

# Teams of Our Lady

## Lake Michigan Region

### January, 2018 Newsletter



Covering Teams' News in Illinois, Indiana and Michigan.



#### Inside this issue:

Welcome	1
The Beginning of Teams: Father Caffarel's Reflects	1
Lake Mi Region: Who We Are...	2
The Sector Service Team	3
Organization of Teams of Our Lady	5
Petoskey Sector News	6
New Membership System	7
Detroit Area News	8
Retreats & Conferences	9

## Happy New Year from Your Lake Michigan Regional Couple

Happy New Year from your Regional Couple and welcome to our inaugural newsletter. In 2016, our Midwest Region was split into two regions: Midwest (featuring Ohio, Kentucky and Tennessee) and Lake Michigan (Illinois, Indiana and Michigan). Bev and Frank Lentine graciously served as an interim regional couple until we were invited last Winter and sworn in last March.

So who are we? We are Steve and Julie Whitmore from Royal Oak Michigan. We have been members of Detroit 8 for about 17 years and have recently served as the Detroit Sector Couple. Steve is a school social work con-

sultant and does some counseling part-time. Julie is an office manager and does pre-marriage counseling at our church. We have three children, Alyssa (8th grade), Jacob (senior) and Brandon (sophomore-UofM). We are members of the National Shrine of the Little Flower Basilica in Royal Oak, Michigan.

We plan to publish a regional newsletter 2 -3 times a year. Our theme for this newsletter is beginnings. We will explore our region and explain the revised organizational structure of Teams. Also, we will



share some thoughts from Father Caffarel on the beginning of Teams Reading materials, roster and retreat information will be shared as well.

We pray that this year will be a spiritually and physically healthy year for your marriage and family. If you need prayers or have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact us at [lakemi-rc@teamsfourlady.org](mailto:lakemi-rc@teamsfourlady.org).

## The Beginning of Teams: Father Caffarel's Reflections...

This reflection is taken from *THE CONFERENCE OF FATHER CAFFAREL AT THE MEETING OF THE EUROPEAN REGIONAL RESPONSIBLE COUPLES, Chantilly, Sunday 3rd May 1987:*









It was the sowing of a seed in which there was all the dynamism which powered the take-off of the Movement. One day, in March 1939, a young married woman came to see me to ask me if I

would help her to progress in her spiritual life. Naturally, I agreed. Two weeks later, she asked me if I would see her husband; I agreed. And a month later, both of them

(continued on page 4)

## Lake Michigan Region: Who We Are...

**Sectors**

-  PETOSKEY MI
-  DETROIT MI
-  INDIANAPOLIS
-  DETROIT MI NORTH
-  INDIANA PRE-SECTOR
-  DETROIT MI SPANISH PRE-SECTOR
-  MASCOUTAH IL PRE-SECTOR
-  GRAND RAPIDS MI



The Lake Michigan Region is made up of the three states of Illinois, Indiana and Michigan. The map shows the locations of teams in our states.

Teams of Our Lady is growing in all three states. Here's breakdown of the teams by sector:

Region by the numbers	Type	Teams	Pilot	Region Team Couple
<b>MICHIGAN</b>				
Detroit	Sector	13	3	(Need a New Sector Couple)
Detroit North	Sector	6		John & Karen Wilson (Interim Sector Couple)
Detroit Spanish	Pre-sector	4		(Need a Presector Couple)
Grand Rapids		1		Terry & Martha Ondrusek (Responsible Couple)
Petosky	Sector	14		Pat & Fred Hoffman (Interim Sector Couple)
<b>INDIANA</b>				
Indianapolis	Sector	6	1	Rick & Andrea Rader (Sector Couple)
South Bend		1		
Bloomington	Presector	4	2	(Need a Presector Couple)
<b>ILLINOIS</b>				
Mascoutah	Presector	3		(Need a Presector Couple)
<b>Total</b>		<b>52</b>	<b>6</b>	

