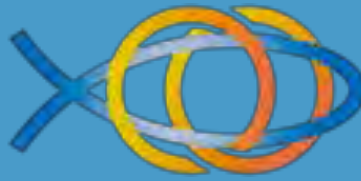




Noélia & Jorge Sousa
Super Regional Couple



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

MAGNIFICAT - Spring 2019

A Newsletter for *Teams of Our Lady* Members

Dear Team Family,

“Peace be with you!” as the Lord often says after the Resurrection to the fearful Apostles. “Peace be with you” to all Teams members as we deepen our Faith, Hope and Love in these 50 days of Easter!

As we journeyed with the Lord Lent and His Passion, we also journey with him in this glorious, exciting and fruitful time. As Bishop Myron Cotta (Diocese of Stockton, CA) wrote, it is a “time we will celebrate the Resurrection, Ascension and Pentecost. It is a season of hope and outpouring of the Holy Spirit. For it is the Spirit, with his gifts and fruits, who will empower us to be the people of God he has called us to be.” We are to be a people of joy, love, optimism, courage, service; a people who do not measure the cost for He who led the way was crucified on the Cross. He who said “Peace be with you” also said “Do you love me? Tend my sheep!!” He challenged us to “Go out to all the world and make disciples of all nations.”

It may be difficult for us to go out to all the nations and proclaim the Good News. There is so much to be done closer to home. We are a Movement that desperately needs its members to go out and spread the good news of Teams. The good news that a holy, strong marriage is possible and that families strengthened by the sacrament of Matrimony can go out to the world and make a difference. Though the Apostles were fearful after Jesus’ death, the Holy Spirit at Pentecost built up their courage and fortitude to go out to the world. The Holy Spirit can do the same for us.

Pope Francis has asked us to go out to the peripheries and help our brothers and sisters and minister to them in their struggle to make their marriage work, to deepen their conjugal spirituality, to help all know that they are important and loved. To do so Teams needs strong, faith-filled couples willing to sacrifice. A Movement without members willing to take on positions of service and leadership cannot survive and “go out” to the world. There are Team Regions that are unable to fill Regional Couple positions, there are so many Sectors that do not have Sector Couples, Sector Couples who find it difficult to fill positions of Information Couples, Piloting Couple and Sector Team members. Imagine the disciples hearing Jesus teachings of the Good News and deciding that the lessons were just for them, for them to grow as individuals, to deepen their faith, and be holy. They knew better for to be holy is to “go out”, to go beyond comfortableness, to be of service to others.

Speaking of service, we want to send out a big THANK YOU! from the bottom of our hearts to Inez and Joe Varao who for so many years served Teams in so many capacities including Sector, Regional and Super Regional Couple and also as SR Newsletter and Materials Couple. Thank you for all your work and sacrifice and we wish all the best with the grandchildren. We also want to thank Monique and Paul Harris for taking on the role of SR Newsletter Couple.

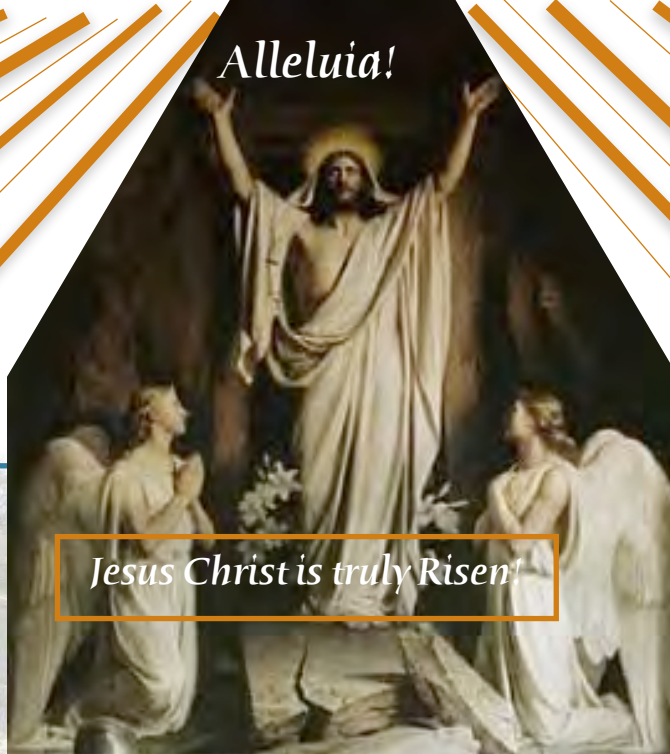
May the Holy Spirit in this time of Resurrection, Ascension and Pentecost, propel us to “go out” and serve Teams and, with Teams strong, we can go out to the world and make a difference.

