and chaplains, at absolutely every turn. Just "being present (we feel the prayers)" "a smile" "food contributions" "repairing a broken door" "sharing vegetable plants" "Mass cards" "daughter and grandsons driveway decorated with faith symbols" - all actions faith-filled beyond words.



George and Mary Klosterman - Northern Province Couple

We were married December 29, 1970 in Memphis, Tennessee. The temperature was in the high 50's and the weather misty. George was in the Air Force and Mary had just graduated from Memphis State University the previous June. We spent our honeymoon in Arkansas, then traveled by train and bus to where George was stationed, Minot, North Dakota. Temperature in the twenty's and about 6 inches of snow on the ground. And oh yes, night falls at about 4 in the afternoon. An auspicious start for two young people. We moved several times and birthed several babies and wound up in the Washington, D.C. area, where we were introduced to Teams of Our Lady in 1994. After the Information Meeting, Mary thought it would be fun and George heard, "They serve wine at the meals." We both heard the emphasis on married couples and that strong couples made strong families. We thought we would give it a try. In 2002 when George was asked to transfer to Omaha, Nebraska, we were still trying it out, so we took about an 18 month vacation from Teams. Mary

started checking with the Super Region about joining Teams in Omaha. That is when God set us in motion. There were no Teams in Omaha. The closest Teams were 2 ½ hours away in Des Moines, Iowa. Decision time. Would we accept God's call to start Teams in Omaha? We did and have answered "yes" to God's call whenever Teams of Our Lady asked, even though most of the time we didn't know exactly what was being asked, but trusted that God and the Blessed Mother would guide us. If Teams of Our Lady leadership calls you, remember "God does not call the qualified, He qualifies those He calls" Then read the Gospel of John Chapter 15 verse 16. God bless you all.



Jim and Deb St. Louis have been married for 28 years and in Teams for the past 8 years. They moved from Rhode Island to Missouri with their three children in 2008. Jim works as a Regional Director for Washington University in St. Louis. Deb works as a massage therapist at a day spa close to home. They served as the Sector Couple for St. Louis B before starting their term as Regional Couple of the Central Region.



John and Jan Klocke have been married for 43 years, have been in Teams for 12 years. We served as Fargo Sector Couple for 5 years, before saying "yes" to our current role as Regional Couple North Central. We are blessed with 4 adult children (3 are married) and 12 Grandchildren. John is Advancement Director for our local JP II Catholic schools, Grade K-12. Jan works Part Time as a Registered Nurse, Certified Diabetes Care and Education Specialist.



We are Steve and Julie Whitmore from Royal Oak Michigan. We have been members of Detroit 8 for about 20 years and are starting our third year as Lake Michigan Regional Couple. Steve is a school social work consultant and does some counseling part time. Julie is an office manager and does pre-marriage counseling at our church. We have three children, Alyssa (11th grade), Jacob (college junior- Franciscan Univ of Steubenville) and Brandon (recent graduate-UofM). We are members of the National Shrine of the Little Flower Basilica in Royal Oak, Michigan. Our team recently celebrated our Spiritual Counselor becoming Bishop of Gary, Indiana (Bishop Robert J McClory). We have also celebrated two weddings in the past year of our "Teams' kids."

Teams of Our Lady exist to help couples discover the riches of the Sacrament of Marriage and to live out a married spirituality. Through their example, these couples seek to be witnesses of Christian marriage in the Church and in the world.

- Guide to Teams of Our Lady, page 16

It is with great joy that we embark on our new responsibility as West Provincial Couple. We ask for your prayers that we may truly foster the Spirit of the Movement intended by our founder Fr. Henry Caffarel.

In addition to living the Endeavors that we are all familiar with, there are many other opportunities to grow as a couple. Materials are available to each and every couple in the Movement. The Guide to Teams of Our Lady is a wonderful resource to really learn what Fr. Henry Caffarel's hope was for the Spirituality of Marriage, how Teams are intended to foster a closer relationship with Christ, and how the Movement works. It is yours simply for the asking! No charge when you request at materials@teamsofourlady.org

Our hope is that each of you as Team Members are discovering and rediscovering the beauty of this living Sacrament! Our Movement offers so much to couples – *are you taking full advantage of the discovery?*

Robin and Colette Quinn



Robin and Colette Quinn Western Province Couple

Robin & Colette have been members in Teams of Our Lady since 2005. Their goal as new Western Province Couple is to continue to inspire couples in Teams to affect the entire world with prayerful marriages solidifying the importance of marriage and family in our society. We have served as Super Region Secretariat 2016-2020, and Western Region Fresno Sector Couple 2010-2013.

