

THE ANNUAL COMMITMENT

We first commit to the Teams of Our Lady Movement at the fifth meeting of the piloting. It is at this point that we commit to our teammates and the Movement for a year. This establishes a sense of comfort, and when we begin to share our lives more deeply during prayer or highs and lows, we know that our teammates will be there for the foreseeable future. Commitment is a voluntary act on the part of each couple, and implies a sense of support and loyalty not only for the individual base team, but for the larger Movement and leadership as well.

Why?

The Team commitment is a mutual promise to help each other on our journey of faith and love. Because Teams understands the difficulty of this journey in today's world, it offers us the Endeavors as guideposts. We commit ourselves first to God because we believe that this is His will. We commit ourselves to the Movement as a special cell in the universal church, one designed for and by married couples, for our unique vocation. We commit ourselves to each other to support our spiritual journeys toward holiness.

When?

The first commitment is at the fifth piloting meeting, and annual recommitments can be on the anniversary month of that date, or during a retreat. The team will decide if they wish it to be during a meeting, at a special Mass, or some other time. Some teams like to celebrate using flowers, symbols, or candles, others like to keep it low key. Consider committing with other teams at an annual Sector event. Make it special with a potluck, picnic, or romantic dinner.

Who?

Feel free to invite your pilot couple, Sector Couple or friends. It might be a good recruiting tool!

Preparation

Prior to recommitment the team should complete an annual evaluation. This is a prayerful and introspective look at the past year with the hope that there will be strengths and weakness to explore. Consider it a team sit-down, with goals for improvement in the up coming year. Look at the Annual Evaluation forms suggested in this section, and develop one that would answer the needs of your team.

Examples of Commitments:

Use these for inspiration and adapt them to your needs.

Short Commitment Ceremony

We give thanks to God, our Heavenly Father for our fellow Team members whom we have come to know and love. Through them, we have received many graces to our marriage in prayer and mutual support. We want to thank our fellow Team members for the love, patience, challenge, and joy they have given us. In Your Presence Lord, we pledge to them and to Teams worldwide, our continuing love, energy, and resources for their spiritual growth and physical well being. We ask Mary, Queen of Teams, to continue to guide and inspire our life in Teams. Amen

Long Commitment Ceremony

We give thanks to God, our Heavenly Father for our fellow Team members whom we have come to know and love. Through them, we have received many graces to our marriage in prayer and mutual support. We want to thank our fellow Team members for the love, patience, challenge, and joy they have given us. In Your Presence Lord, we pledge to them and to Teams worldwide, our continuing love, energy, and resources for their spiritual growth and physical well being. We ask Mary, Queen of Teams, to continue to guide and inspire our life in Teams. Amen.

Litany

This litany reflects three different moods: thanksgiving, penitence and resolution. Couples should pause between the sections and allows themselves to settle into the mood of the prayer.

For calling us to be partners in this Christian marriage,

We thank you, Lord.

For allowing us to know your presence in our presence to one another,

We thank you, Lord.

For inspiring us to reflect your love in our marital love,

We thank you, Lord.

For the sacrament we have been for each other,

We thank you, Lord.

For the times when we have failed to show Christ-like love in our marriage,

Lord, have mercy.

For the ways in which we have lacked human warmth and sensitivity,

Lord, have mercy.

For the occasions when we have been reluctant to serve each other's needs,

Lord, have mercy.

For our lack of forgiveness and compassion,

Lord, have mercy.

We will strive to grow in our faith and love of Christ,

Lord, help us, we pray.

We wish to give fuller sign of Christ's love in our relationship,

Lord, help us, we pray.

Light Ceremony

Each couple, in turn takes a lighted candle from the leadership couple who has lighted it from the Sector candle (or another candle symbolizing Christ), saying these or similar words:

We give you this candle as sign of the light you will continue to strive to be to each other and your Team.

Response: **We are grateful for the light Teams as brought to our lives.**

Concluding Prayer

(Refrain is recited by all. The verses, taken from John 15:9-14, can be recited by the couple together, and are recited in rotation.

As the Father loves me, so I also love you. Remain in my love.

Refrain: Arise, shine out, for your light has come, and the glory of Yahweh has risen on you. (Isaiah 60:1)

If you keep my commandments, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and remain in his love.

Refrain: Arise, shine out, for your light has come, and the glory of Yahweh has risen on you. (Isaiah 60:1)

I have told you this so that my joy might be in you and your joy might be complete.

Refrain: Arise, shine out, for your light has come, and the glory of Yahweh has risen on you. (Isaiah 60:1)

This is my commandment: love one another as I love you.

Refrain: Arise, shine out, for your light has come, and the glory of Yahweh has risen on you. (Isaiah 60:1)

No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you.

Refrain: Arise, shine out, for your light has come, and the glory of Yahweh has risen on you. (Isaiah 60:1)

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen