



Teams of Our Lady

# Magnificat

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

## BELOVED

For Team members the word beloved carries special meaning. In the dictionary it means dearly loved. It is a word that we may use with our spouse. Very intimate.

We may use the word to describe our children. They are dearly loved – beloved.

The word is used in scripture. Some of the most memorable is God's description of Jesus. First at Jesus' baptism "And a voice came from the heavens, saying, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased." Matthew 3:17. Again at the Transfiguration, "...then from the cloud came a voice that said, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him." Matthew 17:5

However, it is much deeper still. Beloved runs throughout the entire scripture even though the specific word may not always be there. In Song of Songs the picture is poetic, full and rich ... beloved indeed. Intimate loving language of a lover to his beloved. Likewise, the image of the bride and the bridegroom throughout the Gospels also speaks to the word beloved.

The message of beloved is for Israel, God's chosen people, but that is not clear or precise enough still. It takes Jesus to make it crystal clear. You are beloved. I am the beloved. Why else would Jesus give us himself, totally and completely if it were not so.

What can be more intimate than the Eucharist? "This is my body which will be given up for you". God cries out -- You are loved, more than you know. If not why would the beloved Son of God give himself up to ridicule and torture. Why would the most-high God, creator and sustainer of the universe agree to humble himself to appear as bread and wine to unite with us.

This mystery of the Eucharist, where we experience God in a most intimate way is the subject of our international study topic this year. It is titled "Eucharist Source of Mission". This study topic is also intended to prepare for our collective pilgrimage to Teams International Gathering, July 15-20, 2024 in Turin, Italy.. We urge you to join us in Turin and to embrace this material and seek to find that you are beloved. You are!

For more information on the International Gathering contact:  
[Turin2024@teamsfourlady.org](mailto:Turin2024@teamsfourlady.org)

God Bless,

**Ellen & T.J. Holt**  
**Super Regional Couple**

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**South Province**

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**East Province**

**Robin & Colette Quinn**  
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**West Province**

*Fall 2023*

# NEW USA SPIRITUAL COUNSELOR



We are delighted to share that Father Elias Lopez is our new USA Spiritual Counselor.

Father Elias is the pastor of All Saints Parish in the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston. He was ordained in 2015, with his first assignment as a parochial vicar of St. Cecilia Parish, Houston. After two years, he was assigned pastor of Christ Our Light in Navasota, TX, and St. Stanislaus Kostka in Anderson, TX, where he served for five years. In July of 2022, he was made pastor of All Saints Parish in the Heights, TX. Father's hometown is Houston, TX. He grew up in a large family and is the eighth of eight children. His parents had been married for fifty-two years when his father passed away.

Family has always been an essential part of his life. He grew up in the near Northside of Houston, where he attended Holy Name Parish and Christ the King Parish, and as an adult, he moved to the Heights and made All Saints Parish his home. He attended the University of Houston Downtown, and received a bachelor's degree in philosophy and a minor in Sociology; at the University of St. Thomas, Houston, TX, and St. Mary's Seminary in Houston, TX, and received a Master's of Divinity.

Father's hobbies include the outdoors, cycling, photography, traveling, reading, exploring new restaurants, and learning about other cultures.

At this time we would also like to thank Father Brian Eilers for his service and dedication to the Teams of Our Lady movement.

## INTERNATIONAL LEADERSHIP MEETING: A SPIRITUAL JOURNEY TO APARECIDA, BRAZIL

In the heart of Brazil lies a village with a rich and miraculous history - Aparecida. At the end of July, we were blessed to attend the International Leadership meeting in this spiritually significant location, accompanied by Father Eli Lopez, the USA Spiritual Counselor. Aparecida, located approximately two hours northeast of Sao Paulo, holds a special place in the hearts of many as the Brazilian National Shrine.

The village's history dates back to a humble fisherman who, in a moment of desperation, found a wooden statue of the Blessed Mother while fishing. After a night of unsuccessful attempts to catch fish, he discovered the statue's body in his net. As he cast his net again, the statue's head was brought forth, and, miraculously, his net was filled with an abundance of fish, more than he could ever imagine. This marked the beginning of a series of miracles, leading to the establishment of the Brazilian National Shrine in Aparecida, where the original statue now resides.

During our week of meetings, we were not only updated on the development of new materials for Teams but also received exciting updates about the upcoming 2024 International Gathering in Turin, Italy. It was a time of inspiration, planning, and spiritual growth as we united with leaders from around the world.

One afternoon, we embarked on a group tour to the National Basilica of Brazil in Aparecida. The basilica is a magnificent structure and stands as the second largest Catholic church globally, with only St. Peter's Basilica surpassing its grandeur. The village welcomes millions of visitors each year, all drawn to witness the venerated statue of Our Lady and to marvel at the splendor of the basilica.

As we immersed ourselves in this sacred atmosphere, we were reminded of the unifying power of our faith and the significance of our collective mission within the Teams movement. The spirit of Aparecida touched our hearts deeply, reaffirming our commitment to strengthening and expanding the Teams community.