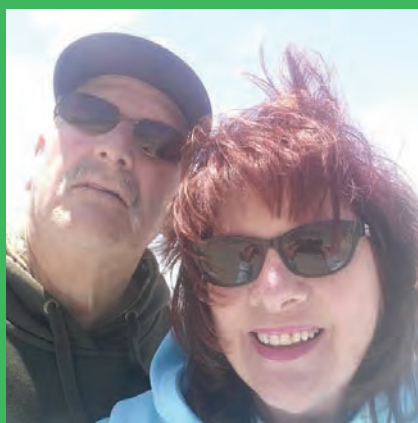
Parishioners of St. Brigid Church in Hanford, CA, the Quinns are parents to Vincent and his fiancé Nicole; Therese Quinn; and Thomas & Kelsie Quinn; plus they are grandparents to adorable Lillian and Kathryn. Thomas & Kelsie, and Therese are active in the Young Adult Teams of Our Lady movement. Robin is a retired engineer and now oversees his 2.5 acre homestead, and Colette is a retired parish office bookkeeper enjoying free time with her dog Lola, gathering fabric and quilting!



Joining the Western Province Team – Welcome!!

Fr. Daniel Avila, Vocations Director for the Diocese of Fresno, and Pastor of St. Jude Church, Easton, CA will be joining the Western Province Team as Spiritual Chaplain. Fr. Dan has been in Teams since 1999 and is also currently the Fresno Sector Chaplain.

Jim and Gail Santos (Hanford 13) will be joining the Province Team as Prayer Couple. They have been married sacramentally for 18 years and have been in Teams of Our Lady since March 2015. They are parents to five grown children – Angela, Dan, Tammi, Jimi, and Greg. Both Jim and Gail are active in parish life as Sacristan, Choir Member, Adoration Chapel guardians, and Healing Ministries. As Prayer Couple Jim and Gail will be praying for the Province Team actively during every meeting that is held, and for any other requests made by the Team.



Ten Year Anniversary as a Team

This Western Province Team just celebrated ten years as a Team! It seems they are quite busy discovering the beauty of marriage! Congratulations!!



Burger & Fries

Jorge & Noelia Sousa sporting their new aprons at a January Super Region Meeting. (Incognito Western Region members.)

Greetings from the Western Region! We pray that you and your Teams are adjusting to the unprecedented times we are facing. Our Region has found it challenging to keep in touch and stay active at this time, but we must persevere!

We would like to introduce you to the Western Region team! Tony & I are blessed to have Father Tom Orlando of All Saints University parish in Turlock, CA as our Spiritual Advisor and Manuel & Alda Avila from Modesto, CA serve as our prayer couple. We are comprised of 9 Sectors in California and Arizona and are blessed to have the following couples on our Team:

Arizona	Chris & Jen Bradley	
Fresno	Gilbert & Marilyn Miguel	Next RC: Mike & Camille Popp
Hanford Portuguese	Frank & Paulina Lourenco	
Turlock 1 Portuguese	John & Lucinda Aguiar	Next RC: Joe & Connie Madruga
Turlock 2	Steve & Kelly Moreda	
Turlock 3	Patrick & Jackie Hollcraft	
Turlock 4	Stephen & Marilyn Schmidt	
Turlock 5	Tony & Joyce Medeiros	
Whittier	Zeferino & Gricelda Farias	

We conducted our first Regional Zoom meeting in April. It's not the same as gathering, but it provided a wonderful opportunity to see each other and catch up on business. Our next Zoom meeting will be in early August. At that time we will officially install new Sector couples for the Fresno and Turlock 1 Portuguese Sectors. We look forward to officially welcoming Mike & Camille Popp and Joe & Connie Madruga to our Team! Thank you to our entire Team for saying YES to the movement!