## Lake Michigan Region: Who We Are (continued)

A sector is five to twenty teams and a presector is considered 3– 4 teams. When splitting a sector into two, the number of teams, leadership potential, and geography are taken into consideration. The Petoskey region is currently being considered for division into at least two sectors. The Detroit sector will remain the same size. We



*Indianapolis Sector Couple, Andrea & Rick Rader; Father Fr. Jegan Peter; and Former Lake MI Regional Couple, Bev and Fran Lentine (Last March)*

are currently looking for two sector couples for the Petoskey region and one each for Detroit and Detroit North. We also need pre-sector couples for Mascoutah, Bloomington and the Detroit Spanish presector. Currently, we have interest in starting new teams in the Peoria, Illinois area, and the Plymouth, Michigan area.

## The Sector Service Team: Opportunities to Witness

At the last training that we attended (in August), the matter of Team support was stressed and how no team can operate in a vacuum. Apparently, there are many teams that fall apart after a year or two. The thinking is that Teams need more support after the pilot year. For this reason, having a leadership infrastructure at the Sector Level is crucial. It is also why Teams USA is saying

that no new teams should be piloted unless a Sector Couple is in place.

The sector couple is primarily responsible for building a sector team and maintaining it's health. The sector couple hosts 2-3 responsible couple meetings a year, recruits members for various sector team positions, coordinates Team life in the sector, serves

as a communication liaison with the Regional Couple, and attends a three day training in the summertime. In addition to the sector couple, the sector service team should have a Chaplain (who supports Spiritual Counselors), an Information Couple (which hosts information meetings & attends recruitment events),

*(continued on page 7)*

***The Sector is a community of teams who desire to help each other travel together. It is usually a geographical unit made up of approximately 5-20 teams, allowing for the direct communication and meeting of others, and grouping enough couples to ensure a critical mass. It constitutes the most essential community of life in teams. (The Sector Couple Guide, Sept, 2005).***

## Father Caffarel's Reflections... (from page 1)

asked me if I would agree to have a meeting with three other couples, friends of theirs, who were concerned with how to make progress in living as Christians. They were four young couples under thirty years of age.

I hesitated because I had had a cruel experience. In an abbey, I was with a group of adolescent scouts; there had been a discussion, and they had put the following question to me: "Father, could you speak to us of love? So, trusting in my knowledge of Scholastic psychology, I said to them: "To love, is to wish somebody well." They burst out laughing: "To wish somebody well! But, you know nothing about it." And I beat a hasty retreat saying: "Well, my answer needs to be qualified somewhat." But it did not stop my being mortified by this little experience. So, when I found myself faced with this proposal from the couples, I was lacking in confidence, all the same, I went to the meeting.

The couples were very characteristic of young couples of that era: they had effected a twofold reconciliation. Firstly, a reconciliation between love and marriage: a well-known saying was often heard at that time and in the preceding years: "Love is one thing, marriage is another." I think it was either Maurois or Mauriac who was the author of it. Well, for these young couples, almost all of them having been scouts, this reconciliation had been effected: love and marriage, both were one and the same thing. They had had no love affairs beforehand, their first love was their spouse. And their marriage was a love full of joy. They had effected a second reconciliation: Religion and the love of Christ are one and the same thing. I do not know if you can recall what the thinking was in regard to this at that time, and for many years before, when I was in College; no one spoke of God's love; in France we were still very influenced by Jansenism and a priest who spoke of God's love was an oddity. I had the good fortune to meet a spiritual director who actually spoke to me of Christ's love. But, it was truly a reconciliation that had to be effected by Catholics, and these four couples had succeeded in doing it.

