



Teams of Our Lady

Magnificat

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

Serving in the Imitation of Mary

Holy Mother Mary is the pinnacle of human creation and provides a challenging example for us as members of Teams. We pray the Magnificat daily to focus our lives in imitation by this prayer given to us by Mary. The study topic for this year is titled Serving in the Imitation of Mary. The topic begins with the Wedding at Cana at the first miracle of our Lord. The suggestion of His Mother states at the wedding feast that "They have no more wine". It was a small act of Mary pointing out the source of possible frustration, embarrassment and discomfort for the Bride and Groom. Jesus responds with abundance to the suggestion of his Mother.

The study topic challenges us to look at our situations with the eyes of Mary and the Holy Family to see things in holy and caring ways and to act with complete trust in Jesus. Much of the material is focused outward. We can also challenge ourselves to look inward and close to us where acts of love can have the greatest impact. How can we help those closest to us that have "no wine"?

We also challenge Teams members to see our Teams, Sectors and Movement with the eyes of Mary. Each marriage lived in love and in the image of the Trinity can transform those around us and the world. Are there circumstances where our Teams members have no proverbial "wine"? What about our Sectors who need a Pilot Couple to lead a new team into existence? Or our Movement that needs volunteers and leaders to take small acts with complete trust in Jesus to realize the abundance provided by our Lord for many at the "wedding feast"?

As we approach the coming year we pray the each of us find the proverbial "wine" Jesus provides and that we act in love and confidence to share it and restore it in others – in our marriage, family, Movement, Church, community, country and world.

In 1949 Fr. Caffarel wrote:

"You come together to seek Christ, to imitate him, to serve him. You will not succeed without a guide, and there is no better guide than Mary. I would like us, in our Teams, to nurture faith in the all-powerful tenderness of Our Lady and for each couple to experience the trust and security that small children feel in their mother's presence. I would like this to be one of our characteristics - I would then have great confidence in the future." (Page 92 of the Study Topic)

Wishing you Christ's abundant blessings!

Ellen and T.J. Holt
Super Regional Couple

USCCB video featuring
Ellen & T.J. Holt
representing Teams



Ellen & T.J. Holt
USA-SR@TeamsOfOurLady.org

Super Region

Jim & Deb St. Louis
North-PC@TeamsOfOurLady.org

North Province

Mike & Trice Towns
South-PC@TeamsOfOurLady.org

South Province

Deacon Dave & Carol McCaffrey
East-PC@TeamsOfOurLady.org

East Province

Robin & Colette Quinn
West-PC@TeamsOfOurLady.org

West Province

Fall 2022

SUPER REGIONAL COLLEGE

TOGETHER AND FULL OF JOY



Super Regional Team together again for the first time since 2019. We are so grateful for the time together.



Super Regional College meeting August 4-6. We met at St Francis of Assisi parish in Des Moines Iowa.



Our Super Regional College meeting ended with Mass followed by a potluck sponsored by the Des Moines, Iowa sector. Here is the group! Super Regional College and Des Moines Sector. Thank you Des Moines Sector for your amazing hospitality!

JOIN US FOR THE INTERNATIONAL TEAMS GATHERING



Does this sound amazing?

Do you want to attend?

Have you been dreaming of a trip to Turin?

All are welcome but we need to submit a rough idea of how many people would like to join.

There is no financial obligation at this time. We just need to know how many team members are interested.

If you would like to attend please contact your sector couple before October 10.

INTERNATIONAL LEADERSHIP MEETING IN ASSISI, ITALY - JULY 23-30

Responsible Couples from around the world that attended the 2022 International Leadership Meeting in Assisi, Italy.



The America Zone. These are the Responsible Couple who represent North and South America. The couples and Priests are from Ecuador, Columbia, Mexico, Brazil, Canada and USA.



This is all the English speaking countries that attended the International Gathering.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR YES!



Deacon Dave and Carol McCaffrey were installed as the New Responsible Couple for the East Province by Ellen and T.J. Holt, Responsible Couple for the USA.



New Turlock Sector Couple Adrian and Lynette Silva (West Province)

Not Pictured

Pedro & Carolina Angulo - new Responsible Couple for the Spanish Dallas Sector (South Province)



Deacon Andrew and Jennifer Mical - new Responsible Couple for the Lake Erie Region.