May you continue to feel the presence of God in your lives and may you find unique ways to connect with your Teams! Blessings from the Western Region!

Karyn & Tony Alamo, Western Region Couple



Just before COVID Pandemic Shut Down, Fresno CA Sector Teams were able to gather for their annual retreat. Shown here participating in the outside Stations of the Cross, thirty eight couples attended the weekend retreat held at St. Anthony Retreat Center in the Sequoia National Forest. The theme of the retreat was "Mary Our Mother" led by retreat Master Rev. Mr. Ronald "Scotty" Bourne. A special Blessed Sacrament blessing was received individually by each retreat couple.

Northwest Region expands to Spokane!

The Holy Spirit is alive and flowing intimately among the very first Pilot Team in Spokane, Washington! After thirty years of marriage and eight years on a team in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, we were invited to become a Pilot Couple. We recognized and appreciated how Teams had deepened the graces of our sacramental marriage, yet we did not feel fully confident in assuming that role. We prayed as we contemplated and made the decision to trust the Holy Spirit in guiding us. "Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in them the fire of your love" and indeed God has! From the onset in December, 2019, the seven couples of Spokane-01 and their spiritual counselor, Fr. David Gaines, have been empowered by the Holy Spirit! As we journey with these Christians, following the Team format, we joyfully reap the benefits of piloting a team. Through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, it is exciting to watch these couples place Christ at the center of their families and seek to know better the will of God in their lives!

Tamarack & Susan Andrews, Coeur d'Alene, Idaho





Bob and Janie Meriscko - Eastern Province Couple

It was in 1966 that Bob Meriscko left his home in Gary, Indiana to attend college at the Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT) in Rochester, New York. The following year, Janie Butowicz left her home in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania to attend college at RIT. They met through RIT's Catholic Campus Parish, the only exempt parish in the Diocese of Rochester. In the winter of 1968 they had the honor of assisting (lector/ server) at a Mass celebrated for the RIT community by Bishop Fulton Sheen (the local Bishop at that time). His piercing eyes and familiar words, "God Love You!" are still fondly remembered. For three years, they attended daily Mass, served on many parish outreach projects, and held offices on the Parish Counsel and in the Northern College Vicariate of the Diocese of Rochester. Living, learning, worshiping, serving and partying together was the closest thing to a utopian parish in the minds of these two. On Christmas Eve of 1969, an engagement to be married was announced, followed by a

weekend retreat in January 1970 with fellow classmates at the nearby Trappist Abbey of the Genesee.

Married life began on August 22, 1970. After Janie's graduation in 1971, they moved to the Washington, DC area. The parish scene at that time left them both wanting, as mostly separate activities for the men and women. A parish bulletin, "enriching your marriage" through a movement called Teams of Our Lady peaked their interest to attend an Information Meeting at the home of George and Ellen Kalas in Clinton, Maryland. The meeting was interesting, filled with ideas of how to grow spiritually as a married couple. All this was presented with the humorous backdrop of the Kalas' young son swinging from the fireplace mantel behind them. A year after that meeting, the Clinton, Maryland 01 Team (seven couples and a priest) committed to the Movement. The year of 1977 was just the beginning of the many meetings, training and living the Team Endeavors (then called Obligations) that resulted in a marriage far better than what they planned.

Bob and Janie have been Information Couple, Pilot Couple, Sector Couple, Regional Couple, and East Province Couple. For them, piloting a new team is the most spiritually enriching job in the Movement. The Merisckos have recently talked to several Metro Region (New York City) couples whose teams have celebrated 50 or more years in the Movement. Paraphrasing these couples: "Teams has taught us how to be married, how to be community, how to be Church, and how to respond to the will of the Father through service. It has made our marriage strong." The Merisckos agree!

Bob and Janie have retired to the DE beach area, but remain with their original Team, now all living in Virginia, with the exception of the Spiritual Counselor, who is a Pastor in Washington, DC. They have two daughters and two grandsons, with a granddaughter on the way.

