



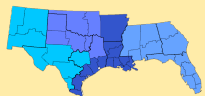
# TEAMS OF OUR LADY

## SOUTH PROVINCE

West TX/NM Region | North TX/OK Region | East TX/LA/AR Region | Southeast Region

### UPCOMING EVENTS

- Frisco TX Summit:** Sep 22
- San Antonio Summit:** Oct 6
- Monroe LA Summit:** Oct 20
- Palm Coast FL Sector Retreat:** Nov 3-4
- Next New Teams Welcome Celebration in East Tex Region:**  
Nassau Bay, TX: Feb 23 and 24, 2019
- National Conference:**  
Navasota, Texas: July 16-19, 2019
- Teams of Our Lady Online Store:**  
<https://tool0418.itemorder.com/sale>



### CONTACTS

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#### Newsletter

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### Summer's Over...Fall Brings Renewal



Fatima Gathering of Teams

The Summer was inspiring. A highlight for us was Fatima. Over 9000 people from over 90 countries in Teams gathered in Fatima Portugal for Teams 12th International Gathering. The gathering brought many personal connections and renewal for the movement as a new Leadership Couple begins a brand new term in service of our movement as we say thanks to the outgoing couple. If you couldn't make it, please visit the Blog on the U.S. Teams of Our Lady website

(<http://www.teamsofourlady.org/fatima-reflections/>) by West TX/NM Regional Couple Paul and Chris Sanchez of Dripping Springs, Texas or the summary in pictures and documents at the international site (<http://www.endfatima2018.pt/en/>) for a small flavor of the Gathering.

The first U.S. Province College Meeting was held as a great way to meet leadership couples from all over the South Province. We hope these meetings will bring new ideas, enthusiasm and plenty news and information back to you.



90 countries gathered from across the globe

Through the diligence of all Teams couples, we continue see growth with the word of Teams of Our Lady spreading like wildfire. We encourage each of you to consider the rewarding experience of piloting a new team or sharing the beauty via information meetings or using your skills to support the movement.

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# Summer's Over...Fall Brings Renewal

*-continued*

As we enter fall and another school year, many Teams start a new year. The newest study material, *Reconciliation, Sign of Love* which is based on the theme of the Fatima Gathering is available from the Teams office. The Father's love for the lost or prodigal son is a beautiful message for each of us and has applications in our marriage, our families, our team, our country and beyond.

We wish you continued blessing in your Endeavors and your faith journey and a special renewal as Summer fades into Fall.

God Bless,

T.J. & Ellen

*A Loving Father:*

"While he was still a long way off, his father caught sight of him, and was filled with compassion. He ran to his son, embraced him and kissed him." Luke 15:20