Peace be with you!!

Noélia and Jorge Sousa

USA SR Responsible Couple

Alleluia!



Jesus Christ is truly Risen!



Fr Manuel Sousa
Spiritual Counselor

Dear Teams of Our Lady Couples,

Jesus Christ is truly Risen! Alleluia! Happy Easter! The Feast of Easter is celebrated with an Octave. Eight days as if they were one long and powerful day. Then, it expands until Pentecost. An added bonus, which brings out the depths of Easter Joy, is the Novena and Feast of Divine Mercy on the last day of the Octave. Oh that Christians would understand and immerse themselves in this sea of God's bounty.

Fr. Henri Caffarel in one of his articles appearing on *Presence of God: One Hundred Letters on Prayer*, published in Paris in book form in 1974, brings out the power of the great mystery of Easter in the life of the Christian and of the world. He writes: "It is as if all the sanctifying power of the divinity is concentrated in this Risen Christ. Concentrated but not imprisoned. Concentrated to expand itself infinitely to reach all men who entrust themselves to its action, making of them new beings, divinized and formed, all of them, into an immense Body, filled with the Holy Spirit... It is to the very ends of the cosmos, that this divine power concentrated in the glorious humanity of the Risen Christ, wants to extend itself to embrace everything, to lead everything to the Father."

Fr. Caffarel's voice still echoes over the years and the decades: Let this Easter be different. Let the power residing in the Risen One not be imprisoned by the shallowness of our faith, the indifference and coldness of our hearts. Let not the worldliness of lukewarm and soft Christians compromise the vitality and the power of the charisms of our Movement. Let there be a new Pentecost of leadership at all levels. Let there be many Sectors, Liaison Couples, Pilot Couples and new teams everywhere. Let there be many couples and Spiritual Counselors in Texas at the Super-Regional Gathering in July.

Oh that we would hear the cry of the Risen One, thirsty for souls, thirsty for couples on fire with His love, thirsty for a new and dynamic fidelity to the Movement in all its demands and in all its glory.

Happy Easter to all,

Fr. Manuel Fontes Sousa, Super-Regional Spiritual Counselor



National Teams Conference

July 16 - 19, 2019

Camp Allen, Navasota, Texas



The next Teams National Conference will be held July 16-19, 2019, at Camp Allen in Navasota, Texas. Registration is now open. There are a limited number of spaces available, so register today to attend this one-of-a-kind event. Camp Allen is a year-round, fully air conditioned facility.

Early registration is encouraged - 55% of the rooms are now reserved.

At the Teams of our Lady National Conference, more than 800 teams in the country are invited to come together as one united to share our married spirituality with other married couples. We invite you to come join us in experiencing the greater Teams movement that has inspired and impacted the lives of Catholic families across the country. You don't want to miss it!

You may register for the Conference spots are filling up quickly, so register by [clicking here](#) and completing the secure [online registration form](#).

SPEAKERS & ENTERTAINMENT INCLUDE:

- * Cardinal Daniel DiNardo, Archdioceses of Galveston Houston
- * Bishop Joseph Strickland, Diocese of Tyler
- * David and Elizabeth Costa - Team Members and Motivational Speakers
- * Richard Gaillardetz, Author & Theologian
- * Msgr. Chester Borski, retired Regional Teams Spiritual Counselor and Team member

This is an exciting opportunity to meet Team members from across the country and celebrate marriage. Along with great speakers, you'll enjoy family fun entertainment including: David Kaufman, Christian Entertainer; Texas A & M Aggie Wranglers Dancers; a Celebration of Marriage featuring Team member and singer - John Klocke!

We will also have a children's program.

