



Magnificat

A Newsletter for Married Couples

*United States Teams of Our Lady - Equies de Nossa Senhora -
Equipos de Nuestra Señora*

Come and Get “It”!

by Ted Windus

In the Fall 2004 issue of the Magnificat, Mike and Lisa Mauer wrote an article about their experience at the National Conference in San Antonio. The Mauer’s comment, “There was a spirit there that was hard to describe but very real and very comforting,” got me thinking. At the August 2004 Super Regional Meeting that very topic came up in conversation. We all knew what we wanted to say but couldn’t describe *It*.

It is a word that most of us use in a sentence to refer to something we wrote or talked about before. This is not that *It*. The *It* I am referring to is an inspiration, an overwhelming calm, a spiritual zap or an emotional high. However you say *It*, *It* is there. You may ask yourself, how or when do I get *It*? Well, simply stated, when you get involved in the Teams Movement.

Involvement at the team level is where *It* begins. Think back to your

first meeting or so, or even the first information meeting you attended. There was a presence of something... *It*. Your feelings could have ranged from excitement to uncertainty but with a warm fuzzy. How about the feeling after a Teams meeting that you may have not been really up to going to, but when the meeting was over you were glad you went. That is *It*.



It is giving to Teams beyond your team. *It* is giving an information meeting and seeing the expressions of “this is what we have been looking for”. *It* is the feeling of success when you start a new team. *It* grows stronger as your involvement increases, like when you pilot a new team and watch all the confused looks of the first meeting turn into excitement by the fifth meeting. *It* is the feeling of accomplishment a couple gets when they are able to give *It* to others. You can receive *It* by listening for the call to leadership. A couple’s involvement gives you *It* to increase

your involvement in your team. *It* also encourages a greater sense of involvement in the Teams movement. Which brings me to the 2005 National Conference in Turlock, California.

The National Conference is a gathering of Teams couples from all across the U.S. Here you get to put faces to names. Going to the National Conference is an involvement in Teams that gives you an experience you won’t forget. Like the Mauers ▶

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said in their article, “we were glad we made the leap” and “we came back with a renewed commitment to Teams” - the very **It** that I have been describing. You too can receive **It** by seeing some of the people you have met at other conferences. **It** may also be the feeling you get when your team decides to go to the conference together. **It** could be the excitement you get from listening to the speakers. **It** is the comfort knowing that

other couples, teams, or leaders have the same struggles and triumphs. The National Conference is another way to start **It** or rekindle **It**. Get more involved in Teams. Start with yourselves as a couple and find away to the National Conference so you can experience **It**.

It comes from many different areas in Teams. **It** also can be described many different ways. Bottom line

is without couples’ and spiritual advisors’ involvement at all levels we couldn’t have a National Conference to help others to receive **It**. So live **It** with your spouse and get **It** by being involved in Teams and bring **It** to the National Conference to get more of **It**. •

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Further Teams Growth Spurs More Changes In Regional Structure

by Ted & Eileen Kosnik
Super Regional Couple

"The God of our ancestors has chosen you to know his will, to see the Righteous One and to hear his own voice; for you will be his witness to all the world of what you have seen and heard. And now why do you delay?"
Acts 22:14-16

The words spoken to Paul by Ananias have meaning for us all. We are all sent to witness God's great love for his people, and we as Team members are called to witness his love as it is lived in the Sacrament of Marriage.

We are called in many ways; by serving our families and neighbors in their daily needs. By holding positions of leadership in the team as a Responsible Couple, or in the Sector as an Information Couple, Pilot Couple, or Sector Couple.

The weekend of January 13-17 the regional couples gathered in Dickinson, TX for their semi-annual Super Regional meeting. These couples came from all points of the country, using vacation time, leaving their families and gathered to help make the decisions that will help the Movement grow and prosper in 2005. They are a witness to the love that God has shared with us.

While in Dickinson (a retreat center about twenty miles south of Houston) we installed Janet and

Ted Windus and Carolyn and John Lyman as Regional Couples. We hope that they will be installed in their regions too, so their teammates can share in the installation. Ruth and Jim Wagner were installed as **Coastal Regional Couple** during their Sector event in Virginia on February 12.