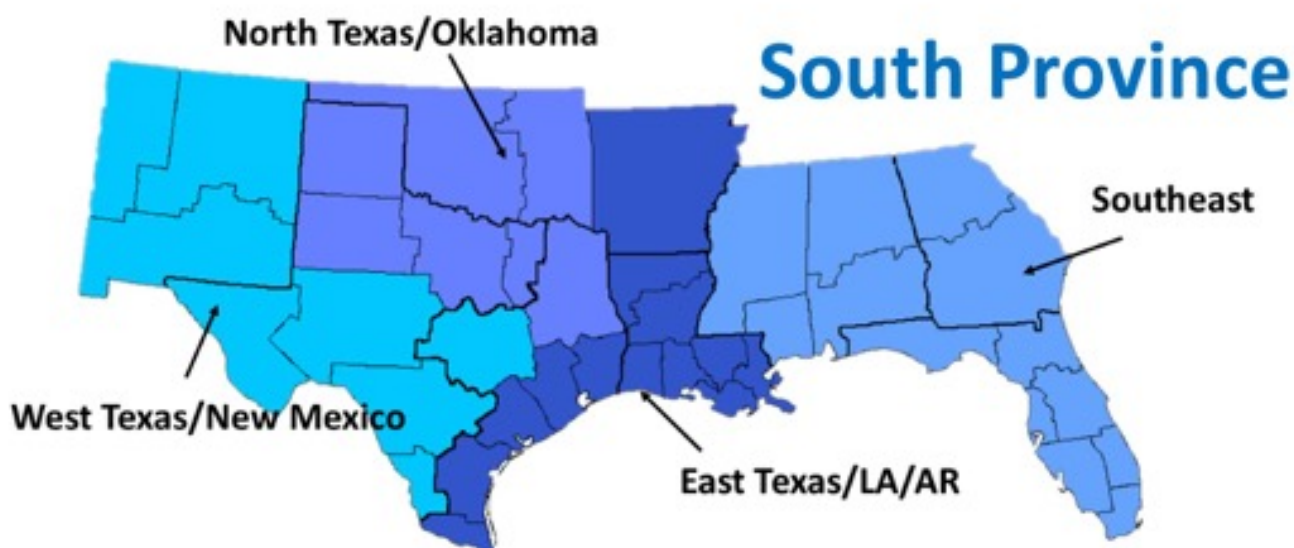
**Procession of Countries**

# The New South Province

We have exciting news....the South Province is growing so fast that we have made a new Region! The new region is the North Texas/Oklahoma!

When deciding to add a new region the Super Regional Couple and Team took into account the total number of Teams and the pace of continued growth of Teams in an area. It is also important factor that Teams in an area feel connected to the larger movement. By reducing the geographic size of the region it makes it easier for the Regional Couple to maintain contact with local Teams. The new region has 35 Teams with 7 pre-sector areas.

We would like to welcome to the South Province Team Jim and Lillian Burke as the new North Texas/Oklahoma Regional Couple. Jim and Lillian were installed at the South Province College Meeting, which was held on Saturday, August 25, 2018 in Kingwood, Texas.



## West TX/New Mexico

Los Alamos, NM  
Abilene, TX  
Fredericksburg, TX  
Austin, TX  
Dripping Springs, TX  
San Antonio, TX  
Waco, TX

## North TX/Oklahoma

Amarillo, TX  
Dallas, TX  
Frisco, TX  
Nacogdoches, TX  
Coppell, TX  
Tyler, TX  
Dallas Spanish  
Ft. Worth, TX

## East Texas/LA/AR

Houston, TX  
Kingwood, TX  
Clear Lake, TX  
Missouri City, TX  
Kingsville, TX  
Monroe, LA  
Plaucheville, LA  
Katy, TX  
Cypress, TX  
Spring/Tomball, TX  
Lafayette, LA  
Richmond, TX

## Southeast

Miami, FL  
Ft. Myers, FL  
Jacksonville, FL  
Palm Coast, FL  
Pinellas, FL  
Birmingham, AL  
Orlando, FL  
Hillsborough, FL



# First U.S. South Province College Meeting



Over 60 teams leaders participated in the first Province College meeting on August 25, 2018 at St. Martha's Family Life Center in Kingwood, Texas. Four Regional couples and most of the Sector Couples representing the South Province attended the day. The day was surrounded in prayer with agenda items including: International and U.S. Super Region updates, an update on the 2019 National Conference on July 16-19, 2019 in Navasota, Texas, an introduction to the New Teams Welcome Celebration and training segments on Leading like Jesus, Information Meetings, Pilot Couples and Liaison Couples. Mass at St. Martha's followed the

meeting. After Communion the newest Regional Couple, Jim and Lillian Burke from Little Elm, Texas, was installed for the newly formed North Texas Oklahoma Region.

We closed the day with Dinner and were joined by Father T.J. Dolce. The purpose of the meeting was to improve communication, provide training, meet face to face to improve working relationships and pray together. The type of meeting is intended to get information to the Regional and Sector couples so they can share with teams and individual couples in their areas so we all feel connected to the movement.



Each region gathered for lunch and discussion at the College Meeting ...



North TX/OK Region



West TX/NM Region



East TX/LA/AR Region



Southeast Region

## South Province Regional Couples

- Paul and Chris Sanchez – West TX/NM
- Jim and Lillian Burke – North TX/OK
- Mike and Trice Towns – East TX/LA/AR
- Chad and Raquel Tripp - Southeast



# West TX/NM Region

## Reconciliation, Sign of Love

The Dripping Springs Sector held its inaugural annual TEAMS retreat on September 8, 2018. Nearly 20 couples representing six teams attended. Father Charlie Garza, the priest at St. Martin de Porres in Dripping Springs TX, led the group in scripture, prayer, and reflection on the retreat theme, Reconciliation, Sign of Love. Couples had the opportunity to grow their marriage by deepening their knowledge about the Prodigal Son parable and reconciliation, learning more about TEAMS endeavors, reflecting as a couple and interacting with fellow TEAMS members.