Mid-Atlantic Region

Philadelphia Sector - A big thank you to Kevin and Sheila Johnson, who have faithfully served as Philadelphia Sector couple since July 2014. Under their leadership and with the help of their Team they have experienced growth, provided housing for YTOL and Team Families during the World Meeting of Families . The Johnson's will be moving to Alpharetta, Georgia. We wish them every blessing. They will be greatly missed. We know that next year at this time there just might be a Team in Alpharetta in piloting.

The Philadelphia 03 Team is comprised of young couples and a Spiritual Counselor who began piloting in December 2019. Piloting continues during the COVID-19 pandemic via Zoom.

Maryland-West Sector - The West Sector has added a new Team in February with Kensington, MD 08 Team committing. Another Team is halfway through piloting and will now have to switch to virtual meetings. Special thanks to the cracker jack Pilot Couple, Don and Yolaine Watkins. Fr. John Dillon and the Sector Team is working with Carla Ferrando-Bowling and Sally Daniel from the Archdiocese of Washington, to introduce Teams to couples completing Marriage Preparation as an on going enrichment.

Maryland-East Sector - Most, if not all, teams have been meeting virtually since the start of the Pandemic. We will be training a new Sector couple – Emily and David Ruppert - son of Dave and Barbara Ruppert, Rockville 04. We hope to install them soon.



Mark & Anne Ehrick
Mid-Atlantic Region

East Province News

East Province Spiritual Counselor, Father John Dillon meets Father Brian Eilers, new Spiritual Counselor of the Super Region USA, through a congratulatory phone conversation—Father Eilers comes directly from the root of Teams of Our Lady as a child of parents who belong to Teams. Father Eilers' work in the seminary gives him a wonderful base for future Spiritual Counselors. Father Dillon is our beloved East Province Spiritual Counselor and Maryland-West Sector Spiritual Counselor as well as Spiritual Counselor to two teams. Both Spiritual Counselors discussed the importance of Teams to parishes and the Church. Both priests see the need to provide further enrichment and support to Spiritual Counselors and Spiritual Advisors for the Teams Movement in the United States.



Coastal Region

Ed & Gilda Cadieux, VA South; Dave & Carol McCaffrey, Regional Couple; Tom & Danielle Mathis, Charlotte, NC North; Richard & Cathy Schwarz, Raleigh, NC; Scott & Mary Ann Harrison, Loudoun Co, VA; Jim & Mary Ann Kirchner, Charlotte, NC South; Jeremy & Sarah Greiner, Alexandria, VA; Alvaro & Olga Barbosa, Simpsonville, SC

No, these smiling couples are not candidates for the game show Hollywood Squares. They are Sector Couples, hard at work, under the capable leadership of Dave and Carol McCaffrey, the Responsible Couple for the Coastal Region.



Since March or so, the Coastal Region has been living in a changed world that was unexpected and beyond our imagination and has been the experience of almost the entire planet. Almost every couple we know of has had personal and family challenges. For our Teams and everyone else the key word is "coping". For Teams it goes beyond coping to growing in our Faith and our marriages. Very few Teams have even attempted the normal format and experience of a Team meeting - in person without social distancing. But there has been anywhere from modest to extensive use of technology such as virtual meetings. Covid-19's arrival was unfortunate; the arrival of the technology to have virtual meetings (ZOOM etc.) has been a blessing. Phone calls, emails, ZOOM meetings, etc. have allowed us to plan for and even execute many Meetings (Information, Sector Team, Regional Team). It is not the same, but it is important to communicate and plan activities and meetings with due consideration of changing "constraints."

Accomplishments include one sector that had two meetings with their RC's before we were quarantined and one sector where some of the Teams have been able to meet face-to-face continually.



*Mike & Pat Bernardi
New England Regional Couple*



*Emily & Mike Hoffman
Lake Erie Regional Couple*



*Nilson & Marioli Marques
Metro Regional Couple*

South Province

West TX/New Mexico
North TX/Oklahoma | East TX
Louisiana/Arkansas | Southeast

Mike and Trice Towns - Southern Province Couple

We are truly humbled to be the new South Province Couple having been installed "virtually" on July 20th. We cannot thank enough TJ and Ellen Holt whose leadership these past 5 years as the 1st South Province Couple has been awe-inspiring. While we can't begin to fill their shoes, we will try to build upon the groundwork they have laid. Our spiritual counselor, Monsignor Adam, (pictured right) has been with us all the way on our journey and he has consented to continue with us for the South Province. God is good!