The **Northeast Region** will be changing its shape and size. This area has over one hundred teams, and it has been very difficult for Joyce and Bob Grinewich to serve such a large number of couple spread over so many states.

The old Northeast Region has been broken down into three regions of more manageable sizes. Joyce and Bob Grinewich will continue as a Regional Couple for a new area, the **Lake Erie Region**, that will include the thirty-seven teams in the Buffalo, NY and Pittsburgh, PA areas.

Joe and Amelia Almeida have graciously said "yes" to becoming Regional Couple for the **New England Region**, which includes Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Vermont, New Hampshire, Maine and part of Connecticut. They will continue to work with the Portuguese Couples in the area as well as serving the English speaking teams.

Mary and Tony Salvador will represent the Portuguese teams in California, as they are bilingual. It hoped that this ar-

rangement will provide better representation for the Portuguese teams, as they will have a local couple seeing to their needs on each coast. The position of Portuguese Language Liaison will remain open in the event it is needed in the future.

A third region is being formed that will include the forty-seven teams in

Kosniks Corner

the NY metropolitan area, including the Connecticut teams that are part of the Northern Westchester Sector, and the northern New Jersey teams, but a regional couple has not yet been named.

We ask your prayers for teams in Hawaii! Gina and Candido Ramirez were heavily involved in teams in Abilene, TX and are now stationed at Hickman AFB, Honolulu. Although they will be there for a limited time they have placed bulletin ads, spoken to the chaplain, and talked up Teams in their new parish. Please pray with them that they can pilot the first team while stationed there! ▶

Janet and Ted Windus, North Central Regional Couple, are also requesting our prayers as they begin the process of starting Teams in Fargo, ND. There is interest on the part of a priest who was involved with Teams many years ago in Buffalo, NY, and who would like to start them in his new parish.

Mean while in the **South Central Region**, Carolyn and Don Jacques will begin piloting teams in Fayetteville, Arkansas this month. They have done several information meetings that have born fruit. Good job!

While we cannot all travel to pilot teams we can all pray! Please lift up these hard working Regional Couples as they witness God's love. Let us remember the words of Ananias to Paul, "... for you will be his witness to all the world of what you have seen and heard". Witness to all the world the wonders of the Sacrament of Marriage and the beauty of the Teams Movement which God, in his goodness, has given to us. •

Almeidas to Serve Newly-Formed New England Region

by Joe & Amy (Amelia) Almeida

Greetings everyone. It is with a humble heart and spirit of service that we have reflected and accepted to be the new Regional couple for newly created New England Region.

During our tenure in Teams for last 20 years we have enjoyed and shared many highs and lows with our team's families. Although we have accepted and filled most tasks offered by Teams, the experience that each of these endeavors brings is by far much more fulfilling as a couple and as Christians. There is no greater service that serving the people of God, especially when these people are so dear and close to our hearts.

In our last service capacity we were Portuguese Language Liaison Couple at the Super Regional level, and we will continue to exercise this function with our teams in Northeastern US. The Salvadors will do the same for our beloved friends on the west coast.

Muito obrigado por nos dar a oportunidade de vos servir na caminhada para o reino de Deus.

We have been on the Teams journey for many years: our team, New Bedford 3, is the pioneering team of Portuguese speaking couples in the Massachusetts area. It was in 1984 upon our participation in a Lenten reflection that Father Feytor Pinto

spoke in his homily about Teams. Six very young couples (in our mid-20s) and recently married decided it was a calling from God to find out more about Teams and eventually start Teams in Massachusetts.

During the 20 years of journey our teams have become more than team members, we have become family,

Regional Reports

real family. We have raised our two children, Jacob and Rachel, and have shared the sadness of losing to miscarriage our Sara. We have made our home, and built our lives.

Professionally we have had a series of many jobs shared by many of our immigrant community. We have experienced the frustrations and joys and working in clothing factories and have shared these same frustrations and joys of having integrated in our current professional duties of Amy being a film librarian at local Hospital and Joe being Purchasing Manager at Reebok.

While our jobs are our source of income, our team is our source of joy. Sharing our lives with all our

Teams couples has been a blessing that words are not capable of defining and expressing the love we feel for each other. We have raised our families together; we have vacationed together, we have always prayed together, cried and laughed. The reason why all this happened is because we are teams bound by the ultimate love which is Christ.