Six Teams from Dripping Springs Sector attend annual retreat



Father Charlie Garza from St. Martin de Porres in Dripping Springs lead the group in prayer and reflection

# North TX/OK Region

## New North TX/OK Regional Couple



Jim and Lillian Burke, new North TX/OK Regional Couple

We are Jim & Lillian Burke the new North Texas/Oklahoma Regional Couple. We have been married 38 years and have three grown daughters (Mari-34, Susanna-30, and Cristina-29) two son-in-laws (Jeff and Austin) and two grand-daughters (Penny-5 and Georgia-15 months).

We live in Little Elm, Texas which is a northern suburb of Dallas. Jim is a native of St. Louis and loves his Cardinals baseball team and cheers for the University of Alabama football team (ROLL TIDE!). Lillian is a Texas girl from SanAntonio (GO SPURS!) who loves Mexican food, southern cooking and watching the Pioneer Woman. We met in college at St. Mary's University in San

Antonio and have been college sweethearts ever since. The rest as they say is history.

We have been in Teams for 5 years and served as Sector Couple for the last two years. We have been parishioners at St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church in Frisco for 15 years. We're involved in RCIA, ACTS, Cana Marriage Retreats, Knights of Columbus (Jim) , MOMS(Lillian) and serve as Eucharistic Ministers, Lector (Jim) and Mass Sacristans. Jim works for Swiss Re America Insurance Company and his business travels have taken him to all but four states. Lillian is a retired preschool teacher who stays busy babysitting grand-children, creating crafts and serving others. We enjoy spending time together cooking, going to the movies, trying new restaurants, entertaining family and friends, volunteering and watching reality TV. We are grateful to Matt & Tracy DuBois who introduced Teams of Our Lady to our parish when they moved from Florida to Texas six years ago. We love our Teams family and look forward to this new journey serving as Regional Couple.



Regional Couple Installation Ceremony



# East TX/LA/AR Region

## Teams Farewell Social

The Kingsville Texas Teams had a going away social Saturday August 18th for David and Emily Ruppert. David and Emily have been the pre-sector couple in Kingsville since 2015 and have been instrumental in the formation of Teams for the area. David, Emily, and their family have taken a new job in Maryland and they will be missed! David and Emily plan to re-join Teams the first of the year and would like to be a pilot couple.

KINGSVILLE,  
TX

We all enjoyed a delicious pot luck dinner. Trice and Mike Towns ( Regional Couple) shared their photos and experiences from the international gathering in Fatima Portugal. Abel and Vickie Garza and Rudy Longoria were trained as information couples. Fr Joseph Lopez joined us and he was encouraged to come to future Team meetings.

The names of those attending Saturday night were as follows:

- Aiden and Erica Daugherty
- Rudy and Kathy Longoria
- Johnny and Rachael Bustamante
- Matthew and Kathleen Alexander
- Mary (Jeremy was out of town) Bland
- David and Emily Ruppert
- Fr Joseph Lopez
- Abel and Vickie Garza



LAFAYETTE,  
LA

## New Team in Lafayette

Lafayette Team 2 held their 10th meeting August 21st. Many thanks to Rusty and Julie Thibodeaux for organizing and piloting Lafayette Team 2. Rusty and Julie were in a Team in Katy, Texas for some time before recently moving back to Lafayette. They missed being on a Team, and that led them to initiate Teams in their Parish (Holy Cross) with the "Blessing" of Father Howard Blessing.

Lafayette is a Pre-sector supported by the Houston Sector and has two Teams about to complete their first year.

The Team members include from left to right Leon and Lou Labbe, Fernando and Claudia Barboza, Rita and Cary Hernandez, Carmel and Danny Soileau, Nadine and Jack Pendergast, and Julie and Rusty Thibodeaux.



# Southeast Region

## New Southeast Regional Couple



Larry and Mary Kay Kuchta, new Southeast Regional Couple to be installed November 2018

We are delighted to announce that Mary Kay and Larry Kuchta will have said "Yes" to becoming the next Southeast Regional Couple. They will be installed the first weekend of November 2018.

Mary Kay and Larry reside in Palm Coast, FL and will celebrate their 26th wedding anniversary on September 26th. They have three beautiful daughters, Karina is 21 years old, a Senior at University of Florida pursuing an English Major with a Communications Minor, Kaylee is 20 years old, has just completed her AA at Daytona State College and will continue as a Junior at DSC to pursue a degree in Business Management, and Katherine their youngest is 14 years old, and is a home-schooled High School freshman.