The result was that I had before me couples in whom dwelt two loves: love of their spouse and love of Christ. At first sight, one might think that conjugal love and the love of Christ are each all consuming and intransigent, but they had the curious experience of discovering that these two loves, which are absolute, fitted perfectly together in their spiritual life without their really being able to understand the uniting of the love of spouse and the love of Christ; this is why they were eager to discover how to progress towards holiness with those two loves in their heart. The first meeting, very joyful, full of optimism, flowing from the great joy, which was theirs, of loving each other and loving Christ. They put thirty six questions to me and suddenly my apprehensions disappeared, I was even surprised to feel so much at ease, and then I understood why I was so much at ease; for the previous 10 or 15 years I had had a relationship of love with Christ, and in the company of these couples, who spoke to me of their love, I discovered that in the life of the couple were to be found the laws which I had discovered in my relationship with Christ; the laws of love are the same everywhere. And this is what immediately won me over and made me enthusiastic, we were going to be able to help each other, they would bring to me the concrete life which they were leading, and I would bring to them such notions as I had about spirituality. How many times have I said to myself that I would by no means have developed in the way I did if, instead of meeting these four couples, I had at the commencement of my ministry discovered marriage in the confessional; I would have got to know the moral difficulties and the psychological difficulties, I would have formed a much more somber idea of the union of man and woman; fortunately it was with these four couples that I became interested in marriage.

*Note: The full text is available at the Teams of Our Lady USA Website: [http://www.teamsofourlady.org/fr\\_caffarel\\_writings#top](http://www.teamsofourlady.org/fr_caffarel_writings#top)*

## Organization of Teams of Our Lady:

Many people ask us questions about how Teams of Our Lady is organized. There are basically six levels of organization (with a lead couple and team at each level) . They are:

Level	Leadership	Chaplain
ERI	José and Maria Berta Moura Soares, Portugal	Father Jacinto Farias, Portugal
<i>The International College</i>		
Zone Couple for Americas	Roberto and Graça Rocha, Brazil	
USA Super Regional Couple	<a href="#">Noélia &amp; Jorge Sousa</a>	<a href="#">Fr. Manuel F. Sousa,</a>
<a href="#">USA Super Regional Team</a>		
North Province Couple	<a href="#">Steve &amp; Glynis Sturm</a>	<a href="#">Fr. Paul Ballein</a>
<a href="#">North Province Team</a>		
Lake Michigan Regional Couple	<a href="#">Steve &amp; Julie Whitmore</a>	
<i>Lake Michigan Regional Team</i>	(see Lake MI Region By the Numbers)	
Sector Couple		
<i>Sector Team</i>		
Team Responsible Couple		

As your regional couple, we are part of the North Province Leadership Team. We will be hosting the 2018 North Province Leadership Team meeting on March 2 in Royal Oak, Michigan.

The Lake Michigan Region Leadership team is made up of a chaplain and the sector and pre-sector (and responsible) couples. We had our first meeting virtually, December 9 and will hold our next on Saturday, March 10. We discussed the new roster system, donations, growth in various sectors and the need for more to step up in leadership positions.

## Send us information and photos from your Team on:

- Sector or Team Events
- Notices of upcoming Events
- Photos and/or summaries of retreats
- What you are reading as a team
- What you are doing special for Lent
- Photos of new teams
- Other couple and family prayer resources

Send us your information to [LakeMI-RC@teamsfourlady.org](mailto:LakeMI-RC@teamsfourlady.org).

## Petoskey Sector News...

The Petoskey Sector has been growing, but with some glitches. One of which is the geographical distance between some of our Teams in our Sector. We have a new Team beginning to Pilot in the Petoskey area and one in the process in Charlevoix.

One attempted to start near Traverse City, but that has not worked out for a variety of reasons. So far though, we have been able to find couples willing to pilot even when they have had to drive up to two hours to attend the meeting. Bless them!

Sadly, we have also lost several of our long-standing members to death in the past year or so. They are deeply missed.

We feel that the new method of collecting donations for TOOLS worked well this year, as we had over 50% participation, well above the national average that had been so low recently.

Various Teams in our Sector have been sponsoring the coffee hour after Mass on designated Sundays. This is a good opportunity to do a little publicity for TOOLS,, and it has engendered some interest in forming new Teams in our sector.