When Ted and Eileen asked us to serve in another category our first selfish impression was, we have been at this for 20 years, we do not totally accomplish our living of endeavors on a daily basis, we certainly are neither worthy nor qualified to meet this important challenge, but then again we were never qualified nor worthy. What we have had is a tremendous amount of grace poured upon us over the many years of service.

Grace conquers all, it removes obstacles, it strengths and gives life, and as we heard last week during our SR meeting "let the angels lead you and when you get there all the work will be done."

With this in mind we ask your prayers, and call upon all the angels and living saints whom are our teams families and humbly accept our new responsibility of serving the entire New England Region and the people of God. •

South Central Region Continues Tremendous Growth

by Don & Carolyn Jacques

The South Central Region is really growing. Praise God!

Fifteen new teams finished piloting in 2004 and 2005 looks promising also. Austin, Texas and Folsom, Louisiana were two new areas that started last year. This year we are starting our first teams in Arkansas (Fayetteville) and new teams are beginning to take shape in Houston proper.



TOOL is such a wonderful gift that has been offered to each of us. Many of us feel a desire to share this gift with others. It takes commitment to be a Pilot Couple, Information Couple, and Sector Couple. The South Central Region has been blessed with many couples willing to fill these positions. We have also been blessed with a great newsletter couple, Philip & Jena Bis-saillon. Our new archbishop of Galveston-Houston, Archbishop Daniel DiNardo, was in Teams during his early priesthood in Pittsburgh and appears excited to learn more about Teams in his new archdiocese. The South Central Region is alive and well. We are excited as we begin 2005. The Holy Spirit is really moving! Let's all keep sharing this wonderful gift with others and help support the Light of Christ into as many marriages as possible across this great land. •

Greetings from the new North Central Region!

We are Ted and Janet Windus, the Regional Couple for Minnesota, Wisconsin and North and South Dakota. We have been married for 15 years, and have four children ranging in age from 14 to 8.

Ted is a technician with the Minnesota Air National Guard and Janet works at a Catholic school. During the past 13 years in Teams, we have served in a variety of positions. We are excited to have been chosen to lead this newly created region and look forward to meeting as many of you as possible. •

Heading South in the Coastal Region

by Jim & Ruth Wagner

For those of us who reside in the colder climes, an enticing thought that usually comes around in January is “going south for the winter.” In the Coastal Region, going south for us is checking in with our teams throughout North and South Carolina. We thought *Magnificat* readers might enjoy reading about the dynamic teams there and two wonderful couples who have been pioneers in bringing the movement to those states.

The first couple, Vince and Mary Pat Arostegui, is well known to many of you from their service from 1998 to 2003 as the Teams Secretariat Couple for the U.S. Super Region. The Arosteguis started in Teams in 1985 while living in Vienna, Virginia. In 2000, when they moved to Charlotte, North Carolina, Vince and Mary Pat were determined to bring the joy and enrichment they received from being in Teams with them to their new home. Through their dedication, they formed and piloted five teams in Charlotte and, if that wasn't enough, they fol-

lowed John and Mary Juliano in introducing Teams to Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. Vince and Mary Pat piloted two Myrtle Beach teams, routinely making the 380+ mile round trip from their Charlotte home. In growing Teams in these two areas, we have seen the seed planted by the Arosteguis blossom into a new vibrant Charlotte Sector and a Myrtle Beach pre-Sector.

Our second Teams leadership couple in the southern part of the Coastal Region is Florentino and Beatriz Rodríguez. Natives of Cali, Colombia, the Rodríguez's will celebrate 30 years with Teams in 2005 and have taken their devotion and dedication to Teams with them through moves to Mexico City, Michigan, Ohio and, now, South Carolina. In the early 1980s, while living in Mexico City, Florentino and Beatriz were the instruments by which Teams was introduced there. And, since 2002, they have, through the very same spirit of love and service, brought Teams to the Hispanic community in and around Greer, South Carolina. With the support of Jaime and Catalina Sáenz, who provided the English-to-

Spanish translation of the U.S. piloting materials, Florentino and Beatriz have been the pilots to four Spanish-speaking Teams, the most recent having started in late 2004.