We are grateful for the opportunity to have participated in the International Leadership meeting and to have experienced the spiritual magnificence of Aparecida. This journey has reinvigorated our passion for our shared mission, and we are eager to carry forward this renewed energy into the future. Returning home, we were reminded to carry with us the spirit of Aparecida, drawing inspiration from the humble fisherman's encounter with the Blessed Mother. May our efforts, like his net filled with fish, bear abundant fruit in service to our faith and our Teams community.



# WISDOM FOUND IN OUR ARCHIVES

In reading the historical documents that Teams members have kindly sent to us, we often find they speak to today's issues in the Movement. One example comes from a talk at a Teams shuffle in Silver Spring, Maryland given by Father Edwin Dill, S.T., eighteen years ago (April 24, 2005). We will highlight only one portion of his talk Teams of Our Lady: What does it do for me? What do I do for it?

It is important to remember that Teams did not happen all at once; it did not spring fully formed into someone's or some group's imagination. It grew over the years...and owes its shape to the day-to-day lived experience of wives and husbands, of couples and groups of couples. Their lives formed the matrix from which Teams of Our Lady grew. They were the ones who had to decide what exactly they were looking for...Was this group experience life giving, life enriching? Was it enjoyable?...Did they get any greater sense of a loving God being with them in their human loving relationship?

Teams as we know it is the distilled wisdom of those...generations of married couples who have gone before. What we know as endeavors were not handed down from some mountaintop; they grew as stone upon stone, meeting by meeting. The process was full of imperfection and stumbling, of all the human foibles present in any human endeavor, but the blueprint always pointed to a greater awareness of God, of the presence of the Spirit of God. It was always directed to the committed, loving relationship of a man and woman in marriage.

...It had to be a priority, they discovered, to get together once a month with their team for refreshment, renewal, enrichment, and joy. Those few hours spent in getting to know the other Teams couples on the level they knew no other couples, in sharing honestly and deeply their joys and difficulties—and to do this in a context of Faith—this was an essential use of their time. They came to see this as the backbone of their Team life, one night a month not to be missed.

Something they might not have been aware of or foreseen (though it came ultimately from their foresight) was the adaptability of the Teams to different generations. In being passed down from generation to generation...Teams of Our Lady has taken and continues to take the experience of every couple that commits to it and fold it into an ever-changing spirit, into an ever-fresh approach to the spirituality of marriage.

On a cold winter Sunday afternoon in February 2022, we met Father Dill and Harry & Josie Gieske for dinner. The topic of conversation was remembering the early days of the Teams Movement in the United States. Father Dill served as one of the original Spiritual Counselors (probably in the late 1960s) and an early advisor to the national leadership. Father Dill died four months later. Thank you, Fr. Dill for your love and service to Teams of Our Lady! A paraphrasing of the two questions in the title of his talk still challenge us today: What does Teams of Our Lady do for us? What do we do for it?

Please save the history of your own base team, your sector, your region, and the Team events that you attend. If you have materials that we should add to the history of the US Super Region, please contact us, Janie & Bob Mericksko at [Historian@teamsfourlady.org](mailto:Historian@teamsfourlady.org).

## DID YOU KNOW?

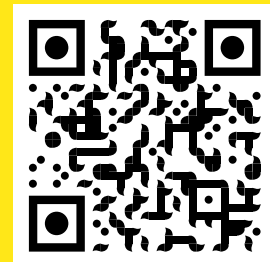
A series of videos are posted on the Teams website where Team members share their experiences with the Member Responsibilities and Endeavors.

An awesome video from Fr Dan Avila about how we can strive to be like Mother Mary in our "yes" to Team Life.



[TeamsOfOurLady.org/Teams\\_videos](https://TeamsOfOurLady.org/Teams_videos)

## STAY UP TO DATE WITH TEAMS USA ON FACEBOOK





# SECTOR COUPLE EXPERIENCE IN COLORADO



We are thrilled to share with you the success and excitement of the Sector Couple Experience hosted by the Denver Teams this past July. It was an event filled with camaraderie, learning, and preparation for the crucial role of Sector Couple.

The Sector Couple Experience followed the Super Regional Team and College meeting, where the Denver Teams showcased their warm hospitality and organizational care. With great enthusiasm, 46 Sector Couples engaged in this immersive 3-day training, making it a truly unforgettable experience.

This training was designed to provide hands-on learning and practical insights to prepare Sector Couples for their significant role within the Teams community. The importance of their responsibilities cannot be overstated, and we are grateful for their commitment to enhancing the Teams movement.

Our special guests during the meeting were Kevin and Faye Noonan, who are the TransOceanic Zone Couple for the International Leading Team (ERI), who live in Australia. Throughout the event, participants were engaged in workshops, group discussions, and interactive sessions led by members of the Super Regional College. These sessions covered a wide range of topics, including the call to leadership, building a Sector Team, planning a Sector Event and creating a Sector Plans.

