



Teams of Our Lady

Magnificat

USA NEWSLETTER - FALL 2025

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Laredo TX Teams
Join USA-SR

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Faith" - Jack & Mary Pulick

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ROOTED IN HOPE
JEREMIAH 17:7-8

Rooted in Hope

New Sector Couples Attend Summer Training



The Jubilee Prayer

*Father in heaven,
may the faith you have given us
in your son, Jesus Christ, our brother,
and the flame of charity enkindled
in our hearts by the Holy Spirit,
reawaken in us the blessed hope
for the coming of your Kingdom.*

*May your grace transform us
into tireless cultivators
of the seeds of the Gospel.
May those seeds transform from within
both humanity and the whole cosmos
in the sure expectation
of a new heaven and a new earth,
when, with the powers of Evil vanquished,
your glory will shine eternally.*

*May the grace of the Jubilee
reawaken in us, Pilgrims of Hope,
a yearning for the treasures of heaven.
May that same grace spread
the joy and peace of our Redeemer
throughout the earth.
To you our God, eternally blessed,
be glory and praise for ever.*

Amen

Franciscus

Greetings from the Gehrts

In this role as the USA Super Region Responsible Couple, we are allowed some amazing opportunities. We have the unique privilege of traveling to meet and collaborate with Teams couples from all over the United States and the world. However, that is really not the most amazing part of our role. Witnessing the awesome power of God at work in our lives and in the work of the Movement is the most amazing part.

For example, we are extremely grateful and humbled by the generosity of Teams couples sharing their financial contributions with the Movement. At times, it brings tears to our eyes reading the notes and thinking about the trust that you have placed in us to prayerfully discern the use of your generous donations for the betterment of the Movement. Thank you!

Another example is when we believe we have an idea for something to better the Movement, but we know that we don't have the skills necessary to make it happen. God places another Team member(s) in our path that takes our little seed of an idea, waters it, and grows it into the most beautiful garden! We are never alone in Teams!

Finally, we were in awe and inspired by the new Sector Responsible Couples that said "yes" to the call and attended the Sector Couple Experience trusting that God had something to reveal to them at the event. It was a beautiful witness of collegiality in the Movement!

People often ask us how we can possibly handle this role. By ourselves, we would not be able to do so. It's with God's help and His grace that we are able to do what is asked of us. Know that many things may seem impossible when you look at the big picture. We pray, we discern, and we move forward. We often reflect on the beautiful wisdom of St. Francis Assisi. Remember to start by doing what is necessary and then what is possible. We are not God, so we are not in charge of it all, only the necessary and possible tasks God called us to do. That in and of itself is a relief! May God bless all of you in the work of the Movement.

Greg & Melanie Gehrt
USA Super Region Responsible Couple
Cypress TX 01



**START BY DOING WHAT IS NECESSARY
THEN DO WHAT IS POSSIBLE,
AND SUDDENLY
YOU ARE DOING THE IMPOSSIBLE.**

ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI

From our USA Spiritual Counselor

Why is Discernment So Important as Followers of Christ?

During the USA Super Region Meeting and College in June, the theme of discernment played a significant role. Upon my return to Houston, **Pope Leo** announced his Prayer intention for July: *'For formation in discernment.'* How appropriate that the **Holy Father** is asking the Universal Church to pray for this intention. Discernment is a demanding yet indispensable process for living, involving the evaluation and choice of actions in accordance with God's will. It is an exercise of intelligence, skill, and will, aimed at seizing opportune moments to make good choices. This process is not limited to extraordinary circumstances or grave problems but is a continuous means of spiritual combat to follow the Lord more faithfully.

Key Aspects of Discernment

- **Freedom and Choice:** God created human beings with freedom and desires them to exercise it. Discernment involves evaluating and choosing, recognizing that choices have consequences for oneself, others, and the world. It is a path of freedom that brings to fruition the unique plan God has for each person.
- **Daily Practice:** Discernment is an everyday practice, applied to choices ranging from food and clothing to relationships and life projects. It helps in recognizing God's timetable and heeding the promptings of His grace, even in small and seemingly irrelevant matters.

Elements of Discernment:

- **Knowledge, Experience, Emotion, Will:** These are indispensable elements that contribute to the process of discernment.
- **Familiarity with the Lord (Prayer):** Prayer is a fundamental aid, especially in the affective dimension, allowing for familiar and straightforward communication with God, like speaking to a friend. True prayer fosters confidence and intimacy with God, making it easier to recognize what pleases Him.
- **Word of God and Church Doctrine:** Evaluating decisions in light of the Word of God and the Church's

doctrine helps us recognize God's voice and distinguish it from other voices. God's voice is discreet, respectful, and humble, producing peace.