So, the next time someone suggests “wintering in the south,” why not the Carolinas where Florentino and Beatriz and Vince and Mary Pat are hard at work with their Teams ministry.

Elsewhere in the Coastal Region, we had a great turnout for our second Day of Enrichment for Married Couples. We gathered on February 12 at St. John Neumann's Catholic Church in Reston, Virginia, to hear this year's speaker, Dr. William Roberts. Dr. Roberts is no stranger to the many Teams who have used his publications – *Marriage: Sacrament of Hope and Challenge* and *Partners in Intimacy: Living Christian Marriage Today* – or heard Dr. Roberts speak at the 2003 National Conference in San Antonio. Super Regional Couple Ted and Eileen Kosnik joined us as well.

We close with a greeting for our newest teams in the Coastal Region: Triangle 02, piloted by Bob and Carol Jones, and James River 01, being guided by Ed and Edie Reinsel. Both of these teams are in the ever-growing Virginia South Sector. In the Greer pre-Sector, we welcome Spartanburg 01, another of our Spanish-speaking teams being piloted by Florentino and Beatriz Rodríguez. Desde Virginia les enviamos un saludo de año nuevo a todos nuestros queridos hermanos y hermanas en Cristo de habla hispana, con el calor que aflora del alma que ama a Cristo. Esperamos hacer un viaje a Greer y Spartanburg en un futuro cercano y esperamos conocerles a todos y compartir el espíritu de los Equipos de Nuestra Señora. •



Anne Franco, Carolyn Lyman, Jim Wagner and Janet Windus show off the squares that they embroidered for the quilt which will be raffled to raise money for Lourdes Gathering 2006 Scholarships. Twenty-nine people have embroidered the forty-two squares that will be used in the quilt.

Florida Chapters Celebrate 12th Night

The teams from Florida recently congregated to celebrate 12th night on January 8th, and it was a huge success. Teams from the Tampa Bay area and as far away as Cape Coral met, worshipped together, ate together, socialized and enjoyed being in the company of each other. The festivities were hosted by the Gulfport Team and were held at Most Holy Name of Jesus parish in Gulfport, Florida.

After mass, presided by Father Bill Swengros (who is also the spiritual leader of the Gulfport team), dinner was held in the Maria Center. Breaking bread together was just the beginning, as a fabulous speech by Bill McGuire followed dinner, and then the joint was really jumping as Father Eric and The Deacon Blues Band took the stage and played and jammed to favorites from the 60s, 70s, and even a special performance by the one and only "Blues Brothers"!! It truly was a night to remember.

It was a magical night, because it really displayed how the couples that have dedicated themselves through Teams have grown spiritually and together and how God's glow can have such an impact. There was even a couple from Brazil in attendance and within the next few months will be starting a Teams chapter in the Miami area. Truly a blessing!!

A big "Thank You" should be given out to the following for organizing and assisting in making 12th night in Gulfport such a success: Theresa & Phillip Dvorak; Clarissa & Greg Hughes; Michael & Susan Marth (& all of the Deacon Blues Band); Cecelia & Bruce Ford; Father Bill Swengros; Susan and Gregg Langston; the staff of Most Holy Name of Jesus Catholic Church; all of the teams in the Tampa Bay area and beyond that attended.



Bill McGuire, Pictured here with his wife, spoke on "Marriage: The Passion of God?".



Ron and Mary Frances Dy-Liacco, North Tampa Team 2, with son Logan, the youngest member present, at four weeks!



Wilson and Jannina Barroso, originally from Brazil and now living in Delray Beach, FL, were guests at 12th Night. It was their first contact with TOOL in the U.S., and they hope to be starting a Portuguese team in their new parish.

Teams give testimony to attending the National TOOL Conference...

In the summer of 2003, we were blessed to host the Teams of our Lady National Conference at our home parish in San Antonio, TX. As fairly new members of Teams of our Lady (3 years), we were amazed at the people we met from all over the country who had been part of TOOL for 5, 10, 15, 20 or 25 years. Again and again, we heard so many couples share their story of the impact that TOOL had in their marriage and family life. It was so encouraging to listen as individuals and couples shared the strength they gained from being committed to a team and the ways of TOOL. In sharing at our discussion time, it was refreshing to hear other's struggles as well, knowing we all have difficulties with different aspects of our team meetings at different times. We gained a much broader perspective of how far reaching the TOOL movement has become. Reading about it is one thing, but seeing all the flags from all the states represented at the opening mass was awesome.