Bob and Jamie Mericksko as the New Historian Couple.



Joe and Michelle Lawler - new Responsible Couple for the New England Region



Fabio & Camila Cristino, Southeast Regional Couple, will be installed on Nov. 5th at the Southeast Regional Day (South Province)



Victor and Nicole Sanchez - New Boise Sector Couple (West Province)



Carlos and Gaby Contreras - New Responsible Couple for North Texas/Oklahoma Region (South Province)

THE IMPOSTER SYNDROME

We recently met with our Super Regional Team and the Responsible Couples that serve each Region throughout the US. As I sat there I had moments wondering if I belonged with such faith-filled couples in a leadership role. I know my spouse has spoken at times of not feeling up to the task. I look in the mirror and feel that feeling for a variety of reasons. Why do I doubt the gifts that the Lord has given me? Why am I listening to those negative thoughts?

So I prayed silently. I tried to listen to the Lord. I sat in church for daily mass every day of this Super Regional College. It was a blessing. I heard the message of Jesus telling me he loves me. I listened to the couples surrounding me and heard the thankfulness of serving others.

I am not an imposter when I serve the Lord. I may be like the apostle Peter before the Holy Spirit filled him and lifted him up. I stumble along, make mistakes, wonder when am I going to find the time to serve Teams? And then I find the time, I make the time to serve Him and all of you, and I receive back more than I gave.

Deb and I humbly accepted this role a year ago with almost no understanding of what we really were getting into. Let me tell you what we have discovered over the past year: God's love everywhere we turn. I am no fan of constant zoom meetings for work or anything. Yet I love seeing the faces of the Sector Couples and Regional Couples who are giving themselves to the Movement. I see and feel the love of the Lord, and I am lifted up by being a part of this great group. I hope all of you can experience the joy of serving in this way.

So I encourage each one of you to say Yes to the next sector meeting, Regional College invitation or Teams retreat invite. Say yes, like Mary did. Feel the power of the love of our Lord. None of us are imposters if we use the gifts God gave us for the good of the church. Say yes and rejoice.

Jim and Deb St. Louis - North Province Responsible Couple

The photo was taken at the recent Super Regional College Meeting in August 2022. We are touching a stone brought back from Assisi, Italy, and installed in a bell tower of the church of St. Francis of Assisi, in Des Moines, IA.



Saturday evening Patty and Mark Conway, on the left, New Central Regional Couple, who were installed Friday, August 5, 2022, installed the new Des Moines Iowa Sector Couple Paulette and Stuart Gardner, who are standing next to Jim and Deb St Louis, North Province Couple.



Ft. Worth, TX Sector, Daniel & Kaci Cross, - installation Sept. 30, at Holy Family, Ft. Worth, TX at 5:30 pm mass (South Province)

Mark and Patty Conway, New Responsible Couple for Central Region (North Province)



NEW TEAMS WELCOME CELEBRATION

After a 2-year hiatus due to the COVID pandemic, a New Teams Welcome Celebration (NTWC) was held in Silver Spring, Maryland on March 26, 2022. This event set a record with over 120 participants including children in attendance. It was great to be together to celebrate marriages and the Teams Movement.

For those of you in the East Province, particularly the Mid-Atlantic Region, mark your calendars. The next NTWC is coming to Newtown, Pennsylvania on Saturday, October 29, 2022, at St. Andrew Catholic Church. Be on the look-out for an announcement and invitation in your inbox soon.

Other NTWC's in the planning stages for 2023 include: Miami, FL, St. Louis, MO, and West Texas.

A New Teams Welcome Celebration (NTWC) is relatively new to the United States but is gaining in popularity and coming to a Region near you! An NTWC is an exciting, day-long regional event to recognize, support, and celebrate new teams that have recently completed piloting and made a commitment to the Movement. The day consists of prayer, presentations, discussions, team building, and of course, celebration! 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.

Each NTWC requires a Formation Team or retreat team. We are looking for Teams couples of all ages who are passionate about the Movement and open to sharing their experiences and testimonies with other married couples. Be on the look-out for an upcoming virtual (Zoom) NTWC Formation Team Information Meeting. Anyone interested in finding out more about NTWC and the formation and logistics teams are strongly encouraged to attend. The next Zoom meeting is Saturday, November 12, 2022, from 1-4pm central time. Be on the look-out for an email with more details from your Regional Couple and Province Couple.