Beyond the formal training, the Sector Couple Experience also provided a platform for networking and building strong connections with like-minded individuals from different regions. The support and community shared during these interactions will undoubtedly continue to flourish in the future, fostering a sense of unity within the Teams movement.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to the Denver Teams for their exceptional hosting, organization, and dedication to making this event a resounding success. Thank you to all the Sector Couples who participated and committed themselves to this training. We look forward to witnessing the impact of this training and development of the Teams movement throughout this country.





# SUPER REGIONAL GATHERING IN COLORADO



1. Super Regional Team with special guests Kevin & Faye Noonan, TransOceanic Zone Couple
2. Super Regional team at work
3. Super Regional College at Cabrini Shrine in Golden Co.
4. We enjoyed sandwiches and fellowship while at the shrine.



Our experience in the Sector Couple Experience in Denver was truly enriching. We are Elmer Gunther & Michell Cadalso from Miami FL Spanish. The training was full of relevant and practical content, which allowed us to acquire new skills and knowledge to apply in our new role as a Sector couple. What we liked the most was the teamwork dynamics, where we were able to interact with couples from different sectors and learn from their experiences. In addition, the organization of the event was impeccable and the atmosphere was friendly and full of spirituality





# JOIN US IN TURIN, ITALY!



Join the Unforgettable Journey at the International Gathering from July 15-20, 2024 in Turin!

Picture yourself surrounded by over 10,000 enthusiastic Teams members from across the globe, all united by a common purpose and shared values. This is not just an event; it's a celebration of diversity, culture, and the power of togetherness.

## What can you expect at the International Gathering?

- **Inspirational Workshops:** Engage in thought-provoking workshops led by experts, where you'll gain valuable insights and tools to empower yourself and your community.
- **Heartwarming Gatherings:** Experience the magic of unity as you participate in heartwarming gatherings, where stories of transformation and triumph will leave you inspired.
- **Spiritual Growth:** Embark on a journey of self-discovery and spiritual growth, as you delve deeper into your faith and connection with others.
- **Beyond the Gathering:** Turin's enchanting beauty awaits you! Explore the city's historical landmarks, indulge in mouthwatering Italian cuisine, and soak in the vibrant atmosphere.

Don't miss out on this incredible opportunity! Register now by reaching out to us at [turnin2024@teamsofourlady.org](mailto:turnin2024@teamsofourlady.org). Secure your spot and create lasting memories that will stay with you forever.

The International Gathering in Turin is your chance to connect, learn, and grow with a global movement! Mark your calendars and join us in Turin for an unforgettable journey!



## Inspiration from the 2018 Internaional Gathering in Fatima, Portugal



# FATHER CAFFAREL UPDATE

Adieu—Father Caffarel’s Farewell Address Remains As True Today as It Did in 1970

Father Caffarel said, “If we wish to renew our awareness of our vocation and of our mission, if we want to see more clearly where we are going, and what we are following, it is sometimes very enlightening to consider where we have come from and what stages on the journey we have already covered. If we look back on the past with detachment that time provides, we see the way in which God has steered our course is rich in meaning and reveals a wonderful loving care.”

Father Caffarel goes on to say, “I know how terribly shaken you are by the crisis in the Church and its repercussions ruin your family life. I know that you are becoming more urgently conscious of the responsibilities that fall upon our movement in the Church today. For my part, I have no doubt that the Teams are entering into a new phase of their history. In order to help you to discover the future path to follow that I invited you to look back at the past with me.... A great effort of prayer, of reflection, and of transformation remains to be pursued with a determined will to discover the Will of God for our Movement and its mission.”

What Father Caffarel says is applicable to our faith, our marriages, and the Teams of Our Lady Movement. Our journey towards holiness is a lifeline endeavor involving prayer, reflection, and transformation.

Although we have no new news about the Cause for the Canonization of Father Caffarel, we recognize much is in God’s hands as the Cause is working its way through the Vatican wickets. However, there is still more we can do to further the Cause. We need to:

- Continue to Pray for Father Caffarel’s Canonization;
- Document and forward any miracles received (Note: the Postulator is still in need of and processing miracles);
- Support Friends of Father Caffarel with an annual donation as their work continues.
- Share the blessings of Teams of Our Lady with friends, church, and communities.

Paul & Monique Harris | Liaison Couple for Friends of Fr Caffarel | [friendsoffrcaffarel@teamsfourlady.org](mailto:friendsoffrcaffarel@teamsfourlady.org)

## EAST PROVINCE CELEBRATES THE SECTOR COUPLE EXPERIENCE

Nancy & Kelly McKeague:

After discerning to become a Sector Couple and being installed, we stumbled for a few months until attending the Sector Couple Experience. While there, we met so many faithful Catholics who lived out the Teams’ mission, we learned how impressively expansive the Teams Movement is, and most importantly, we were energized in our commitment beyond just our Team. Upon our return home, we began to implement a plan for our Sector and learned that while we were gone, two Informational Evenings resulted in 20 couples interested in Teams of Our Lady. God is so good and Mary, Queen of Teams, is an intercessor like no other.