Not only did we get to meet great couples from across the country but our children were able to be part of it as well. All three of our children loved the children's program and activities. They met many children from our own parish whose parents were involved in Teams as well as children from many interesting places. It was fun sharing the week with them, knowing they were having fun while we were being enriched and challenged by many great speakers. Our whole family enjoyed participating in the evening activities together.

It was a week that we won't forget for a long time to come.

---Mark and Jaimie Jackson, San Antonio, TX Team 1

When San Antonio TOOL was told we were going to be hosting the 2003 National Conference, we knew it was going to be an honor. However, what our team did not fully understand was how much we would thoroughly enjoy and benefit from attending the conference ourselves. My husband Trey and I tried to attend as much of the conference as possible, and that was made easy by the child care that was provided, the children's activities throughout the day, and the fun family evenings.



We enjoyed the speakers, but were nervous about being placed in a mini-team with other couples from around the country who we did not know. The mini-team was the part that Trey and I benefited from the most! We had a team of couples from Virginia, Houston, California, and even Ireland! The issues we discussed made me realize that some of the same struggles our team has experienced (following the "endeavors," finding good books, retreat issues, etc.) are shared by many other teams around the country. We shared the books our teams have used, as well as ideas for overcoming other obstacles. It made me realize what a large family we have in Teams across the country and around the world.

At the time of the conference I was seven months pregnant with twins. Our mini-team cared for me like I had been in their team for ten years! When the babies were born, I received E-mails and even a book from another twin mom in Minnesota. Every once in a while I will recognize a name on the prayer requests on my E-mail, and I can only attribute that to the many friends we made at the 2003 conference. I would love to attend another conference again, and I would encourage families to make it part of their family vacation.

---Jennifer and Trey Tollette, San Antonio, TX Team 1



We would highly recommend attending the national conference. One of the biggest benefits is a true sense of belonging to something that is much larger than just your own team. Meeting people from all over the country who share the benefits and values of teams is fantastic. We have made friends all across the country and have even visited some of them during travels. There was such a strong sense of belonging and we were so revitalized in teams after attending the conference in San Antonio that we would suggest that it be a new endeavor to attend at least once. We are very much looking forward to Turlock!

---Jeff & Debi Wagner, Harrah OK 01

Rio de Janeiro, July 29, 2004

Dear friends,

We are in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, at the International Colleague meeting of Teams of Our Lady, where we meet Eileen and Ted. They invited us to be with you all in your National TOOL Conference, in June 2005.

There is a simple reason - they explained: It will be the first bi-langue (Portuguese and English) National TOOL Conference ever held in the US and it is being organized by the Portuguese speaking community in Turlock. We understand the importance of this event so, we could not say no.

In Portugal the Teams started in 1955. Now we have more than 10.000 members in the Teams of Our Lady, organized in about 900 teams, 65 sectors and 11 regions. One of the regions is very far from Lisbon, as it is located in Africa (Angola and Mozambique). Here the teams are growing very fast and now seven new sectors are being created: four in Angola and three in Mozambique.

We, as the Teams in Portugal, have less than 50 years old. We joined the Teams in 1981 and thank God for that. In the Teams we where Pilot couple for two times, served in Sector G and where Regional couple in Lisbon Region. We are taking office next February 2005 as new Supra Regional couple in Portugal. We have three children (Ana Rita 25, André 24 and Sara 20).

Since a long time ago we have been following the development of Portuguese Teams in your country. That is why we are very excited to meet you all and to be able to thank the American Teams for receiving the Portuguese among them. We look forward to meet you all next June, in Turlock, and we send you all our friendship. In the meantime we will remember all US Teams in our prayers.