OTHER ATTRACTIONS you can visit before or after The National Conference:

San Antonio: Stroll the River Walk, visit the Alamo, Sea World, San Antonio Missions National Historical Park, Guadalupe Cathedral, the Mercado, the Zoo, Fiesta Texas, Sea World Aquatica Waterpark, Botanical Gardens, Witte Museum, Natural Bridge Caverns, Kiddie Park.

Houston: Go to an Astro's game, Johnson Space Center, the Aquarium, the Children's Museum, the Zoo, Kemah Boardwalk, . Ice skating at the Galleria.

Galveston: Go to the beach, Moody Gardens, Galveston Island State Park, Pleasure Pier Amusement park, Schlitterbahn, Lone Star Flight Museum, Tall Ship ELISSA.

College Station: Visit George H. W. Bush Presidential Library, St. Mary's Catholic Center, A & M Hall of Champions, the 12th Man Statue, Bonfire Memorial, Albritton Bell Tower, The Corps of Cadets Center, Aggie Park and stop on the way to visit the Blue Bell Ice Cream Factory in Brenham.

Austin: State Capitol, Bullock Texas State History Museum, LBJ Presidential Library, Inner Space Cavern, Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center, Franklins BBQ, Barton Springs/Creek, the South Congress Bridge at sunset to see the bats fly, Texas Memorial Museum, Austin Nature & Science Center, Zilker Park, Lake Travis.

Other Points of Interest to Visit: New Braunfels, Fredricksburg, Luckenbach, Waco



Glynis & Steve Sturm
North Provincial Couple

We are full of gratitude as we write this message to our larger Teams family, all of you! Recently we had our College Meeting with our Regional Couples who are so committed to the Teams movement and their regions that we are very encouraged on the further growth of teams. Two of our couples faced a harrowing trip home due to the volatile weather in our province but were kept safe on this journey of faithful service. We were able to have a college meeting with all four of our Regional Couples; Steve and Julie Whitmore, Lake Michigan Region, John and Roz Needham, Midwest Region, Kirk & Peggy Peterson, Central Region, and Mike & Barb Timm, North Central Region. These couples are your connection to the Teams movement across the country and ultimately the rest of the world. Please let your RC's and Sector Couples know your concerns and questions because you are the heart of the movement, every local team. Also please pray that the work we do is filled with love and the Holy Spirit.

A recent experience gave us the opportunity to reflect on our marriage as vocation. Daughter number three asked us to speak at her parish Cana Dinner. We were honored to be asked but didn't know what we were meant to say. The process of putting together a half hour talk was one of many revisions and deep reflection. The center of the talk was a lasting memory from our wedding homily. There are now three of you on this new journey in life with God to sustain you in joys and trials. The message



North Province College Meeting

from Ecclesiastes 4:12 "a cord of three is not quickly broken." As we explored our almost 47 years of marriage, we uncovered the hand of God always leading and supporting us. Bishop Robert Baron has said that you come to church to be married before God and his people, when you're convinced that your marriage is not about you, but about God and serving God's purposes. Marriage is just as much as the priesthood a sacred calling. In Teams we speak of two vocations walking side by side, marriage and the priesthood. So for us Teams has been the school of marriage as vocation with the wisdom of our spiritual counselors on their vocational calling. We are filled with gratitude for Teams in our lives and for all of you.



3 Ply Cord



Midwest & Lake Michigan Regions



Central & North Central Regions

The North Province College Meeting

March 23rd took us to Toledo, Ohio for the Regional College with the Sector Couples from the Lake Michigan and Midwest regions. Sector Couples represented Detroit, Michigan, Petoskey, Michigan, Grand Rapids, Michigan, Toledo, Ohio, Hamilton, Ohio, Granville, Ohio and Louisville, Kentucky. Steve and Julie Whitmore and John and Roz Needham organized a day of fellowship, prayer, Information, and discussion.

April 6th we journeyed to Des Moines, Iowa, for the Regional College for the central and north central regions. Sector Couples from Kansas, Iowa, Colorado, North Dakota, Minnesota Missouri and Nebraska represented their Sectors. Kurt and Peggy Peterson and Mike and Barb Timm welcomed everyone to a day of sharing, information and resources to help Sectors and Pre-Sector Couples.