Gloria & Gary Bourbeau commented:

Thank you for asking us to participate in this wonderful adventure. We had a wonderful, beautiful time. Gary adds “The overall spirit was TERRIFIC, especially our breakout team members. The church setting made the experience awesome.” And Gloria: (I felt) Loved and cared for: Yvette Ramos, our driver, started it off and all the other beautiful, caring people we met during the 3 days. If heaven is anything like this, I can’t wait. I learned so much. And I fell in love with Fr. Henri! Thank you!”

Patty & Martin Albacette shared:

Accepting the invitation to attend the Sector Couple Experience was a wonderful way to encounter couples living their faith and readily sharing it with others. For those of us who have been with Teams of Our Lady for some time, there is nothing as comfortable and nurturing as our monthly meeting with our friends, our Team. Yet, there is a world out there full of couples seeking their own community, and our gathering in Denver reminded us that we must make the effort to bring Teams to them. Teams is a treasure that must be shared, and we are grateful that this opportunity showed us how the movement is expanding roles in order to do so.

The take-away from all comments received is: when Teams asks you to attend or participate, GO-GO-GO! Say YES! In giving, you receive!







## A LIFE IN TEAMS:

Lolita Jardeleza and her husband Jack joined Teams in 1964 – Washington 04 in DC. Over the years they served as Liaisons, piloted two Spanish-speaking teams in Florida by correspondence, served the Regional Team as first editors of the Magnificat, became Sector Couple in 1973, the same year Jack was ordained a permanent deacon. Soon after Jack died in 1998 she was asked to be SC for Rockville 04. Now, at the age of 91, her family consists of 11 children, 46 grandchildren, 43 1/2 great-grands, and 1 1/2 great-greats. She still has joy and energy to send frequent email messages to innumerable people, such as this excerpt from July 31 on Teams of Our Lady:

Come, Holy Spirit! - 7/31/23 - Marriage is Holy

...Teams decided to explore the whole new world of married spirituality with husbands and wives going to God WITH each other! Holiness as a joint effort!

This December, we will have been in Teams for 59 years. Much of our spiritual formation happened in Teams. That is where we learned how to pray together, how to experience a personal relationship with Jesus and share that with each other, how to make God's love real for our spouses by loving them as God does: unconditionally, selflessly and forever...

## The Joys of Piloting!

Serving as the Loudoun County Sector Couple from 2019 to 2023, we piloted two new teams in 2022 with couples primarily from the Sacred Heart of Jesus Catholic Church in Winchester, VA. The Holy Spirit and Our Lady's mystique presence in this ministry brought forth two wonderfully active Teams! For us, the challenge of piloting two teams simultaneously was at times quite challenging, yet putting ourselves at the service of the eager couples to bear witness to Christ's divine love is at the foundation of the marital spirituality and to the Church. We experienced many blessings with these couples as they shared their knowledge and love for the Catholic Church, their intimate spiritual challenges and they sought to strengthen their marriages.

We think piloting new teams is one of the most rewarding and greatest needs for the growth of this marvelous ministry. We encourage all couples to take on this role at least once. God has something marvelous in store for those who do! - MaryAnn and Scott Harrison

Below are pictures from the first annual retreat held jointly by Win 01 and 02 teams. Fr Vaccaro led the retreat with a Mass and Adoration.



## Confirmation of Member from Purcellville 06 Team

On the 20th wedding anniversary of the Thompsons, with much prayer and with the encouragement and loving support from Team members, it was marvelous to witness the Confirmation of our dear brother in Christ, Jamie Thompson, at the Easter Vigil last April. Shown here with Jamie is his sponsor, Scott Harrison, the Purcellville 06 Spiritual Counselor and Pastor at St Stephen the Martyr Catholic Church in Middleburg, VA Fr Christopher Murphy, and Jamie's family and team friends. This is a truly blessed example of the gifts and fruits of Teams of Our Lady!



## New Raleigh Sector Couple

Gerald & Deirdre Schuetz are taking the reigns from Cathy & Richard Schwarz at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Raleigh. Our pastor, Fr. Peter Devereux, gave a blessing at the installation. Pictured below are Carol & Dave McCaffrey (East Province Couple), Larry & Christy Henson, Gerry & Deirdre Schuetz, Rich & Cathy Schwarz, and Jim & Sarah Martinec.



## New Sector Couple for Loudoun County

Tom and Janet Broderick were installed as Loudoun Sector Couple at St. Francis de Sales Church in Purcellville after the noon Mass on April 28, 2023. Pictured here are Scott and MaryAnn Harrison, outgoing Sector Couple, Fr. John Heisler, Parochial Vicar, Janet and Tom, and Carol and Dave McCaffrey, East Province Couple.