*All our best to you,
Ana e Vasco*

Rio de Janeiro, 29 de Julho de 2004

Caros amigos,

Estamos no Rio de Janeiro, Brasil, na reunião do Colégio Internacional das Equipas de Nossa Senhora (ENS), onde conhecemos a Eileen e o Ted. Eles convidaram-nos para estarmos convosco no vosso Encontro Nacional das ENS, em Junho de 2005. Há uma razão muito simples – explicaram eles: Será o primeiro Encontro Nacional bilingue (Português e Inglês), das ENS, alguma vez realizado nos EUA e está a ser organizado pela comunidade de língua Portuguesa em Turlock. Nós percebemos a importância e o significado deste evento pelo que não podíamos recusar.

Em Portugal as Equipas começaram em 1955. Agora temos mais de 10.000 membros nas Equipas de Nossa Senhora, organizados em cerca de 900 equipas, 65 sectores e 11 regiões. Uma das regiões está muito longe de Lisboa, pois está localizada em África (Angola e Moçambique). Aqui as equipas estão a crescer muito depressa e actualmente estão a ser criados sete novos sectores: quatro em Angola e três em Moçambique.

Como as Equipas em Portugal, nós temos menos de 50 anos. Entramos para as Equipas em 1981 e damos graças a Deus por isso. Nas Equipas fomos casal Piloto por duas vezes, servimos no Sector G e fomos casal Regional da Região de Lisboa. Vamos assumir no próximo mês de Fevereiro de 2005 a responsabilidade pela Supra Região Portugal. Temos três filhos (Ana Rita 25, André 24 e Sara 19).

Desde há muito tempo temos seguido o desenvolvimento das Equipas Portuguesas no vosso País. Por isso estamos muito entusiasmados por vos encontrar e para podermos agradecer às Equipas na América por acolherem os Portugueses no seu seio. Esperamos encontrar-vos no próximo mês de Junho, em Turlock, e enviamos-vos a nossa amizade. Entretanto teremos todas as Equipas da América nas nossas orações.

*Um grande abraço,
Ana e Vasco*

The Life of the International College

by John and Elaine Cogavin

Almost ten years ago the International College of Teams of Our Lady held its Annual College in Dublin, Ireland. As couple responsible for the small Isolated



Region of Ireland, we participated in that College. We were in awe of the wonderful work of less than sixty participants, who represented the whole of our Movement throughout the world. Through the work of this group, the Internationality, the Unity, the Solidarity and the Development of the Movement had its cohesion. We were amazed at how such a diverse group of couples and Priests were able to have so much joy, friendship and fun even though they did not know each other very well and some were meeting for the first time. This happened despite the language, cultural and geographical divide which they represented.

The other great delight was how well the group shared together, prayed together, and worked such long hours- dialoguing, listening, developing themes and taking decisions together for the future

development of our great Movement.

Some of the topics being discussed at that time have contributed to the dialogue, the study, the development we have undertaken in our individual Teams over these past ten years. These included such topics as: Catechesis, Study of the Person, the Couple and Collegiality amongst others.

At that time there were about 7.000 Teams in the world, today we are near to 10,000.

Collegiate Spirit

The Annual Meeting of the College takes place in a different location each year. Through this, the culture, language and history of each location are merged in some small way into the broader culture of our Movement. Over the years College Meetings have taken place in various locations; in France, Spain, Portugal, Belgium, Italy, Brazil, United States of America, Australia, with this year's College being hosted by Teams on the Island of Mauritius.

The International College of the Movement is made up of the members of the International Leading Team (E.R.I.) in college with the couples responsible for the Super-Regions (S.R.) of the world. Every year a part of the responsible couples from Isolated Regions (I.R.) are invited, as well as all the new Spiritual Counsellors.

This makes the membership at each College of between 50 and 60 participants. As the length of

service which each participant gives to the Movement is fixed, the College every year has a mix of new blood, experienced members and some completing their service. This guarantees constant renewal of the College.

The combination of cultural and language diversity of which we have spoken, with the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, creates an environment of love which protects the purpose and unity of Teams of Our Lady and makes real the saying:

Letters from the International Leading Team

“Unity is not uniformity – it is the diversity of pluralism lived in love.”

Direction - Attitude

At the end of each meeting various projects are given priority and so the work in progress is continued by the E.R.I. and by various College members in research, development and execution throughout the year. This work is then presented back to the following year's College for approval, sign-off or final ▶

Letters from the International Leading Team

implementation and communication. Through this the whole Movement has input and involvement at all stages of such important projects as International Gatherings, Orientations of the Movement, Study Topics or Special Documents such as those recently published: 'The Guide', 'Collegiality', 'Call to Service'.