We were thrilled to meet all these leadership couples and learn what energized them and what concerns they have. Guess what? Couples from all these areas shared similar perceptions: Love for Teams of Our Lady as a couple and family life. The new website with all the upgrades and Sector Couple access was highly praised. The new Endeavor “seven pack” booklets have been well received and are being utilized. Sector Teams and Liaison Couples, where they have been implemented, have improved communications and assisted the Sector Couples. The use of a couple to pray for leadership and support was invaluable. Pilot Couples and Information Couples who are excited about Teams and share this with joy are a blessing. All were thankful for their Spiritual Counselors. Overriding concerns were communications within their Sector and the need for leaders. Their concerns are not only for the Sector but for the whole movement of Teams. The reality is that Teams without leadership does not grow and, in fact, will diminish over time. We are not to work alone and we are all called to do our part whatever that may be. Please search your hearts and ask the Spirit to guide you when you hear a call in your Sector.



Larry Wagner, Raquel Tripp, Glynis & Steve Sturm, Fr. Vincent Haut

Eucharistic Congress

Eucharistic Congress March 22 -23 Jacksonville, Florida

Thank you to the Jacksonville Teams of Our Lady for their commitment and hospitality. And especially Chad & Raquel Tripp, past Regional Couple, for their enthusiasm and commitment to the service of Teams.



Carrying the Teams banner, Steve Sturm and Raquel Tripp

For the past two years, the USA Super Regional leadership of the Teams Movement have been invited to attend the annual Mass for Life and a follow-on reception at the Franciscan Monastery of the Holy Land in America (in Washington, DC). This year Mark Ehrick, one-half of the Regional Couple for our Mid-Atlantic Region, was able to attend this wonderful event. The Most Reverend Joseph F. Naumann, Archbishop of Kansas City, Kansas and Chairman of the USCCB Committee on Pro-Life Activities, was the Principal Celebrant at the Mass on January 17. The Archbishop's homily reflected on the first reading (Genesis 1:1-2:2) and the Gospel (Luke 23:35-43). He said that God's great and eternal love—unselfish in creating, created human life and entrusts us, not only as responsible stewards of His creation, but to participate in creating life. Archbishop Naumann talked about life being complicated and messy. Pregnancy can be that way sometimes, especially when self-contentedness blinds us to see life in the womb. He said that this is a difficult time in the Church, but it should not discourage us from our Pro-Life activities. We should see God's goodness in all human life.



Many teams in the East Province celebrated the 80th anniversary of the first Teams meeting in Paris, France, of four couples and Father Caffarel. We will mention two examples: On February 25, Father John Dillion, East Province Spiritual Counselor and Spiritual Counselor to two Maryland teams offered a special Mass, attended by representatives of seven teams from the Mid-Atlantic Region; afterwards, they shared a celebration cake and memories of how their own Teams began. The second example is the celebration by members and families of the Mount Vernon, New York 1, 2, and 3 Teams of the Portuguese-speaking Sector in our Metro Region.



Janie & Bob Mericsko
East Provincial Couple



This year's Teams National Conference has long been on the minds and in the hearts of the Gaithersburg Maryland 1 Team (Mid-Atlantic Region), who will be giving a presentation. On the eve of Holy Week, the Team met for one of their many times of preparation. Their willingness to speak of their own journey as a new team will be inspirational for all. We are most grateful for their time and sacrifice for the larger Team Movement.





A cross-Regional Lenten Day of Recollection on March 9, was very successful, with the Coastal and Mid-Atlantic Regions teaming together. The day included two presentations followed by small-group discussions, prayer time, and the opportunity for the Sacrament of Reconciliation and the Liturgy. The talks were given by Professor John and Mrs. Claire Grabowski. Professor Grabowski teaches theology at the Catholic University of America in Washington, DC. The Grabowskis are members of the Pontifical Council for the Family.



Mike and Emily Hoffman, Regional Couple for the Lake Erie Region, installed Mike and Pat Hardy as the new Sector Couple for the Buffalo North Sector, and Dennis and Mary Joe Weiss, Sector Couple for the Buffalo South Sector, during a successful Regional Day on March 31.



The day included a talk by Father Matt Foley.