Larry was born in New York and resided in Massapequa on Long Island until he went to college at University of Florida, where he began his career as a Pharmacist. He is presently working as a Pharmacy Software Consultant. Mary Kay enjoyed a career as an RN before having the girls. Now she is a stay at home mom homeschooling their youngest and enjoys helping others whenever needed.

They are members of Santa Maria del Mar Catholic Church in Flagler Beach, FL where they have been active in several ministries. They have been in Teams for ten years and have served as Sector Couple and are presently serving as one of the Piloting Couples, Liaison Couples, and Secretary of the Palm Coast, FL Sector. They discover more beauty in their Sacrament of Marriage as time goes on, and absolutely love the Teams Of Our Lady Movement and sharing it with others. They are so thankful for their Catholic Faith and grateful to God, Our Blessed Mother, and Father Caffarel for this Movement that has helped them to not only grow in their love for Our Lord and each other, but for the gift it has provided in strengthening their family and community, and the numerous wonderful, faith-filled couples it has brought into their lives.

## Second Annual Retreat



Our Second Retreat of the year was open to the public and it was wonderful! The theme was "Viviendo El Proyecto de Jesus Como Pareja" put on by Miami teams. We had talks from Father Mario Vizacayno and Father Arturo Guzman Chaves that brought us a

deeper knowledge of Jesus's project and our mission... "We don't have a mission, we are the Mission!"





# Southeast Region

## Miracle by Father Caffarel in Miami

We had on August 15th the worst tragedy at our Sector. One couple from Miami Team #1 had their baby David drown at their home pool. David stayed 9 minutes under the water, and when they rescued him he had no pulse or vital signs.

In this moment God was present and a 25 year old neighbor, with the same name of the baby boy, administered CPR and revived the baby yet he didn't regain consciousness.

David stayed at the hospital 8 days in a coma on life support. We quickly took action as Teams and started a huge Prayer Chain in our Sector that spread throughout the USA, Brazil, Honduras, Colombia across Teams, families and friends. Everybody prayed for the intercession of Father Caffarel for a miracle to save this boy and help his family. We had the chance to pray, together as a Sector, his canonization prayer in our last Retreat on August 19th.

The next day, on August 20th they had the final MRI exam to check the mental issues that David could have had and it was our first signal of miracle, They confirmed that David didn't have any mental damage from the incident!

Little by little David is recovering, and now is eating, has been breastfed by his mom, and he has the chance to get out of the hospital with life and health for his 12th month Birthday on September 6th!

We all are testimony of this Miracle by Father Caffarel inside our Miami Team # 1 and we are so blessed to have participated in that. Our faith grows each second that we think about it and we are so grateful to God!

We have already communicated the event to Friends of Father Caffarel Association in France. God bless Teams!

*Camila and Fabio Cristino*



David before the accident



David at the hospital with his mom Alejandra Figueroa on August 27th

# Southeast Region

## First Annual Retreat "Living the Endeavors"



Teams Retreat at SEPI (South East Pastoral Institute) in Miami, FL

Our First Retreat of the year was held by Miami Teams couples on April 15th 2018 at SEPI (South East Pastoral Institute) in Miami, FL. The theme was "Living the Endeavors" and it was held exclusively to Teams Couples and it was presented by our couples! They did a very good job, preparing themselves to talk about 5 Endeavors of Teams. We had a participation of Father Roberto Cid speaking about "prayer". It was a huge moment for us to learn more and practice deeper our Team's endeavors!

MIAMI,  
FL

## Mother's Day Mass



On May 12th, 2018 at Saint Peter and Paul Catholic Church in Miami we celebrated Mother's Day of Our Lady and all *moms* of our Sector enjoying a mass together! It was concluded

by giving a beautiful red rose to each mom present!



## Father's Day Mass



On June 16th, 2018 at Saint Patrick Catholic Church in Miami Beach we celebrated Father's Day together with all *dads* of our Sector enjoying a mass together! Here you can see Father

Roberto Cid, Saint Patrick's Parishioner and Spiritual Counselor of Team #4.



Teams couples with Father Roberto Cid

# Southeast Region

## Sector Team Meeting

Our Second Annual Meeting was held on May 27th, 2018 at the Sector Couple's House, Camila and Fabio. We had our full team presence, including our Sector Spiritual Counselor Father Mario Vizcayno.