Through this International College, every Team is linked through their

Sector and Region to the College and in this way, the voice of every member of the Movement is a link in the chain of our truly global Movement.

This also means by continuing the dynamic model of communication provided by the College, we can as a Movement continue to grow even further a field and to substantially larger numbers without ever becoming hierarchical or institutionalised or bureaucratic.

A Common Search For Truth

The other great benefit of the nature of our College is that important projects are constantly being developed by a Team of people. As members complete their service, the work in progress continues. New members contributing new ideas and creativity and always it is the good and the goal of the project that provides the dynamic for all. An

example of this which gave us great joy was the document on Collegiality, which was presented to the Movement by the College in Melbourne 2002. This was identified as an important project in Dublin in 1995. In between these years, we do not know how many people contributed to its development before Gérard and Marie Christine de Roberty put as a priority for their term of leadership, to present to the Movement a framework for collegiality which is the essential basis of our Movement's unity.

In the conclusion to this document, 'Exercise of Collegiality' it states:

"Collegiality is a wonderful way of making the most of every member's gifts and to enhance our decisions through a work of reflection based on couples' living experience."

Our love and thoughts to all of you around the world. •

How is Christ Our Saviour?

*Letter from ERI Spiritual Counsellor
Msgr. François Fleischmann*

One of the first professions of faith quoted by Saint Paul makes the following affirmation: Jesus Christ died *for our sins* and rose from the dead. He is therefore our Saviour. Are we truly aware of it? Are we ready to share our conviction on this point with those around us? We must acknowledge that it is a difficult subject to broach since many of our contemporaries do not see any need to be *saved*. They look for

fulfilment within themselves and do not expect it from someone else, even if this Someone else is God himself.

The first point to make is that the message transmitted by the Apostles in the Gospels is Jesus' proclamation of the **advent of the Kingdom of God**. If this expression appeals little to you, remember that its evangelical meaning is far from the political reality that it evokes. The "Kingdom of God" is a state of humanity in communion with God in which everyone, freed from death, is reconciled with God and with one

another. It is the happiness of the complete realisation of our strongest and purest aspirations. It is peace, as defined by Saint Augustine: "Peace is tranquility in justice". The "Kingdom of God" is indeed "Salvation" achieved by the whole of humanity.

Jesus proclaims the Kingdom as a gift from God to men and women of the happiness they hope for and which they cannot attain by themselves. The Reign of God is **inaugurated by the coming of Jesus**. The Kingdom is close because Jesus is present. The advent of the Kingdom be-

gins with the coming of the person of Jesus. We might be surprised by Jesus' extraordinary "pretention" in presenting himself as the bearer of God's gift to humanity. That is the heart of the Good News. The person of Jesus assumes a universal dimension.

It is true that the proclamation of the Kingdom of God looks like an inaccessible utopia. When the disciples got impatient and asked Jesus to reveal to them when this Kingdom will be established, they could not yet understand how Jesus would



Msgr. Fleischmann.

bring about this fundamental gift of God to humanity. Dumfounded, they turned away when they heard Jesus telling them that it would have to come about through his death.

We cannot escape the contradiction in the Christian message: a promise of happiness through death. Saint Paul had to face up to this difficulty: his faith in salvation through Christ rests on "*faith in the Son of God who loved me and gave himself for me*" (Gal 2: 20). To the Corinthians he wrote: "*We are preaching a crucified Christ:*

to the Jews an obstacle they cannot get over, to the gentiles foolishness, but to those who have been called, whether they are Jews or Greeks, a Christ who is both the power of God and the wisdom of God. God's folly is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is greater than human strength. (1 Co 1: 23-25). In fact, how can we stake everything on a man condemned to an infamous death? How can we conceive that the power of God seems to have failed?

The Christian message was a decisive change in the way of perceiving who God is. **God** is indeed all powerful but, by virtue of his very powerful-ness, he is "**absolute love**". His sovereignty is shown in the surprising freedom with which he accepts to share the most extreme human weakness. This is known as *kenosis*, that is to say, **the consented humiliation** of the Son-of-God-made-man stripping himself of his glory to the point of assuming the condition of a slave and being humbler yet, even to accepting death on a cross. Saint Paul summarises all this in a striking hymn in his Letter to the Philippians that is read on Palm and Passion Sunday. We know how this hymn ends: "*And for this God raised him high... so that every tongue should acknowledge Jesus Christ as Lord*" (Ph 2: 6-11).