## Simpsonville Sector Installation

Alicia and Oscar Cruz were installed as Simpsonville Sector Couple by Carol and Dave McCaffrey, East Province Couple, on May 21 at St. Mary Magdalen Church. They succeeded Olga and Alvaro Barbosa. There was a large turnout for the event, because of a very special presentation to another member of the Sector:



church ministries and finally in 2002, they were able to start Greer1 Team. That grew to 40 Teams. While not all those Teams survived, there are currently 6 Teams as a heritage of the work of Beatriz and Florentino. In Mexico there are approximately 130 teams with more than 600 couples and 120 priests, what a heritage! With great love Aura & Jimmy Martinez presented the treasured pictures honoring the faithful service of one loving couple has done for hundreds of couples. God bless them!

## 170 Teams Started Because of 1 Couple

Beatriz and Florentino Rodreguez have been married 56 years, and in Teams 48 years! They joined Teams in Cali-Columbia. When work moved them to Mexico, they managed to start Teams through much effort. Before they moved to Michigan and Ohio, they had formed a second Team. In the US, they were able to join existing Teams. In 1994, when they moved to Simpsonville, there were no Teams. They served in







## Save The Date

Western regional day - Marriage & Family Spirituality. With Speakers: Deacon Ben and Jennine Seitz on Saturday, November 18, 2023 from 9 am to Mass at 5:30 pm at Our Lady of Assumption Parish, Turlock.

Adoration | Social | Mass

Deacon Ben and his wife Jennine, members of Teams of our Lady in North Dakota, founded the Six Stone Jars Mission in 2021 to share the peace, joy, and love that can only be found in Jesus Christ and His Catholic Church! Deacon Ben was In the USAF when he met his wife Jennine. They married a year later in Great Britain where both were assigned. They spent 23 years traveling the world in the USAF while raising five children. They now share the lessons learned in marriage over the past 38 years with other married couples. Jesus Christ is the answer to every trial!

For more information contact: Karyn & Tony Alamo, Western Region RC 209.678.1857 or [western-rc@teamsfourlady.org](mailto:western-rc@teamsfourlady.org)

## Teams Summer Camp Out ... And a good time was had by ALL!!

Western Region's four Turlock Sectors joined forces to host a Turlock Team's Summer Campout! Held the last weekend before school began, Teams families gathered for food, campfire and fellowship! A Children's Spaghetti and Meatball game, Over and Under water game, and a Bucket Brigade were enjoyed by all! The adults enjoyed playing games around the table and just hanging out together. Held at the beautiful DaLaMor Ranch in Turlock, California, there was plenty of fishing, fun and prayer!



## Congratulations on your Retirement Fr. Manuel Sousa!

Fr. Manuel Sousa, Teams of Our Lady Super Region Spiritual Chaplain Emeritus, has retired! A gathering was held recently at his parish, Our Lady of the Assumption Church, Turlock, California to thank him and wish him well. All of the Ministries of the parish profusely thanked him for his support of their ministries. The Teams of Our Lady Movement was always welcomed and supported by Fr. Manuel, and thrived much because of his encouragement and participation in the Movement. Thank you Fr. Manuel for your many years of wisdom and support!!



## Join the Western Region for a New Teams Welcome Celebration (NTWC)

Saturday, Oct 21 at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church, Clovis, CA. Mass, meals, & childcare provided. A NTWC is an exciting full day event celebrating new Teams entering the Movement. The day will consist of:

- Deepening knowledge and perception of the Teams Movement
- Creating opportunities to meet other new Teams in the Western Region
- Celebrating your sacramental marriage commitment
- Strengthening the unity in the Teams Movement

Watch for more information and invitation in your email! RSVP by September 30.



## West New Teams Welcome Coordinators Begin!

Please join us in welcoming Dave & Deidre Wilson as the New Teams Welcome Celebration (NTWC) Coordinators for the West Province!

Dave & Deidre have been married for 20 years and have been blessed with 6 children. They have 5 daughters and 1 son ranging in age from 19 years down to 6 years. Their journey in Teams began almost 9 years ago as part of Phoenix Team 1 and they are now living much of the year in Spokane, WA.

Dave & Deidre are very grateful for the Teams way of life offered to them through participation in the movement. They are looking forward to meeting with couples from around the West Province and welcoming new teams!



## New Northwest Region Couple - Rich & Karen Hansen

Meet Rich & Karen Hanson. They have been married 26 years and live in Spokane, WA. They have 3 children that are 16, 19 and 21. This is their 4th year in Teams and are excited to be part of the Teams Movement and serving Teams at all levels. Looking forward to helping all couples in the Northwest Region overcome obstacles that have risen due to various reasons, they hope to find ways to ensure that Teams learn the benefits of fidelity to the Endeavors and Father Caffarel's vision. They are also looking forward to getting to know each of these wonderful Teams couples that are journeying through their meetings in the hope of a better relationship with Christ and each other. To this end they are praying, hoping and trusting in God, the author of every family. "May He alone be glorified by our choice!"