MIAMI,  
FL



**Sector team of Miami:** Thelma and Gerardo, Natalia and Sebastian, Susy and Gustavo, Camila and Fabio, and Father Mario Vizcayno

## Sector Fun Day

Our Miami Sector has been trying to promote new social and integrated moments into our sector. We were excited to hold our first fun day on June 2, 2018! The focus of the social was all about the kids! It was a lot of fun for them and for us!



## Southeast Region - Incoming Sector Couples

The following couples are slated to be installed this Fall at ceremonies in their respective Sectors. Please keep them in your prayers as they embark on this journey of service.

**Palm Coast Florida Sector - Nate and Barb Flach**

**Jacksonville Florida Sector - Phil and Cindy Fuss**

**Pinellas Florida Sector - Joe and Donna Zeoli**



# Southeast Region

## Annual Sector Meeting



Fort Myers Sector held its annual sector meeting and event on Saturday June 23rd. It was a wonderful evening filled with prayer, meeting, ideas and fellowship. We enjoyed dinner and dancing afterwards.

## Spread the LOVE of TEAMS

Is your parish priest in a Team? If not, why not share this newsletter with him. What a great way to spread the word about Teams to your parish!



Forward this newsletter to your pastor

## A Low Key, BUT NOT Low Cal Sector Social



Pictured LR Front: Chad and Raquel Tripp, Joe and Sonya Brozovich, Larry and Carolyn Audije, Phil Fuss, and Dan and Sharon Noel

Picture LR Rear: Father Haut, Ben and Linda Milam, Gary and Nancy Yacavone, Deacon Stan Grenn, and Cindy Fuss



Members of the Jacksonville Florida Sector met at Immaculate Conception Parish in downtown Jacksonville on May 31st to celebrate the Feast of the Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Father Vincent Haut, the Southeast Region's Spiritual Counselor led the group through an insightful review of the Magnificat prayer, taking into account four distinct translations of each verse. After the review, Father Haut gave the group a tour of the Church touching on some interesting history, including his own experiences. Following the tour, the group had a dessert social.

## Jacksonville Sector Serves Meal to Marriage Retreat

On Saturday, August 18th, members from Jacksonville Florida Sector served dinner to participants at marriage retreat sponsored by the Dioceses of St. Augustine. The 2 day retreat took place at St. Joseph's Parish in Jacksonville. The Team members wore blue aprons embroidered with the Teams of Our Lady logo. The aprons raised a lot of questions from the participants leading the event organizers to request the teams couples to make a five minute pitch for the movement. Through Liaison and service to the greater community more awareness can be raised about Teams of Our Lady.



# Southeast Region

## After Twenty Plus Year Absence, Hillsborough Assembles Sector Team



**Sector team picture:** From left to right: Valerie & Gibby Morales, Millie & Jorge Cruz, Tim & Kitty Whitehurst, & Fred Baryol, Melissa & Philip Mayer. Msgr. Michael Muhr, the sector spiritual counselor is not pictured.

After being blessed by the many graces that come with being part of a base team for four years, Philip and Melissa said yes to God's call and were appointed as sector couple for Hillsborough, Florida in 2017, excited by the vision shared with them by Chad and Raquel, the southeast regional couple, of what sectors all over the world were accomplishing with sector teams. Yet, the task was daunting. The sector had been without a leadership team for decades and found itself limping along carried on by the sacrificial leadership of overburdened solo sector couples.

Not sure where to start, Philip and Melissa, asked a priest to serve as their sector spiritual counselor, and he said yes. Melissa remembers, "We were so thrilled by this first victory and saw it as a sign of God's blessing." They began working to get to know their sector. After many phone calls they were able to hold a "get to know you" meeting with the responsible couples, then they began scheduling liaison visits to their teams. The challenges of finding a baby sitter for their young kids meant that it was often the case that Philip would visit a team solo and then Melissa would do the same next month. Slowly, but surely they began getting to know their sector.

Following sector couple training in Texas they arrived back in Florida excited about the movement and motivated to built their sector team. Philip recalls, "I struggled with fear. We talked back and forth about our worries of choosing the wrong couples and our concern with being rejected when we did ask. Yet, we knew this was something we had to do." God was moving and their sector was growing. They had held an information to infill their own team and so many couples responded that a second team was formed. Another couple volunteered to share about teams at a marriage event at their parish and the result was two new teams being formed. Before they knew it, their sector had grown to twelve teams. This rapid growth increased the urgency to build a sector team.