Interested in more information, please contact:

- US Super Region NTWC Coordinator Couple, Greg & Melanie Gehrt, ntwc@teamsofourlady.org
- North Province NTWC Coordinator Couple, Rick & Carol Fishbune, north-ntwc@teamsofourlady.org
- East Province NTWC Coordinator Couple, Ernie Tedeschi & Eva St. Clair, east-ntwc@teamsofourlady.org
- South Province NTWC Coordinator Couple, Josh & Christina Loeffler, south-ntwc@teamsofourlady.org
- *West Province NTWC Coordinator Couple, Position Open*



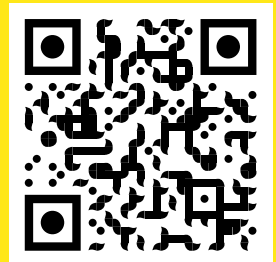
Valerie and Gil Morales - new Responsible Couple for the Hillsborough Sector - South Province

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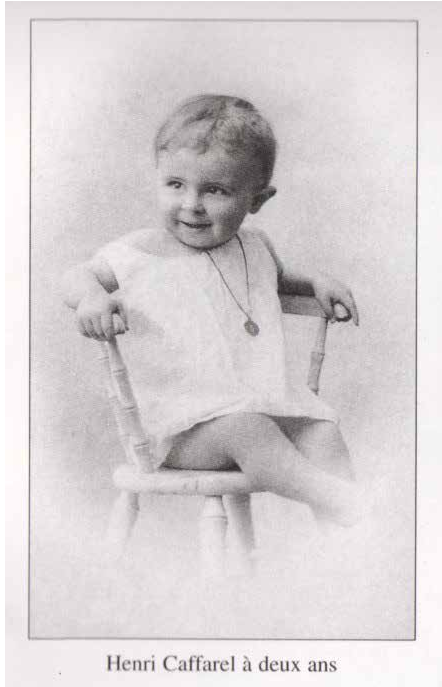
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FATHER CAFFAREL, BORN INTO A FAMILY OF FAITH



Henri Caffarel à deux ans

Talking about Teams, we often say to others, "Without holy families, we cannot have priests, and without priests, we have no church." So it is with that thought in the back of our minds, we search to find out what Fr. Henri Caffarel's family was like.

Fr. Henri Caffarel was born on July 30, 1930, the first child of Ferdinand Caffarel and Élisabeth Voisin. Fr. Caffarel's mother and her parents, Auguste Voisin and Marie Venard, were extremely pious and austere and they and their friends had a strong influence on his life and faith.

As such, Fr. Caffarel's mother had a very close relationship with Jean and Marie Thomasset Voisin who had 5 children: Maurice, Joseph, Marc, Marie-Louise, and Agnes, whom the Caffarel family frequently visited. Each of the children influenced Father Caffarel. Maurice became a priest of Diocese of Digne, took part in the resistance, was arrested by the Gestapo, tirelessly ministered to the misery he encountered in his life. Joseph ordained as a Jesuit priest, set up a system to give young Jewish girls work as domestic help and arranged for their refuge in Switzerland, one at a time. Jewish boys were placed as clerks. Thus the family helped 38 young Jews escape the Nazi persecution of that time. Marc took over the business of Ferdinand Caffarel in the millinery business of making hats, had 5 sons, of which the oldest became a priest in the Diocese of Lyon, where he is a Spiritual Counselor for Teams in that region. Marie-Louise and Agnes were involved in an organization, "Aide aux Mères", to assist mothers and families.

Another of Father Henri Caffarel's maternal ancestors, Gabriel Venard became a parish priest in about 1768, and was known and respected for his kindness. During the French persecution of Catholics at that time, he remained hidden in his parish from Sept 1792 to March 1793, visiting parishioners at night. He was eventually arrested, ill-treated, chained, and forced to walk by foot to the pontoons of Rochefort, where he died in misery. Pope John Paul II beautified him, along with 63 other French priests and religious who died in 1794 and 1795, all known as the "pontoon martyrs".