A little bit about us. We have been married for 21 years and members of Houston, TX Team #2 for over 13 years. We are quick to say, "Joining Teams was the best thing we have done for our marriage! This is the second marriage for both of us and we wanted a plan to keep our relationship strong with God in the center".

Together we have 7 grown children and 7 grandchildren. We spend time in Loveland, Colorado with 2 granddaughters there and in Houston with our 5 grandsons.

During our 13 years in Teams, we piloted new Teams, lead numerous information meetings, served as Houston Sector Couple and then East TX/Louisiana/ARK Regional Couple. We have assisted with the National Conference and participated on the New Teams Welcome Celebration Team. We have been so blessed in all the various aspects of Teams that we've had the privilege of being involved in. If you have the opportunity to say "Yes" to service in Teams, we know that you too will receive much more than you give.

We are thankful for the Team of Regional Couples we will be working with and together we trust that the yoke will be easy and the burden light as we all endeavor to serve the South Province.

*Mike and Trice
South Province Couple*



"Vamping Up" a Virtual Team Meeting

Greg and Heather Erpenbeck, the Sector Couple for Los Alamos, New Mexico, had a great suggestion for something they did for their meeting that proved to be very popular. (Paul and I stole the idea, and it was a huge success with our own team!) They suggested bringing dessert to the home of each couple prior to the meeting. The dessert could then be shared during the meeting. When Paul and I did this, we dropped the dessert off and then called the couple to let them know it was on their door step. It was a pleasant surprise that was not expected. Our team's homes are spread out over a large area, and it took us 2 hours to do this; but it was well worth any difficulty. It was so much fun to see everyone eating their dessert during the meeting! It wasn't anything special, but it brought us together as a meal might have done. We are thankful to Greg and Heather for their wonderful suggestion!!

A New Way to Stay Connected

From left to right on the screen – 3 Couples meet at Sylvester and Carla Ricci's home and social distance for the meeting (Emilio and Nina Gonzalez, Sylvester and Carla Ricci, and Owen and Nina Brady). Upper right is Don and Cathy Brown at their home. We thank them especially since they were at the face to face meeting, but when technical difficulties arose, they had to leave and work the Zoom meeting from their home. Center is Ralph and Kathy McNall, Mary Kay and Larry Kuchta and lower screen Marie and Wendell Colberg. Missing from screenshot is Father Pat, who did come to the beginning of the meeting and even offered Reconciliation (beautiful and we thank you Fr. Pat)! Also missing is Ernie and Mary Beth Retamoza. The group that gathered were very thankful to be at the meeting together and those zooming in also enjoyed being together even if it wasn't in person.



It is so easy in these challenging days to get anxious and discouraged, and yet God tells us what to do, "Have no anxiety at all, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, make your requests known to God. Then the peace of God that surpasses all understanding will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus." (Philippians 4: 6-7)

We are praying for this to be a time of strengthening our faith and keeping in touch with your individual Team and Teams in your Sector, Region, Province as well as staying current on what is happening in the other Provinces in the US and throughout the world in our Teams of Our Lady Movement. We have heard in our Southeast Region some pretty creative Teams doing wonderful activities via Zoom or other media ways. Some are using the free Zoom only to meet weekly for 40 minutes with each other. Others are sharing the Gospel and fellowship at the beginning of the month and having their regular meeting via Zoom in the third week of the month. Some are not doing the typical meeting but having monthly prayer via Zoom. Others are having the regular meeting for 2 hours skipping the one-hour mealtime. And then there are others not meeting at all. We find it very uplifting and encouraging to share ideas of what other Teams are doing and see what your Team can do to stay connected together. This can be a very lonely and isolating time, and yet we know it can be a time where all things work for good for those who believe. So, stay strong, keep the faith, lean on each other and Trust that God has your back and Jesus will never abandon you. Pray, pray, pray for each other, read Scripture and let Jesus speak to your heart, and enjoy a Sit-Down and really listen to your spouse. Please remember, you are never alone. Reach out to your Team members, Sector Couple, Regional Couple, Province Couple and/or Super Regional Couple. We are all in this together, and it is a gift to be able to help someone. So, if you are having trouble Zooming or difficulty in your Team for whatever reason, allow someone to use their gift and help out!