So, they took the leap and invited a prospective liaison couple to their house for coffee and shared with them the vision for a sector team and asked them to pray about serving as liaison couple. A week later they said yes. Soon afterward another couple who attended a regional teams training event also said yes to service as a liaison couple. With these success, their courage began to grow. They called a few other couples, two of whom said no, but two others said yes.

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# Southeast Region

## After Twenty Plus Year Absence, Hillsborough Assembles Sector Team

*-continued*

This past spring they held their first sector team meeting: a sector spiritual counselor, four liaison couples and the sector responsible couple. "It felt great to be gathered together with such a wealth of wisdom, so refreshing, and encouraging that we were no longer alone in this leadership endeavor" Philip and Melissa share when asked about the first gathering of their sector team. They were graced with an encouraging priest, three couples who had been part of the movement for multiple decades, and one couple who had only been in teams for a few years. And now slowly but surely momentum is beginning to build. The Hillsborough Sector has a solid foundation for many good things to come.

## Pinellas Sector Summit



Pinellas Couples playing Teams Bingo at the June 9th Summit Whitehurst, & Fred Baryol, Melissa & Philip Mayer. Msgr. Michael Muhr, the sector spiritual counselor is not pictured.

On June 9th, members from the Pinellas Sector met at Espiritu Santo Parish in Safety Harbor Florida for a Summit led by TJ and Ellen Holt, South Province Couple. Members from five Pinellas teams attended the event along with Chad Tripp, Southeast Region Responsible Couple, and Father Vincent Haut, Southeast Region Spiritual Counselor. The gathering started with a Pot Luck meal, followed by an agenda that included sharing on Team life, important updates about the movement as well as games like Teams Bingo. The couples left with a better appreciation of the extent of the international movement as well as a better understanding of the role of the Sector Team and the importance of saying 'Yes' to service when the opportunity to serve arises.

## New Responsible Couple



Joe and Donna Zeoli

Joe and Donna Zeoli have accepted the call to be the Responsible Couple for the Pinellas Sector, their installation date slated for this Fall.

Donna and Joe have been married 32 years and are active parishioners at St.

Jude Cathedral parish in St. Petersburg, FL. They joined Teams of Our Lady over 10 years ago and are part of a wonderful team that has become part of their family. They shared, "Teams has been a

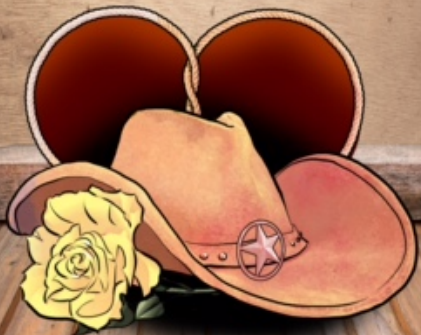
great way for both of us to grow in our faith and also be part of a nurturing Christian community. We are excited to be of service to Teams in Pinellas County.

Donna is a teacher at St. Jude Elementary School and Joe just passed his 30th anniversary working for the City of St. Petersburg. In their free time, they enjoy taking trips with their camping trailer and visiting places all around the U.S.

They are blessed to have their children also living in St. Pete along with their adorable 2-year-old Grandson, and another Grandchild on the way!

# Communication

Rekindle  
THE Fire  
ON THE Trail  
TO Holiness



NATIONAL  
TEAMS OF OUR LADY  
CONFERENCE  
JULY 16 - 19, 2019  
NAVASOTA, TEXAS

## National Conference

**July 16-19, 2019**

**at Camp Allen in Navasota, TX**

We will be opening on line registration in the first part of 2019.

Cardinal Dinardo will celebrate with opening Mass at 4pm Tuesday, July 16, 2019.

Confirmed Speakers...

- ▶ Bishop Joseph Strickland-Diocese of Tyler Texas
- ▶ Msgr. Chester Borski-Retired Regional Chaplain for Teams for 15 years
- ▶ Singer/Entertainer David Kauffman

Stay tuned...

**Calling ALL Teams in East TX/LA/AR who completed piloting within the last 3 years...Join us at the New Teams Welcome Celebration...**

**February 24-25, 2019**

**at St. Paul the Apostle Catholic Church**

18223 Point Lookout Dr.  
Nassau Bay, TX 77058

babysitting will be provided.