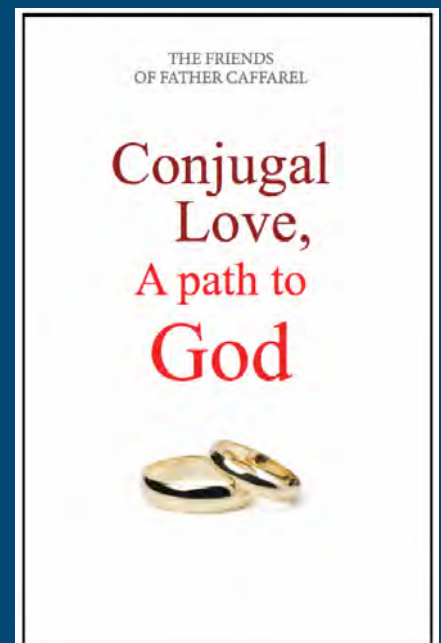
Needless to say, the family of Father Caffarel and close friends of the family, practiced their faith with extreme charity and openness to others, and persevered through all the torments of persecution of the Catholic Church in France. In this environment many of his extended family became priests and religious, and the others were active in their communities to do good... living their faith to the fullest. Father Henri Caffarel was truly blessed to have been born into a holy family.

CONJUGAL LOVE: A PATH TO GOD

A new "Father Caffarel book", promulgated by Friends of Father Caffarel, is available, if you do not already have it. Conjugal Love provides deep insights into the wonder and greatness of Christian Marriage, its sacramentality, spirituality, and the challenges of the lived experiences in today's busy world. You can purchase the book at the following web site: marriedspirituality.com/about-the-book. Royalties from the sale benefit Friends of Father Caffarel and their efforts to promote the Cause of Father Caffarel's Canonization.

We got the book and once started, we couldn't lay it down. We strongly recommend this book for all Teams of Our Lady Couples, Spiritual Counselors, your other Catholic friends, and newly married couples. All would benefit. Recently we gave our parish priest a copy and although we are not sure the book was the impetus; but afterwards, our Priest came to us and said not only does he want Teams in our parish but he also wants to be our team's Spiritual Counselor. Gifts of the book are an excellent way to evangelize the beauty of the gift of the Sacrament of Marriage and our movement. Get it today.

The study of the complete collection of the Positio by the Commissions of the Congregation for the Cause of Saints, composed of Consultants and other Cardinals, should now be underway. If proposed by the Cardinals, the acknowledgment of the heroic nature of Father Caffarel's virtues would then be proclaimed by the Pope and the Canonization underway. But that could take years, so your prayers and donations to the Cause are needed. You can renew your memberships and make your annual donations at either TeamsOfOurLady.org or at Henri-Caffarel.org.



Save the Date! Mark your Calendars!

Contact your Sector Couple for details on event time, location, and registration.

Family Picnic Social

September 17, 2022

Boise/Twin Falls Area Teams

Kleiner Memorial Park, Meridian, ID

Fresno Sector Couple's Night Out

October 8, 2022 - Location TBD

Western Regional Day

November 5, 2022

Keynote: The Renowned Gus Lloyd

Our Lady of the Assumption Church, Turlock, CA

Fresno Sector After Mass Potluck Socials

December 10, 2022

St. Brigid Church Hall, Hanford, CA

Fresno Sector Retreat

February 24-26, 2022

St. Anthony Retreat Center, Three Rivers, CA

"A FEW GOOD COUPLES"

- Do you enjoy a great retreat and an inspirational gathering?
- Are you great at event planning and enjoy hosting a group of inspired couples in the Teams Movement?
- Would you like to help welcome new couples to Teams after their Piloting Period?
- Are you interested in serving Teams on an occasional basis?

The Western Province is looking for a "few good couples" to help coordinate NTWC events. These NTWCs are held when four or more Teams have completed their Piloting Period. (These most likely are every second to third year depending upon how fast the Region is growing.) Each Region will have a NTWC Team, and will serve with the Province NTWC Coordinator. The Super Region NTWC Couple provides the outlines and the guidance for the Celebration.

Please pray about saying "Yes" to this service opportunity in our Movement. Then Contact the Province Couple – Robin & Colette Quinn, 559-816-5417 about the possibility. Thank you!

FRESNO SECTOR HOSTS ANNUAL RETREAT

Last March, 41 Married Couples enjoyed the Annual Teams Retreat nestled in the Sierra Mountains in Three Rivers, California. John Sablan of World Ablaze Ministries, and his wife Nicole Sablan-a Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist, inspired and instructed couples with both soul searching and practical tips for all couples.