Love and prayers,

Larry and Mary Kay Kuchta
Southeast Regional Couple



The Fort Myers Sector old and new leadership. From the left is Father Saji Ellickal, Spiritual Advisor for six of the Fort Myers Sector's Teams; Joyce and Dave Mraz (Team 10) who will be installed as the new Fort Myers Sector Couple on September 26th; John and Linda Stankiewicz (Team 5) who have been the Fort Myers Sector Couple since January, 2016. The Fort Myers Sector Team plans to meet for a luncheon at John and Linda's home on September 26th, and then all couples in the Fort Myers Sector will be invited to the 4pm Mass at St. John XXIII Catholic Church for the Installation of the new Sector Couple, Dave and Joyce Mraz.

In the Southeast Region, we have 2 Piloting Teams in the Ocala, FL area. Both Teams have been real troopers at continuing the meeting via Zoom.

During this difficult moment of COVID-19, the MIAMI SECTOR is fighting with the new technology tools that the virtual meeting offers.

All the 5 Teams are doing the monthly meetings with this "new way" maintaining the activities and participating.

We did a Sector Meeting via Zoom platform on May 24th (Sunday) inviting our 27 couples and 4 Spiritual Counselors! It was wonderful to get at least 3 couples from each team present and 3 SC. We could see each other, hear the advice from Father Mario Vizcaino, Father Roberto Cid and Deacon Pepe Martinez. We talked about this specific situation that we are living, how the families are doing in their daily life with the children, how they are maintaining the faith and prayers in family, how we can have hope and union based on Christ's model of Love to endure all the challenges that can come.

It is possible to have the Teams Charism alive even if we can't meet personally. We invite all of you to try and do not be intimidated from the "new ways" of life that are imposed on us these days. Be creative and hold on to your faith.

With love,

Camila and Fabio Cristino
Miami, FL Sector Couple



New Louisiana/Arkansas Regional Couple

We are thrilled to announce that Larry and Charla Macicek have accepted the role of Regional Couple for the Louisiana/Arkansas Region. They were installed via Zoom meeting on July 20, 2020.

Larry and Charla have been married 46 years and in Teams for 16 years (Houston Team 2). They are heavily involved in the growth of Teams in mid-Houston. Prior to moving to Houston in 2004, they lived in Lafayette, La. Their two sons have given them ten grandchildren with four in Lafayette and six in New Orleans. This is the reason they now have two homes, one in Lafayette, "Charla's nest" for gathering the big family, and a home in Houston to stay near their "Teams family". They helped recently start three new teams in Lafayette and are anxious to continue building Teams throughout this very blessed region.

During their sixteen years in Teams, Larry and Charla have RC'd, piloted, done numerous information meetings, worked parish Team's coordination, most recently filled the role of Houston Sector Couple, assisted in the National Conference, participated on the New Teams Weekend Celebration team, and in the Teams data base roll out. They are very enthused to help Teams in this Regional role.



New East Tex Regional Couple

We are excited to announce that Caron and Mike Blake have accepted the role of East Texas Regional Couple. They were installed in a Zoom ceremony on July 20, 2020.

Mike and Caron have been married for 16 years and in Teams for 11 years. They have been heavily involved in the growth of Teams in Missouri City, growing the movement from 6 to 12 teams at its highest point. Mike has been in the Houston area 45 years and Caron is a native Houstonian. Mike serves the Sam Houston Area Council Boy Scouts as Assistant Director of Development and Caron teaches Commercial Photography in Katy ISD. They bring together their two families of Mike's 3 sons and Caron's 2 girls. They have been blessed with 8 Grandchildren, all of which are spread out in Colorado, Indiana and Minnesota. Yes, they like to travel! Their parish home is St. Angela Merici, Missouri City where they have been since its founding in 2005. Active as Coordinators of Life Teen for four years as well as leading Adult

Bible Studies, Mike helped organize the inaugural Men's Ministry which has grown to two components which includes That Man is You and Men of the Word, both weekly events. Caron and Mike both have served on ACTS Retreat teams and are currently on the bench waiting for the "corona effect" to pass so they may resume their retreat ministry. They helped recently start two new teams and are anxious to continue building Teams throughout this region.