## Endeavors

A Regular reading of the Word of God

Daily meditation

Daily Conjugal and Family Prayer

A Monthly Sit-Down

A Rule of Life

A Yearly Retreat

## Newsletter

**Deadline to submit**

\*November 12, 2018

**Issue Date**

December 2, 2018  
(First Sunday of Advent)

**\* Deadline to submit articles for next newsletter. Please submit articles and pictures to your Regional Couple and they will send to us.**



# Message from the Pope

Dear ResponsibleCouple

MARIA BERTA and JOSÉ MOURA SOARES

of TOL's International Leading Team

It is with pleasure that I welcome the request for blessing all the participants of the 12th International Gathering of Teams Our Lady which takes place in Fatima from July 16 to 21, 2018, under the theme "The Prodigal Son". Pope Francis greets you fraternally, reminding everyone that the Church condemns sin, because it must speak the truth, but at the same time embraces the sinner who recognizes himself as such, approaches Him and speaks about God's infinite mercy. What great hope and what joy the parable of the Prodigal Son brings us! It does not only speak to us of welcome or forgiveness, but also of "feast" for the son who returns. (Luke 15:32).

The Holy Father invites us to recognize ourselves in this lost son who returns to the Father. This Father who never tires of hugging him and restoring his greatness as a son. Let us be moved by such great kindness and let our hearts speak: It is true, Lord! I am a sinner. I feel as such and I'm sure of being it. I'm lost. In a thousand ways, I have shunned your love, but here I am to renew my covenant with you. I need you. Save me once again Lord! Take me, once more, into your redeeming arms (*Evangelii Gaudium* 3)

These open arms on the cross prove that no one is excluded from the Father's love, from his mercy. He does not want to lose anyone, moreover, He does not resign himself to losing anyone: husband or wife, parents or children ... You are well aware, that in the eyes of Jesus, nobody is definitely lost, there are only people who need to be found, and, He pushes us to go out looking for them. For if we want to find the Lord, we must seek Him where He wants to meet us and not where we want to find Him; the Shepherd can only be found where the sheep is lost. While informing us that He leaves in search of the lost sheep, He encourages the ninety-nine to participate in the reunification of the flock. And if that happens, it's not just the sheep that He carries on the shoulders and takes home that will make a party with friends and neighbors, but also the whole flock. (Luke 15:4-6).

Thus "taken by the hand by the Virgin Mary and under her gaze, we can joyfully sing the Lord's mercies. We can say to Him: My soul is singing for you Lord! The mercy you have used with your saints and with all your faithful people has spread to me. Because of the pride of my heart, I lived focused on my ambitions and my interests, but I did not occupy any throne, Lord! The only possibility of delight that I have is that your Mother takes me in her arms, covers me with her cloak and places me near your Heart".

(Pope Francis' Message: introduction to the Marian Vigil, Fátima 12/5/2017).

Thus, consecrated to the merciful hearts of Jesus and Mary, you can count on their grace, just as, a hundred years ago, through the Virgin Mother of God, grace shone in the eyes of the three little shepherds and shaped their lives with the purpose of "saving sinners". Wishing that this passion of the little shepherds will seize spouses, parents, children, members of Teams of Our Lady spread around the world, Pope Francis grants you, as well as Spiritual, Retreats and Gatherings Counsellors, the implored Apostolic Blessing.

Vatican, June 13, 2018

The substitute of His Holiness' Secretary of State



# Letter from the US Super Region

## USA SUPER REGION TEAMS OF OUR LADY



August 29, 2018

Dear Teams of Our Lady Family:

We want to THANK YOU for your generosity in contributing this past year to the Teams Movement in the United States. The number of couples contributing increased from less than 20% to 29%.

As you know, the Teams of Our Lady Charter sets out the responsibilities for each couple and specifically identifies the need "to give annually, by way of subscription the equivalent of one day's pay." Our annual expenses typically include website, printing materials, postage, translations, and primarily leadership training and travel. Another primary expense is the tithe assessed to each country by the international body (ERI) based on GNP and membership, to support the International movement around the world.

This year we are starting leadership meetings and trainings where all the Provinces (4) will meet with their Team (Regional Couples) and all their College (Sector Couples) and this process, so needed in the USA, will increase the costs for Teams. This process is in place at the ERI level and in the Super Regions worldwide.