## New Western Regional - Couple Mike & Camille Popp

Mike & Camille Popp have been members of Teams for 9 years, have been married for almost 20 years, and have a 19 year old daughter in college. They have been the Fresno Sector Couple for the last three years, and previously held roles as Pilot Couple, Information Couple, and Retreat Couple. They are so excited to start their new role as Western Regional Couple in the fall, and are humbled and honored to have been asked to continue in Teams leadership. They will be bringing their excitement and best practices to the region as it relates to growing new Teams, keeping sectors engaged with spiritual/social/service events, and keeping Teams engaged starting at the Base Team level. They plan to visit every area of the region during their term to fully understand the needs of the region so they will be able to provide support and share excitement about the Movement. Thank you, Mike & Camille, for your continued yes to serve in leadership!



## Turlock Sector 3 now led by Paul & Iria Nunes

Meet Paul & Iria Nunes from Turlock Team 35! They have been in Teams for 16+ years, married for 20 years and have two young children. The Nunes have already been active serving their Sector, Region and Province: Assisting at Regional Days, being instrumental with the Turlock Teams Camp Out organization, and assisting the Western Province New Teams Welcome Celebration Formation team. A stronger connection was made to the wider Teams of Our Lady Movement when Paul & Iria attended the recent Sector Training Experience in Denver, CO. There was a realization of all the behind the scenes work and dedication from many couples who volunteer their time to keep the Teams Movement alive and going forward. Helping the Movement flourish, especially in their own neighboring parish communities is their Goal as Sector Couple!! Welcome Paul & Iria!!

## Andrew & Kristi Weber lead Portland Sector

The Portland Sector thanks Andrew & Kristi Weber for saying "Yes" to becoming the new Sector Couple. Kristi and Andrew have been married for 21 years and have been involved in Teams of Our Lady for six years. They are both Eucharistic Ministers at St. Cecilia Church in Beaverton, Oregon and Kristi is a lector as well. They plan to meet with Teams in their Portland Sector and will endeavor to reestablish in-person events to strengthen Teams within the Sector. They also plan to work with other couples in the Region to collaborate on a Regional College meeting in 2024.



## "Yes" brings Many Blessings to Steve & Marie Hudec

Marie and I have been in Teams for seven years as the only Team in our city. It seems like the more we get involved the more blessings we receive. I guess whoever said "you get out of it what you put into it" was wrong because God rewards us tenfold when we do His work!

We did a pulpit talk at our parish and had over 30 couples request information. Now we, along with another couple, are finishing our year of piloting two new Teams! Also, we are taking on a leadership role as Fresno Sector Couple! We had a fantastic time at the Sector Couple Training in Denver, CO. We met other couples that have a longing to improve their relationship with each other, plus we learned more about the Teams movement! We are excited to serve and share this awesome Movement with as many couples as we can.

We remember something our Spiritual Chaplain told us, "The most important part of Teams is not what happens at the meeting but what we do as a couple between meetings to develop a stronger marriage relationship and bring God into it." So, Marie and I really try to focus on our Endeavors because we think that is the only way we can improve our relationship with each other and God! We pray you all have a passion to strengthen your relationship because remember, our marriage is a Vocation and we need to do our best to do God's will. That's why He introduced us to The Teams of Our Lady!



## "Blown Away" at Sector Experience in Denver

This year we celebrated 25 years of marriage. We've lived in Phoenix, Arizona raising our six children (ages 24, 22, 20, 18, 16, 13) for the past 22 years. We love our Catholic community at St. Thomas the Apostle parish and have seen our marriage strengthen and grow while being involved in Teams of Our Lady for 9 years. Over the years, we have served as Responsible, Information, Pilot, and now Sector Couple!

Nannette and I are very excited and humbled to be the next Sector Couple here in Phoenix. What a great opportunity it was to meet so many other new Sector Couples in Denver. We were blown away at how well-organized the event was. We received a rather large purple binder when we checked in that was overwhelming at first. However, as the training went on, and being able to talk with so many "veterans" of Teams of Our Lady, any anxieties that were present were alleviated. We see so much opportunity for Teams of Our Lady to grow in the Phoenix area and we are thrilled to move forward as the next Sector Couple! God bless!

Ched & Nannette Salasek, New Phoenix Sector Couple

## "The Sector Couple Experience Was Awesome!"

We met so many wonderful people working towards the same goal: Bringing couples and families closer to Christ!

There is so much more to TEAMS than we realized! It takes a lot of committed couples and spiritual leaders to organize a worldwide movement. The Sector Couple Training gave us the tools necessary to ensure our Sector Teams are thriving. We can't wait to meet everyone in Houston Sector B!"