- **Self-knowledge:** Discernment requires knowing oneself and what is good for oneself in the present moment.
- **Supernatural Gift:** While discernment includes reason, prudence, and insights from human sciences, it transcends them as it is a grace. It seeks to understand God's unique and mysterious plan for everyone, which unfolds amidst various situations and limitations. It is not exclusive to the intelligent or educated, as God reveals Himself to the lowly.
- **Guidance and Accompaniment:** Discernment is not done alone. It is a synodal process, meaning it involves journeying with brothers and sisters in faith, enriching interior growth. A wise guide can help avoid mistakes and bewilderment in the journey of faith and vocational discovery.

In essence, discernment is a demanding but vital process that involves listening to the Lord, oneself, and others, requiring time for prayer, reflection, and patient expectation, ultimately leading to courageous and sacrificial decisions that align with God's will.



In Christ's love,
Fr. Elias Lopez
USA Super Region Spiritual Counselor
fr.eli.lopez@allsaintscatholic.us

"Your home will bear witness to God in a still more explicit fashion if it is in the union of two searchers, where the intellect and the heart are thirsting to know and to meet God, to become united with Him, because they have understood that God is the great reality, because God interests them more than anything else." —Fr. Henri Caffarel



ROOTED IN HOPE

JEREMIAH 17:7-8

Sector Couple Experience

"Rooted in Hope" was the theme for the 2025 Sector Couple Experience held in Three Rivers, California in July. The event was an action packed 2-1/2 days filled with opportunities for Sector Responsible Couples to learn, connect, and reflect. The setting, only a few miles from the entrance to Sequoia National Park, was beautiful and peaceful. It gave everyone a true sense of being "rooted in hope." Over 60 couples were in attendance representing Sector Responsible Couples, Region Responsible Couples and the USA-SR Team couples. The Sector Responsible Couples were

encouraged to form Sector Teams to help support the base teams in each Sector. Please prayerfully discern if you are approached to help with a task or role in your Sector! It takes all of us working together to support these new Sector Couples. This was illustrated no better than with the team of couples from the West Province headed by former West Province Responsible Couple, Robin and Colette Quinn, who organized the local logistics of this event. The Fresno/Turlock areas in California showed what Teams hospitality and teamwork is all about!





North Province

Central | Lake Michigan
Midwest | North Central

Mark & Patty Conway
*Responsible Couple
for the North Province*



Scan the QR code
to read their
special testimony

Central Region

Des Moines, IA

In February, the Des Moines IA Sector held an Evening of Reflection. Dr. John Bishop presented on Marriage & Mysticism. The evening consisted of tables of mixed teams to facilitate connection across the sector.



Marshalltown, IA

In June, Marshalltown IA 01 hosted a potluck for their Sector which includes two Marshalltown Teams currently in piloting. They also invited the neighboring Ames, IA Sector, two priests, as well as couples interested in learning more about Teams. All in all, over 50 adults and children attended. "We appreciate the invitation to speak and are so edified to see how Team 1 only 3 years following their own piloting is sharing the good news of Teams by piloting and hosting events. May God bless their efforts!" shared Mark & Patty Conway.



Denver, CO

In March, Mark and Patty installed Stacy & Mike Flieller (on right) as the new Central Region Responsible Couple in Denver. The Fliellers then installed Dan & Nicole Korte (on left) as the new Denver CO Sector Responsible Couple. Fr. Kevin Kasel provided the blessing for each couple during their installation ceremony. Local teams attended mass together & then hosted a reception following the installation.



Waterloo, IA (French Team)

Rashidi & Salima Balthazar, originally from the Democratic Republic of Congo, moved to Marshalltown, IA and connected with Karol Smigowski, Marshalltown IA 01. The Balthazars, originally from a French speaking team in the Congo, agreed to translate the USA-SR Pilot materials into French. Deacon Tom & Kris Lang, Cedar Falls IA Sector RC, oversaw the translation and then became the Pilot Couple for 7 couples in Waterloo IA who are also from the Democratic Republic of Congo. The USA-SR now has French speaking teams in Iowa! The Conways presented Rashidi & Salima a thank you letter from Greg & Melanie, USA-SR RC, and an icon of the Holy Family. Pictured are Deacon Tom & Kris Lang, Rashidi & Salima Balthazar, and Mark & Patty Conway.