One of the many blessings we receive from being the Province Couple is the conversations we have with Sector and Piloting Couples, who tell us of their experiences. Within the last two weeks, we heard news about the Maryland-South and the Maryland-West Sectors (Mid-Atlantic Region) and the Charlotte, North Carolina South Sector (Coastal Region). This gives us hope for the future growth of the Teams Movement in our East Province. Another blessing is being invited to various Sector and Regional events. During Lent, we joined Ron and Bev Stoner, Delaware Sector Couple (Mid-Atlantic Region) at the first Commitment Ceremony of the new Bethany Beach Delaware 1 Team. The Team asked their Spiritual Counselor, Father John Klevence, if they might do their commitment at a Sunday Mass. What wonderful witness these young couples are, not only to their children, but to the larger parish community. Please pray other young couples will join Teams and that each Sector will provide leadership to aid in the Teams Movement.





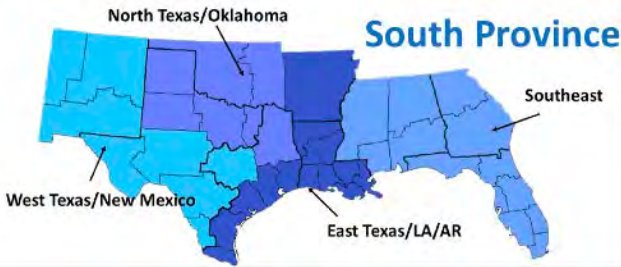
TJ & Ellen Holt
South Provincial Couple

North Texas/Oklahoma Region:

A very special marriage retreat for the Dallas Spanish Sector



Southeast Region:



The South Province consists of four regions and 8 states. There are approximately 265 Teams in the South Province and 36 Sectors. Dioceses boundaries help to divide the state of Texas.

North Texas/Oklahoma Region consists of Oklahoma and North Texas, which include Dallas, Coppell, Fort Worth, Frisco, Tyler, Nacogdoches, and Amarillo. There are Spanish language Teams in the Dallas area.

West Texas/New Mexico Region is comprised of New Mexico and Dripping Springs, West Texas Teams in Abilene, Fredericksburg, Austin, Waco, and San Antonio.

East Texas/ Louisiana/Arkansas Region consists of Arkansas, Teams in Louisiana: Lafayette, Monroe, Ruston, and Plaquemine. In East Texas Teams: Houston, Kingwood, Clear Lake, Cypress, Kingsville, Richmond, Spring/Tomball, Katy, and Missouri City.

Southeast Region consists of Alabama, Georgia, Mississippi and Florida with Teams in Miami, Fort Myers, Palm Coast, Pinellas, Orlando, Jacksonville



Orange Park, Team FL 1

Celebrating 80th anniversary of the first Team Meeting - Feb 25



Palm Coast FL- Team1

Palm Coast FL- Team 3

Palm Coast FL- Team 2

Sector Team Meeting ~ Responsible Couple Training Hillsborough, FL Sector



West Texas/New Mexico Region:

Austin TX 7 held their annual retreat in a cabin at Log Country Cove in Burnet, TX. Their retreat ended on Sunday by praying the Magnificat and making the trip back to each of their regular lives with renewed faith and love for each person, their marriages and, of course, their Team.



Fredericksburg, Texas team #5

RC training in San Antonio, Texas

Front: Joby & AmyClaire Wieser, Franklin & Barbara Staats, Judy & Mike Eilers
Back row: John & Amy McNamara, Riley & Martha Kothmann, Marsha & Brian Bratton, Cathy & Mark Ledder, Debbie & John Ghidoni



East Texas/Louisiana/Arkansas:

Teams have Stations of the Cross and followed by a potluck dinner at St. Rose of Lima Church, Houston



Austin TX 14 in the Dripping Springs Sector enjoyed this year's retreat at Our Lady of Corpus Christi retreat center. The retreat was also attended by other couples from the Dripping Springs Sector.

This retreat offers tools based on the *Theology of the Body* for discovering your spouse anew, time spent together in Eucharistic Adoration, Confession, and even a romantic evening dinner and dancing!



The West Province is composed of the Western and Northwestern Regions. All 13 of the Sectors in these two Regions have Sectors Couples, and they are busy building their Sector Teams, which include Pilot Couples, Information and Liaison Couples. We are presently looking for a new Western Regional Couple. We will be installing them at the October Regional Day in California. This new Regional Couple will be hosted at the Super Regional and College Meeting before the National Conference at Camp Allen, Navasota, TX, in July 2019.