Teams are accepting contributions in three different ways:

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

This year again, to propel our participation closer to 100 percent, Sector Couples will manage the annual contribution process. As part of these efforts, during a fall meeting your Responsible Couple will provide you with an envelope for your contribution. The sealed contributions will then be sent to the Sector Couple who will track, not the amount contributed, but rather the name of the couple participating (only the SR Responsible Couple and Secretariat will see your contribution). We emphasize here the importance of submitting an envelope even if your contribution is less than the recommended amount or if you give online or by Bill Pay. Note that cash contributions are not recommended or paying by one team check. Remember to note on your check or bill pay your Region, Sector, and Team number. The mailing address is: **Teams of Our Lady, P.O. Box 1485, Turlock, CA 95381-1485.**

Please know that you and your teams are always in our prayers and Team members, both living and deceased, are remembered in a weekly Mass offered by the SR Spiritual Counselor. Father Caffarel shared with us that "everything withers when prayer is missing." Your continued support will help the USA Super Region grow and continue the mission of Teams.

We remain in service to Christ through Mary,

Jorge & Noélia Sousa  
US Super Region Responsible Couple

Steve & Glynis Sturm  
Finance Couple



# Letter from the Editor



## Happy Birthday to our Blessed Mother

When we started our endeavor as Newsletter Couple for the South Province we had to decide when to distribute it throughout the year. After much planning and prayer, we came up with the following dates of distribution. The 3 issue dates include **Advent**, which starts out our liturgical calendar year, **Easter**, which celebrates the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ, and **September 8**, the birthday of our blessed Mother. We thought it was only appropriate to honor Mary in a Teams of our Lady Newsletter. This newsletter is Volume 2 Issue 3, which means we are closing out on two years of publishing this newsletter for the South Province and this particular newsletter honors our Holy Mother's birthday. There are so many feast days of our Lady, why did we choose this one? Since the Catholic Church usually celebrates a saint's feast day on the day they

entered into paradise, and since the Gospels have not transmitted to us anything about the birth of the Virgin Mary, her birthday seems to not get much emphasis or attention by most Catholics. We would like to change that.

So, join us in celebrating with joy and light the birth of our Mother Mary.

Mary's birth constitutes the hope and the light of salvation for the whole world. Her image is light for the whole Christian people.

Added to the theme of joy on this Marian Feast is that of light because with Mary's birth the darkness is dispersed and there rises in the world the dawn that announces the Sun of Justice, Christ the Lord.

So, join us in lighting a candle and singing with joy  
Happy birthday to you, happy birthday to you,  
happy birthday to Mother Mary, happy birthday to you!

Peace,

-Philip and Jena Bissailon

**DEADLINE** for submission for NEXT newsletter articles:

► **Monday, November 12, 2018** - Advent Newsletter

## Newsletter Distribution - 3 Times a Year



# Couple Challenge



Focusing on the theme of this newsletter, think about what you would do for your own mother on her birthday. Here are some things to consider how to celebrate Mary's birthday with your Teams family and your own family...

- Light a candle, sing happy birthday to Mary
- Bring a birthday cake as the dessert for your next Team's meeting to honor Mary
- Share with your team your favorite story about Mary
- Share how Mary has brought you closer to her son, Jesus
- Visit Mary's statue at a local shrine or church as a Team outing
- Celebrate with feasting and libations
- Pray this ancient prayer (see below) in honor of our Lady's nativity by St. Anselm
- Memorize Mary's prayer the Magnificat if you haven't already
- Choose a Teams reading material or retreat material on our blessed Mother
- Read a book on our mother Mary (suggestion: [33 Days to Morning Glory](#))

## Ancient Prayer In Honour of Our Lady's Nativity by St. Anselm

Vouchsafe that I may praise thee, O sacred Virgin; give me strength against thine enemies, and against the enemy of the whole human race. Give me strength humbly to pray to thee. Give me strength to praise thee in prayer with all my powers, through the merits of thy most sacred nativity, which for the entire Christian world was a birth of joy, the hope and solace of its life.

When thou wast born, O most holy Virgin, then was the world made light.

Happy is thy stock, holy thy root, and blessed thy fruit, for thou alone as a virgin, filled with the Holy Spirit, didst merit to conceive thy God, as a virgin to bear Thy God, as a virgin to bring Him forth, and after His birth to remain a virgin.

Have mercy therefore upon me a sinner, and give me aid, O Lady, so that just as thy nativity, glorious from the seed of Abraham, sprung from the tribe of Juda, illustrious from the stock of David, didst announce joy to the entire world, so may it fill me with true joy and cleanse me from every sin.

Pray for me, O Virgin most prudent, that the gladsome joys of thy most helpful nativity may put a cloak over all my sins.