### Sector Day, November 11, 2017

fun event, but this year we had a torrential down-pour. So, no worries, we had our meal in the St. Francis Parish Hall. It turned out to be a good environment for conversation. Our newly ordained Associate Pastor, Fr. Bradley Nursey, attended. So we enjoyed getting to know him a bit.

Our other annual event is the Sector Retreat, which is just for one day, usually in Nov. Fr. Nursey gave the retreat this year on the topic of Marriage in the Light of Mary. Our day began with Mass, and we had a Holy Hour as well as Reconciliation. It was a well-attended retreat, and we were fascinated by of Fr. Nursey's insights.

Several of our Teams are reading the recommended international booklet, *Mission of Love*.

Fred and I are serving our fourth year as Sector Couple. Please pray with us that another couple will soon answer the call to replace us.

Thank you,

[Fred and Pat Hoffman](#)

Petoskey Sector Couple



We have a Sector Picnic each June with Mass beforehand at the Indian Mission Church in Petoskey. This is such a

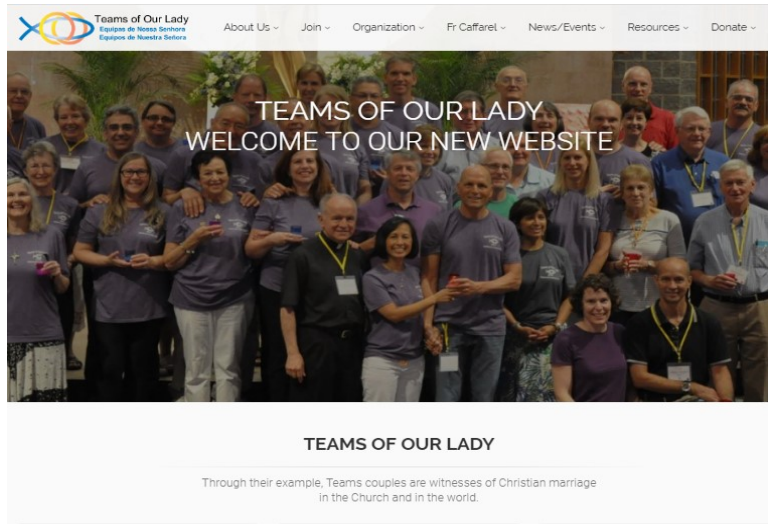
## New Teams Membership System in Place—

In December, the Teams Membership Database was revamped and integrated with the Teams of Our Lady website. The big advantages are that couples can now change their own information and have more than one email or phone number. Regional couples are now also to see and edit the same information that the Secretariat may so that there will be better accuracy in the system. Also, you can now use the system to make secure credit card donations to Teams of Our Lady. Finally, it will allow Regional Couples and eventually Sector Couples to send announcements and information electronically. Over 40% of emails in the old system were returned at any given emailing. Also, it would seem like we ask for corrections to be made, but then the Secretariat never received the message. Many people have inquired about making donations on-line. Now, it should be pretty easy and your giving information will be retained so you can pull it up for your records later.

So if you have a change of email, phone number, or address, what should you do? You have two options:

1. Sign into the email that you we have on file for you. Use the “forgot password” feature to set-up a password if you haven’t done so, and follow the directions available [by clicking here](#).
2. Send your correction to either the [Secretariat](#) or [Regional Couple](#).

If you have only one of the spouses receiving emails and would like both of you to do so, then please contact the



Secretariat or Regional Couple. Make sure that you include your team number (include the city and state) as well as your new email. Please also contact the Secretariat or Regional Couple if you have switched teams, have a spouse who is recently deceased, or have another need.

To help remind people to update their information and clean up any problems, we will still ask your responsible couples to confirm your information two or three times a year.