- Patrick & Elisabeth Yoder, from Houston Texas Sector B

Elisabeth & Patrick Yoder (Houston Texas Sector B) , Bill Jardine (Kingwood Texas Sector B) , Lori & Steve Hesse (EastTX Regional Couple)



"I was lucky to attend the Denver Sector Couple Experience. Unfortunately, my wife Theresa had to skip it due to health. In the presentation by the TransOceanic Zone Responsible Couple, I was amazed to see the diversity of the Teams movement just in our zone. It was amazing to be at one meeting that included all the Province Couples, Region Couples, and many Sector Couples. During their presentations, we all learned what a valuable resource the USA Super-Region Team is for sector couples. In addition to getting to know the responsibilities of a sector couple and learning tools to help with our duties, we learned how to form a sector team and learned their roles using numerous exercises (done in small groups) centered around important sector couple skills and duties. I especially liked the exercise that had each small group plan a sector event. So many good ideas were discussed in the report out session for that exercise. In general, it was a great time meeting all the wonderful people in leadership for Teams and discussing how we can support and grow the Teams in our Sector."

- Bill Jardine, from Kingwood Texas Sector B



# South Province

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

## Lake Charles, LA pilots two Spanish Teams

St Henry's parish recently held a Sunday after Mass lunch gathering and swim party for the families. Father Joe attended the social. All had a great time. It is wonderful to see the growth of Spanish Teams in our Region.



## New Sector Couple in Amarillo

Morgan and Alma-Sue Haiduk were installed as the new Sector Couple of the Amarillo Diocese Teams of Our Lady on March 26, 2023, by Carlos and Gaby Contreras, the North Texas-Oklahoma Regional Couple.

The Haiduk's joined TEAMS in 2009 while attending St Ann's Parish in Coppell TX. In 2015, they relocated to the Haiduk's family farm to assist Morgan's father. Alma-Sue works in the food manufacturing industry, where she is currently the Sr Quality and Food Safety Manager of Cacique Foods in Amarillo, Texas. They serve in several ministries at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in White Deer. This year, Morgan and Alma-Sue are celebrating their 30th anniversary. They have been blessed with their son Anthony, who is currently attending OSU.

Morgan & Alma-Sue follow Deacon Henry & Lori Wilhelm, who have served for the last five years.



New Amarillo Sector Couple  
Left to Right: Deacon  
Henry & Lori Wilhelm,  
Father Lupe, Alma-Sue and  
Morgan Haiduk, and Carlos  
& Gaby Contreras.

## Miami Beach New Teams Welcome Celebration

A New Teams Welcome Celebration (NTWC) was held at St. Patrick Catholic Church in Miami Beach, Florida on July 22, 2023. We were excited to welcome 13 teams couples from the central Florida and Miami areas to celebrate their commitment to the Movement.

This exciting, day-long, cruise-themed event allowed couples the opportunity to experience the larger Movement outside of their base team. Rave reviews of the day were received! We look forward to bringing New Teams Welcome Celebrations to your area. Be on the lookout for the next one near you! For more information, contact [south-ntwc@teamsofourlady.org](mailto:south-ntwc@teamsofourlady.org)



We've been indirectly connected to TEAMS for a long time through our parents in Brazil, but we officially joined the movement in 2020 in Miami, FL. The NTWC gave us the opportunity to meet other Teams couples from our region, learn from their experiences, hear useful advice and guidance around common challenges we could all relate to, and to see and feel how being a part of Teams impacted their lives. Everything was thoughtfully planned from the agenda to the meals, activities and even childcare, in a way that created a true sense of community. We walked away feeling a much deeper connection to the movement and a renewed energy to continue our journey."

← Alex & Cristina Terzi - Team # 4  
- Miami Sector





## New Denver Sector Couple

Frank & Renee Lado were installed on Saturday April 22 as the new Denver Sector Couple following mass at Our Lady of Loretto. They were joined by their Team including their Spiritual Counselor Father Kuzminski who is pastor there. We wish to thank Mat & Katherine Aschenberg for their years of service especially through the challenges during the pandemic.



## New North Central Sector Couple

McLanes became the North Central Sector Couple on August 6, 2023. Left to Right: Jan & John Klocke, Fr. John, Kevin & Elly McLane, and the former sector couple Mary Ann Marschall & Jim Hibbs.



## Seeing Double

We are thrilled to announce two new Teams, starting in North Central Region, Detroit Lakes, MN! Fr. Chuck Huck, Pastor of Holy Rosary Catholic Church, will be the Spiritual Advisor for both Teams. John & Jan Klocke, will pilot both Teams.



## Many Thanks

Thank you Jeff & Jackie Gaerke for their contributions as the Indianapolis Sector's Pilot Training Couple for the past six years. They have trained many pilot couples so that we can maintain consistency and the spirit of the movement. This position is very helpful in preparing Pilot Couples to work with new Teams. Many thanks!

## Reflections - Sector Couple Experience

"For me, the aha was seeing all the people and realizing that TEAMS is more than my sector. I have heard about structure, but did not appreciate all the numbers until I saw and spoke with others from across the country. It was awesome seeing the presenting couple from Australia. Hearing about all the commonalities of TEAMS made me think of the Catholic Church: I can go to Mass anywhere, and this celebration is essentially the same. TEAMS' celebration, spirituality of marriage is essentially the same. People in TEAMS can move across the Country, etc and experience the same growth and support with their marriage. TEAMS is awesome!"