This weekend retreat is made possible by the Sector Retreat Committee – the Sector Couple and at least one couple from each Team in the Sector. "Many hands make light work." Each Team takes responsibility for one part of the Retreat: Leading Stations of the Cross, Leading the Rosary, Hospitality, Parting Gifts, Room Preparations, Daily Prayer & Meal Prayers, Registration, and Mass Liturgy. Each year the cooperative effort brings not only couples together but Teams together as well. It truly is a Couple and Team Building weekend!!



Ron and Debbie Martin, Turlock Team 34 give their inspirational and entertaining testimony.



John & Nicole Sablan, Speakers from World Ablaze Ministries.

East Province

Coastal | Lake Erie
Metro (NY) | Mid-Atlantic
New England



We remember... Father Edwin Dill

Fr. Dill, S.T., an active Spiritual Counselor in the US Super Region for 40+ years, died suddenly on June 25, 2022. He is shown here (top left) in a 1980 photo of the US Responsible Team. Also pictured are (standing next to Fr. Dill) Bob & Marie Wallace, Frank & Marilyn Lynn, Fr. Frank Galles, (sitting) Dick & Lee Smith, Loretta & Andy Favret.

A short obituary of Fr. Dill can be found at [Legacy.com/us/obituaries/washingtonpost/name/edwin-dill-obituary?fhid=6151&n=edwin-dill&pid=202276697](https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/washingtonpost/name/edwin-dill-obituary?fhid=6151&n=edwin-dill&pid=202276697).



East Province Prayer Couple

Deacon Clark and Doris Glenn (Oxon Hill MD 01) have been active in Teams for 50 years, and have served the Movement as Information, Retreat, Pilot and Sector Couple, and, most recently, as the East Province Prayer Couple. They were the couple responsible for the Mericskos joining Teams and praying Janie and Bob into their new role as the first USA Teams Historian Couple. We are most grateful to them for their deep friendship and service to the Movement.



Philadelphia New Teams Welcome Celebration (NTWC) Coming October 29th

Here we come, Philadelphia Sector! The Mid-Atlantic Region held a very dynamic NTWC on March 26. Now the Mid-Atlantic NTWC Team hits the road under the expert leadership of Eva St. Clair and Ernie Tedeschi. Eva and Ernie have their eyes on Lake Erie Region after Philadelphia.

Alexandria Sector Picnic

This Coastal Region sector picked a beautiful Saturday afternoon on June 25th for a picnic celebration of the Immaculate Heart of Mary Feast Day. Beginning with the recitation of the Joyful Mysteries of the Rosary, they enjoyed much fellowship and food. The span of ages attending was impressive: 8 months to 80 years old!



North Province

Central | Lake Michigan
Midwest | North Central

Fargo-Moorhead Sector Day April 2, 2022

We are still feeling so uplifted and inspired by Sector Day this past April 2, 2022, with a RECORD attendance of 89 couples/Chaplains! The Holy Spirit was there with us!

John and Jan Klocke, North Central Regional Couple, gave their presentation on "Remembering Your 'Love Story' Through the Seasons of Married Life". It was an engaging, entertaining, wonderful, touching, inspiring testimony of how they have made Christ the center of their marriage from the very beginning and how important our own "Love Stories" are through the Spring, Summer, Fall, and Winter Seasons of our Marriages. It was "Excellent!" the "Best Sector Day ever!!" as the evaluations stated.

Team 8, Activity Team for this year, did a fantastic job arranging our speakers, and all of the plans and details for the day. Members of Team 8 are: Responsible Couple: Will & Lea Shulstad; Tony & Kate Breidenbach, Brandon & Tonia Clark, Joe & Bethany Johnson, Matthew & Jessica Marks, Brian & Becky Streitz and their Chaplain Fr. Phil Ackerman. Thank you so much for all your hard work!

Fr. James Ermer led us in praying Morning Prayer from Liturgy of the Hours together as a group. It was wonderful to pray the prayer of the Church. Then, Fr. Phil Ackerman gave a reflection on marriage focusing on the Statement of Intent (Free, Total, Faithful, and Fruitful) made before the Exchange of Consent (the vows) at a Catholic wedding. We'll all listen closely the next time we attend a wedding!

A huge Thank You to our Priests, Fr. James Ermer and Fr. Phil Ackerman, for their contributions!