Tom and Gay Locke met with their Sector Couples to discuss their upcoming Regional Day, October 5th, and go over all of the details of building Sector Teams. This was a particularly wonderful Regional meeting for Tom and Gay, in that they hosted the installation of the first EVER Sector Team in Arizona. Jorge and Noelia Sousa were there for this great event.

Most of the 5 teams in Boise, Idaho, have completed their piloting and the sixth team has just formed this past January. We are now seeking a couple in the Boise area to become the first Sector Couple. This area has exploded with growth and Teams have even expanded out to Twin Falls, Idaho. Jake & Yesenia Ineck from Boise 01, have informed enough couples to begin **four** new teams in Twin Falls!



Sharla & Rob Walsh
West Provincial Couple



We have had the providential introduction to an outgrowth Movement of *Teams of Our Lady* called "La Vie Devant Nous" which means "The Life Before Us", in English. The Movement is for the elderly (75 years and older) to build up small group communities of contemplative "pray-ers" for the world and to help prepare for the "Grand Passing" to heaven. We will make the official introduction and presentation of the Movement, The Life Before Us (LVDN), to the Super Regional Team and College at the National Conference in July of this year, at Camp Allen, in Navasota, TX.

The 80th Anniversary of the First Team Meeting took place on February 25, 2019. We have many photographs and stories to tell and look forward to hearing from you about your experiences on that wonderful evening. We rescheduled our own Feb 25 Anniversary Team Meeting to March 25 as we had three and a half feet of snow in Redmond, OR, on the eve of Feb 25!

West Linn-02



Anniversary meetings of Teams of Our Lady
February 25, 2019
80th Anniversary of the Teams Movement

Oregon City 02



Portland 05



Western Province Retreats and Events

Whittier Sector Epiphany Celebration



Hanford Portuguese Valentine Dinner



Installation of the First Sector Couple in Arizona
Chris and Jen Bradley



Turlock Portuguese Sector
Retreat 2019



Hanford Team 3 Rivers
Retreat 2019



To the right:

Maggie and Miguel Costa,
Scott & Alison Kuykendall,
Jorge and Noelia Sousa

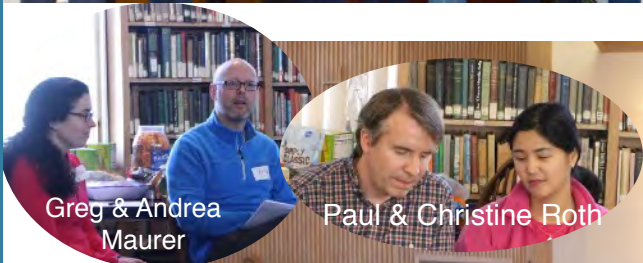


Portland OR Sector B Retreat, Oct 19-21, 2018
"The Wild Goose"

Portland OR Joint Sectors
Liaison & Informational Couple Training



Portland OR Sector A Retreat, , March 3, 2019



Forgiveness & Joy
Mass
with Bishop Kenneth Steiner



Fr. Francis Chun





Teams of Our Lady

www.teamsofourlady.org

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



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

“There is there, in the midst of these couples gathered together in a room in an apartment, the intense presence of the Risen Lord, alive, attentive to all, loving all of them, with their mixture of good and bad, and anxious to help them to become the kind of people they want to be. He is there, as on the evening of the Resurrection, in the upper room in Jerusalem, when He appeared suddenly to those other team members, the apostles. He breathed on them, saying: ‘Receive – the Holy Spirit.’ And they became new men. Jesus Christ, in the midst of couples, does not fail to impart His Spirit to them; and those who open themselves to His Spirit – this is something that people learn gradually – become people of the Spirit. And the whole meeting is animated by the Spirit. To these men and women who, in the evening, after a hard day, often arrive exhausted and weighed down with worries, this Spirit communicates Christ’s twofold passion: His impatience for the glory of His Father, and His burning and gentle pity for the crowds ‘who are like sheep without a shepherd.’

What I have just described is not what it always is, but how it ought to be. For a meeting of a team which is not first and foremost a joint effort to meet Jesus is something completely different from a meeting of a Team of Our Lady.”

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