Jesus, the risen Lord, has conquered death. We must understand that the Son, whose whole being is **for God**, only came into our world **for us**, in order to bring us back to God. His resurrection is the promise of ours. It shows us what '**being saved**' means - it means **to live for ever** a life illuminated by the infinite love of God, in the Kingdom of reconciliation and peace. Christ, first-born

among the dead, places himself at the head of humanity and leads all his brothers and sisters towards resurrection, thanks to the total giving of himself in the new and eternal Covenant. •

Dates to Remember



Teams of Our Lady
National Conference

June 28 - July 1, 2005

Turlock, California



Teams of Our Lady
International
Gathering

September 16-21, 2006

Lourdes

The excitement is building each day as we get closer to June of 2005 for our Teams Family Reunion. The planning committee is working diligently to ensure that the conference will be a very memorable one. The church grounds are very large and with lots of greenery. For those who have a camper or fifth wheel and want to camp out there is plenty of room; however, there are no electric hook-ups.

The Young Teams (YATOL) is planning activities for the young people and it is very important that we know how many young will be attending. The children's program is also planning the many activities for the young children, including some field trips to local points of interest.

Registration forms went out in February or you can use the one in this issue of *Magnificat*. **Please make sure you return them by the deadline.** It is extremely important that we have the number of couples, children and young adults attending so we can plan accordingly for meals and activities. Hotel accommodations and other important information will be available on the Teams web site very soon.

Please continue to pray for the success of the conference and we look forward to having all of our Teams family together again.

Mary and Tony Salvador



Turlock is served by Oakland, San Francisco, and Sacramento airports. If possible, flight arrangements to Oakland or Sacramento are preferred.

United Airlines gave us the best deals from any city in USA to Sacramento June 22 to July 5 if need be for those that want to come earlier or leave later. Here is how it works:

- 10% discounts of best fare available if booked at least 45 days prior to departure
- 5% discount of best fare available if booked at least within 30 days of departure

Call Mary at 877-885-2739 or 209-632-3935 to make your reservation and mention the TOOL National Turlock Convention 2005.

Teams of Our Lady National Conference 2005 Registration

June 28 – July 1, 2005

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Phone (day) _____ (evening) _____ E-mail _____

Primary language _____ Additional languages spoken _____

Will travel by Car Plane Rental Car Your Team Name _____

We will use the bus shuttle between the hotel and Conference

We are interested in a shuttle between the airport and the Conference

We will rent a car or drive our own

Additional people attending the conference (List additional names and information on back):

Name	Age (if child)	Relationship
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Registration Fees (Includes all lunches and dinners)

	Cost	Number	Total
Registration fee per person 16 and over	\$65.00	_____	\$ _____
Registration fee per person under 16	\$35.00	_____	\$ _____*

***Families with more than 3 children attending pay a maximum registration fee of \$105.00**

You may either pay total fees now with registration or
50% deposit with balance due at check-in.
Make checks payable to TOOL Conference 2005.

Deadline is 4/15/05 for Children and 5/1/05 for Adults

Mail to:
Teams National Conference 2005
P.O. Box 215
Hilmar, CA 95324

HOTEL REGISTRATION IS SEPARATE AND MADE DIRECTLY WITH THE HOTEL

In order for the committee planning the Lourdes Gathering to know how many hotel rooms to block, you need to E-mail (info@teamsfourlady.org) or call the Teams Office (903-535-7864) **by March 25** if you are thinking about attending this international event. We must notify the ERI with a possible head count by April 1st, 2005.

Teams of Our Lady
Lourdes Gathering
 September 16-21, 2006

This in no way obligates you to attend but helps make sure that enough local hotel rooms are reserved. Remember we have the opportunity **only every six years** to gather as a huge international family to hear speakers, pray, and celebrate together. It is hoped that each team will send at least one couple or chaplain to the Gathering. It is an experience you will remember for a lifetime!

Magnificat

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