**Don't forget to check YOUR information to make sure it is accurate!**

**[WWW.TEAMSOFOURLADY.ORG](http://WWW.TEAMSOFOURLADY.ORG)**

**[Click here for directions.](#)**

## The Sector Team (continued from page 3)

At the last training that we attended (in August), the matter of Team support as stressed and how no team can operate in a vacuum. Apparently, there are many that fall apart after a year or two. The thinking is that Teams need more support after the pilot year. For this reason, having a leadership infrastructure at the Sector Level is crucial. It is also

why Teams USA is saying that no new teams should be piloted unless a Sector Couple is in place.

The sector couple is primarily responsible for building a sector team and maintaining it's health. The sector couple hosts 2-3 responsible couple meetings a year, recruits members for various sector team positions, coordinates Team

life in the sector, serves as a communication liaison with the Regional Couple, and attends a three day training in the summertime. In addition to the sector couple, the sector service team should have a Chaplain (who supports Spiritual Counselors), an Information Couple (which hosts information meetings & attends recruitment events),

(continued on page 7)  
a Pilot Couple (which pilots or coordinates the piloting of new Teams), a Spiritual Liaison couple (which provides support to 5-7 teams), a Communication Couple (which helps keep members informed), and an Event Planning Couple (which leads sector days or other special events). The Sector Couple and Spiritual

## Detroit Area News...

The Detroit and Detroit North Sectors gathered on Saturday, March 25, 2017 for their annual Sector Day at The National Shrine of the Little Flower Basilica in Royal Oak, Michigan. 59 people attended a morning session which began with Mass at the church followed by a continental breakfast in the conference center. A highlight of the morning was the installation by Steve and Glynis Sturm of Steve and Julie Whitmore as the new Lake Michigan Regional Couple taking over for Frank and Bev Lentine who served well over their term as Midwest Regional Couple for eight years. Appreciation was expressed to Frank and Bev for their ongoing service.



Former Detroit Area Teams' Sector Couples. Below: Steve Whitmore with Speaker Kelly Nieto

The day continued with a moving presentation by Kelly Nieto, a mother of five who wrote, produced and directed the Broadway-style musical, *The Cross and the Light*, which was performed at the Basilica later that afternoon. She gave an inspiring talk about her conversion, God's mercy and listening to God's call in her life. Kelly said that the story of Jesus is the greatest love story of all time and that we should make sure we pass down our God stories to our children. After Kelly's presentation, the couples shared their faith stories at their tables during lunch.



The day wrapped up with a discussion and activity around the "Rule of Life" given by John & Martha Pale.

Many TOOL members stayed for *The Cross and The Light* production which was a perfect afternoon enhancing their Lenten journey.

Overall, it was a beautiful, relaxing time of spiritual challenge and fellowship. Well done, Detroit and Detroit North Sectors!

### Next Responsible Couple Meetings:

Detroit North: January 20, 2018 at 9am; Father Burke Room at Holy Name, Birmingham.

Detroit Sector and Detroit Spanish Presector: February 3, 2018 at Shrine Conference Center. Please RSVP to [tooldetsec@gmail.com](mailto:tooldetsec@gmail.com)

**Detroit Sectors' Sector Day**  
**March 24, 2018**  
**Want to assist with planning?**  
**Let us know at**  
**[tooldetsec@gmail.com](mailto:tooldetsec@gmail.com)**



## Welcome New Detroit Teams!

In the past year, Detroit Teams 26 and 27S have completed piloting. Last Spring and early this Fall, Detroit Teams 28, 29 and 30 have started piloting.

We are grateful for the pilot couples, Carl & Marie Weber (Team 6), Mariano & Diana Jimenez (Team 13S), Mike & Karen Massucci (Team 16), Walt & City Romano (Detroit 8) and John & Joan Anstett (Team 19) for the time and efforts they are putting into piloting.



*Team 27S (not in order): Carolina Aguilar & German Mata, Alejandro Campos & Angelica Rameriz, Rocio Gomez & Alberto Ramirez, Ana Hajar & Fermin Perez, Luis Lizarraga & Norma Palero with Father Thanh Nguyen*

Note: No more Teams will be piloted until leadership in the Detroit and Detroit North Sectors can be filled.