Kevin & Elly McLane, North Twin Cities Metro Sector Couple (Minnesota)

## Still Recovering

Here in the midwest we lost quite a few teams during the COVID season. After meeting with other couples in leadership at the "Sector Experience" in Denver in July, we got the sense that the teams that stayed strong and survived were those that follow the Teams' format and try to practice the endeavors.

## Save The Date

On November 18, 2023, Toledo 3 will be hosting a Sector Day. These were occurring annually prior to COVID, so it's been about 4 years since we gathered. It will be a mixture of spiritual, informational and social time. Hopefully, this will help to strengthen our sector in the Toledo, Ohio area again!

Gerard & Linda Michael, Midwest Regional Couple



## New Teams Welcome Celebration in Ballwin, Missouri

Over 20 new couples from the greater St. Louis area enjoyed the day-long event. It was a team effort with Matt & Cathy Hazlip and their team organizing the venue, food, and childcare. Fr. Don Anstoetter, Teams spiritual counselor, offered his incredible insight into the importance of Teams to both the vocations of marriage and the priesthood. The formation team of Deacon Jim & Mary Houston, Deacon Tom & Kris Lang, Bob & Melissa Zaegel, and Joe & Valerie Niemeyer delivered inspiring presentations and activities throughout the day to re-affirm and solidify the Teams piloting process.

This dynamic team is returning to the Central Region to St. Pius X Catholic Church in Urbandale, Iowa on October 14, 2023, to bring a NTWC to Iowa.

We look forward to bringing New Teams Welcome Celebrations to other regions of the North Province soon! If you have any questions, please contact Rick & Carol Fishbune at [north-ntwc@teamsfourlady.org](mailto:north-ntwc@teamsfourlady.org)



The Central Region participants, left to right: Patty & Mark Conway (Regional Couple), Moogie & Jim Roeder (Kansas A Sector Couple), Paulette & Stuart Gardner (Des Moines Sector Couple), Frank & Renée Lado (Denver Sector Couple)

## A Big Start

Frank & Renée Lado were installed as the Colorado Sector Couple just a few short months ago. They were really excited to complete sector training at the Denver Sector Couple Experience. The following is their abbreviated review.

- The BIGGEST takeaway from the experience --- WE ARE PART OF SOMETHING BIGGER... We got a great sense of the big picture of the Teams movement, both nationally and internationally. We understand much more concretely the whole "structure" of the International Movement and how we (on the sector level) fit into that structure. We are eager to share this 'meta view' with people in our sector.
- We were moved by the atmosphere of prayer throughout – including Holy Mass every day we were learning, as well as blessings on Thursday through the closing prayer on Saturday evening. The presence of the Holy Spirit was palpable.
- Something unexpected for us was the power of the modeling of love by the couples themselves. This conference was led, presented, and staffed by married couples. Each couple was overtly respectful and loving to one another on and off the 'stage'. And as individuals they were extremely respectful of everyone's time and their energy was always encouraging and supportive.

**Fargo Sector Annual Teams picnic August 2, 2023** - 130 Adults, (including many priest chaplains), 80 children, plus many babies!! This exemplifies the enthusiasm and Spirit of the Teams Movement here!!



## Faithful to the Annual Retreat

Our Team is faithful to the annual retreat endeavor, and we are grateful for that. As parents in the "thick" of it (we have 4 children, ages 8 to 16), it is often difficult to find time away as a couple. The annual retreat forces us (in the best way) to make it a priority. We are held accountable to our Team and to each other for this commitment; and God always shows up to bless this endeavor. Our retreat includes social time, prayer time, focused topic sessions, and couple time that is always rejuvenating (especially in our busy life stage). Figuring out childcare for a whole weekend can be challenging, but we trust that God will provide and that seeds are planted in our children's hearts and minds about the importance of the marriage relationship. Thank you to our Team for always keeping this endeavor a priority!

-Carrie & Seth Rowland of Des Moines Team 6



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From June 2022 to June 2023, Teams of Our Lady USA distributed over 15,000 pieces of valuable material to our members. Among the materials mailed were over 600 piloting books. This is a testament to the commitment and dedication of our Team members, but there's more work to be done.

Teams of Our Lady USA is not just an organization; it's a movement. We are dedicated to growing closer to Christ, strengthening Christian marriages and fostering loving, supportive relationships within our communities. Teams provide resources, support, and guidance to couples, and we do this all without charging anyone for the material or postage.

However, in order to continue this important work and reach even more couples, we need your help and support. Your contributions are what keep Teams of Our Lady USA alive and growing. Every dollar you donate and every moment of your time you invest directly impacts the lives of countless couples, helping them build stronger, more resilient Christian marriages.

Enclosed in this issue is an envelope for your convenience. Please consider making a donation, no matter how big or small, to keep our Movement thriving. Every contribution matters, and your support is vital in ensuring that Teams of Our Lady USA continues to make a positive impact on Christian marriages across the nation.