During their 11 years in Teams, Mike and Caron have RC'd, piloted, conducted numerous information meetings, and worked parish Team's coordination. They most recently filled the role of Missouri Sector Couple, built a Sector Team trained RC's and Liaison Couples to serve the sector and participated in the recent Teams data base roll out. They are very passionate about the value of Teams in their own marriage and are committed in helping this great movement of marital spirituality grow in our East Texas Region.

New Sector for Lafayette and Plaquemine

Julie and Rusty Thibodeaux are the first couple to be installed as a sector couple for the Lafayette/Plaquemine Sector in the newly formed Louisiana/Arkansas Region. Thank you, Julie and Rusty for your "YES" to Teams.

Larry and Charla Macicek, the new Louisiana/Arkansas Regional couple, installed Julie and Rusty via a Zoom ceremony on July 20, 2020.

Rusty and Julie Thibodeaux have been married for 35 years and have been involved in Teams of our Lady for about 9 years.

They both grew up in Louisiana and raised their two sons in Lafayette. Rusty and Julie moved to Houston in 2010. They joined the Katy 5 Team in 2011 and were sold on the Teams concept. After they moved back to Lafayette, Louisiana in 2015 they really missed their Teams experience.

With the help of Larry and Charla Macicek, Rusty and Julie piloted their first Team in Lafayette in 2017. They piloted a second Team in 2019. They look forward to help Teams of Our Lady grow in Lafayette and Louisiana.



4582 Kingwood Drive
Ste E-276
Kingwood, TX. 77345

Non Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Houston, TX
Permit #542

Husband and Wife Name
Address
Address 2

INTERCESSION – GIVE IT A TRY

We are Jack and Mary Pulick from Palm Coast, FL. We have been members of Teams of Our Lady for almost 50 years and it continues to be a wonderful source of Grace in bringing us closer to God and each other. TJ and Ellen Holt have asked us to be the Intercessor Liaison Couple for the US Super Region, and so we wanted to provide you with some information about what an intercessor is and why it is important.

Call of Father Caffarel: In 1960 Fr. Caffarel, seeing the strong expansion of Teams in the world, had the intuition that there needed to be an increase in prayer so that the Movement could consolidate over time. He sent out a call to Team members, "I ask for volunteers to pray together as a couple, during the night, once a month, for the Movement of Teams of Our Lady!" This call was made 60 years ago and is more important than ever at this present time when marriage and family are under such attack. Prayer intercessors are needed to intercede on behalf of Teams of Our Lady and its couples to strengthen their marriages so that they will be a witness to the power of Sacramental Marriage in the world.

Why do Intercessors pray: Intercessors pray for the Movement to be authentic, and to continue its mission of spreading the good news of Christian marriage throughout the world. By praying for Teams couples and Spiritual Counsellors, they demonstrate the importance of the spiritual blending of these two great Vocational Sacraments.

Forms of commitment: The Intercessors commit individually or as a couple to dedicate an hour of prayer (the hour of their choice), once a month, day or night, praying for the intentions mentioned above. Some choose to offer up a day of fasting for these intentions. Others participate in this prayer by offering their life, their trials and their problems. Of course, all three forms of prayer can be a wonderful combination each month.

United in prayer,

*Jack and Mary Pulick
Intercessor Liaison Couple*

THIS YEAR WE CELEBRATE THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF FATHER CAFFAREL'S CALL FOR INTERCESSORS. LET'S ANSWER THE CALL WITH LOVE AND ENTHUSIASM. TO BECOME AN INTERCESSOR OR FOR ANY QUESTIONS PLEASE CONTACT US AT : intercessors@teamsofourlady.org

OR

**Attn. Jack and Mary Pulick
4582 Kingwood Drive
Ste E-276
Kingwood, TX. 77345**