Thank you so much Jan and John, for sharing your story with us in such a beautiful way. We are nourished and inspired!



Colorado Sector Summer Mass and Picnic

This was our annual Colorado Sector summer Mass and Picnic. It was held July 10, 2022 at St. Thomas More Catholic Church, with 6 teams attending. It was hosted by Denver 3. We love all the young, smiling faces!



South Province

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

Our Team, Houston, TX 02 is currently using the 2021-2022 Study Topic entitled "The Christian Couple, leaven of renewal for the family and society". We just finished Chapter 4 and we were particularly inspired by a testimonial from Isabel and Joaquim, Responsible Couple for the Region of Mozambique. A short excerpt reads: "By accepting this responsibility together, we have been called not by our merits but by the gaze that the divine Savior has placed upon us. Our yes, "Here we are, Lord," has become our joint commission".

That gives us hope and strength that God will guide us in our role. And we trust our Lord will do so as well for all the Teams leadership.

Thank you to all the new Leadership Couples and all who have given their "Yes" to serve and support Teams couples as we journey together on the road to holiness.

Save the Date! Mark your Calendars!

South Province College Meeting

Saturday, Oct 15 - This includes the South Province team (spiritual counselor, newsletter couple, NTWC coordinator couple, Regional Couples AND via Zoom the Sector Couples). More information soon.

Southeast Regional Day

Saturday, Nov 5 - 9:30am
St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Orlando, FL



Plaucheville LA Team 3 started piloting in June. The small central Louisiana town now has four teams with the addition of teams 3 and 4 now piloting. Pictured is team 3.



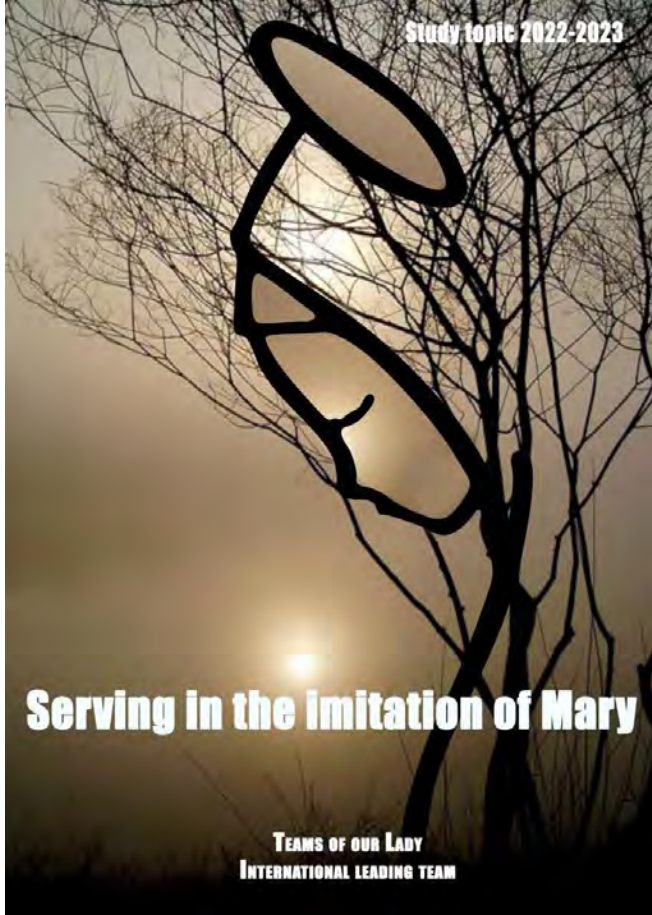
Houston area sectors A & B including All Saints, St Rose of Lima, St Anne, St Vincent DePaul, & St Teresa attending their sector event on April 2, 2022. It was wonderful to see such a spirit filled group! The room was filled to the brim!! Thanks to everyone who helped out to make it a great event.

Deacon Larry Vaclavik delivered a spiritual message to the attendees and a reading from Lamentations 3:17-26.

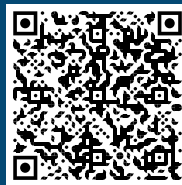
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NEW STUDY TOPIC 2022-2023!



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Español



Português

Please use the QR codes above to download the digital study topics. If you prefer a physical copy, send requests to Materials@TeamsOfOurLady.org.