## Married Couples' Talks, Days of Reflection, & Retreats

Marriage Encounter Weekends-  
English

Troy, Michigan Dates  
January 26, 2018  
April 27, 2018  
September 28, 2018

Petoskey, Michigan  
October 5, 2018

East Grand Rapids, Michigan  
March 9, 2018

More information (including Indiana and Illinois Locations) at:  
<http://www.wwme.org/>

Encuentro Matrimonial Mundial  
Detroit

[www.facebook.com/  
encuentromatrimonialmundi-  
al.detroit](http://www.facebook.com/encuentromatrimonialmundial.detroit)

Married Couples Retreat  
Manresa Jesuit Retreat House,  
Bloomfield MI  
July 27-29, 2018  
[Click here for more info.](#)

Ladies & Guys Night Out  
St. Paul of the Cross  
June 21, 2018

[www.stpaulretreat.org/event/  
ladies-guys-night-out/](http://www.stpaulretreat.org/event/ladies-guys-night-out/)

St Francis Retreat Center  
Dewitt, Michigan  
Not released yet

[www.stfrancis.ws/married-  
couples-retreats.html](http://www.stfrancis.ws/married-couples-retreats.html)

Holy Childhood's TOOL  
Teams will be having a retreat  
April 27 - 29th at King's House  
Retreat and Renewal Center in  
Belleville, IL.

More information to come.

World Marriage Day  
February 11, 2018  
[www.worldmarriageday.org/](http://www.worldmarriageday.org/)

## Handy Websites:

[Teams of Our Lady  
www.teamsofourlady.org](http://www.teamsofourlady.org)

[Teams of Our Lady  
Canada](#)

[Teams of Our Lady  
Hispanoamerica](#)

[Equipes Notre Dame  
International Site](#)

[Young Adults Teams of  
Our Lady](#)

[Archdiocese of Detroit  
Marriage & Family](#)

[For Your Marriage](#)

[Like us on Facebook:  
www.facebook.com/](#)

Check out the letters of  
Father Caffarel translated  
into English:  
[www.teamsofourlady.org/  
letters](http://www.teamsofourlady.org/letters)



Teams of Our Lady

## Space is still available for the 2018 Fatima Conference...

There is still space available for the International Teams Gathering in Fatima, Portugal taking place July 16-21, 2018. However, they need to know your interest right away!

Please contact [Jorge and Noélia Sousa, US Super Region Responsible Couple](#), for more information. If you prefer, you may call: Noelia: 209-614-4566 or Jorge: 209-648-3801.



## Join us in Texas in 2019! Bring the entire Family!



The location of the next conference was announced on the last day of this year's conference. The next conference will be held in Navasota, Texas at Camp Allen July 16th - 19th 2019. This location will be in the South Province, and will be led by TJ & Ellen Holt. [Click here for more information.](#)

## What Teams are Reading...

Many teams are reading the [Mission of Love](#) from Teams International. Although the translation is awkward at times, they have enjoyed uniting with the rest of the world in a common reading about Teams and our Mission to witness to our families, churches and communities.

Detroit Team 6 is reading [Be Transformed, The Healing Power of the Sacraments](#) by Bob

Schuchts. John and Karen Wilson say it is the best book their team has ever read.

[Intimate Graces](#) by Teresa Tomeo and Deacon Dominick Pastore is being read by a number of teams across the region. The book includes in Chapter 11 the story of Otto and Erika Soeding of Detroit Team 25. (Erika is currently recovering from health problems- please keep her in your prayers.)



[Find this book and more Teams Materials by clicking here.](#)

## Need to Order Teams Materials?

[Click here for the latest order form.](#) All forms need to be e-mailed to [Materials@TeamsofOurLady.org](mailto:Materials@TeamsofOurLady.org). Please make sure to indicate when materials will be used.