North Central Region

Bismarck, ND

In January, the Bismarck Diocese celebrated the Feast of the Holy Spouses at the Cathedral of the Holy Spirit. For the second year, teams from the Bismarck ND Pre-Sector attended mass together and then enjoyed dinner. Also in attendance were Bishop David Kagan, the celebrant, and Teams Spiritual Counselor Fr. Josh Ehli.



Winona, MN

In April, Mark and Patty installed Dennis & Charlene Prindiville (center) as the new North Central Region Responsible Couple in Winona, MN. The Prindiville's then installed Dan & Kristi Schmitz (left) as the new Winona MN Sector Responsible Couple. The Winona Sector then held a Sector Day which included mass.



Please email your prayer requests to prayer@teamsfourlady.org. When submitting a prayer request, please include your name and first initial of last name. These petitions will be distributed to our subscribed prayer warriors across the USA Super Region.

If you would like to sign-up to join our prayer warriors from across our USA Super Region who are offering up prayer for the intentions and petitions received, please email us at and we will add you to the distribution list. We send out prayer petitions on a weekly or as needed basis. We would love to add more prayer warriors!

Prayer Petitions & Intentions

Art and Cathy Beccard, Prayer Couple for USA Super Region

Are you in need of additional prayer warriors?

Do you have intentions or petitions that you would like to share?

Email us! prayer@teamsfourlady.org

East Province

Coastal | Lake Erie
Mid-Atlantic
New England

Joe & Michelle Lawler
*Responsible Couple
for the East Province*



Scan the QR code
to read their
special testimony



East Province Couples Attended the 2025 Sector Couple Experience

Dario and Carmen Canal, Thomas and Lauren Tate, Lou and Sandra Volchansky, Dcn Andrew and Jennifer Mical, Jim and Sarah Martinec, Joe and Michelle Lawler, Randy and Mary Ellen Leising, and Oscar and Alicia Cruz



Randy and Mary Ellen Leising, Andover MA 02, attended Sector Couple Experience as a Sector Responsible Couple in Training. They will replace Gary and Gloria Bourbeau. They are currently assembling a Sector Team.



Wilbraham MA 04 team at their summer picnic in July.

Coastal Region



Simpsonville, SC

Simpsonville SC Sector Picnic held on June 14, graciously organized by Greer SC 01 at Table Rock, SC. A truly special day surrounded by family and friends—full of laughter, connections, and the joy of being together in God's creation.

Western Region

Turlock, CA

Turlock CA 01 Portuguese Sector would like to congratulate Joe and Connie Madruga, Turlock CA 05 Portuguese, (pictured) for celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary on July 12, 2025. Also, Antonio and Gorete Medeiros (not pictured), Turlock CA 23 Portuguese, will be celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary on October 26, 2025.



Celebrating 45 years of marriage are John and Maria Ourique, Turlock CA 05 Portuguese. They are pictured (to the right) with their family and with Fr. Larry Machado.



Phoenix, AZ

Phoenix AZ 05 went on a family camping trip in June at Big Lake in Greer, Arizona.



Fresno, CA

In March, the Fresno CA Sector held their sector retreat with 37 couples attending. The theme was "Our Salvation & the Battle for the Human Soul". The retreat included Mass, reconciliation, adoration, talks, small group discussions, couples sit down, and a fun evening of fellowship. The evening of fellowship was a "50's Sock Hop!"



Northwest Region



Spokane, WA

In July, members of the Spokane WA Sector Team enjoyed "Date Night" at a local winery, Arbor Crest. Couples were treated to live music while enjoying picnic dinners and fellowship on the beautiful summer evening. Ron and Janet Niederstadt also celebrated their 32nd wedding anniversary that evening!



Luie & Ana Nunes
*Responsible Couple
for the West Province*



Scan the QR code
to read their
special testimony

South Province

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



Fabio & Camila Cristino
*Responsible Couple
for the South Province*



Hugo & Katia Guerra
*West Texas / New Mexico Region
Responsible Couple*



Michael & Amy Kennedy
*Kingwood TX Sector
Responsible Couple*



Scan the QR code
to read their
special testimonies

Southeast Region



NEW Team in Gainesville, GA!

Team 2 recently started piloting led by Pedro & Gloria Jaramillo who drive from South Carolina every month to support this new Pre-Sector in Georgia. Thank you for your continued YES... and WELCOME to our newest members!

FIRST Portuguese-speaking Team in the South Province!

Congratulations to these Brazilian couples who recently celebrated their Commitment Ceremony with a Mass at Resurrection Catholic Church in Winter Garden, FL and received a blessing from Fr. Adriano Tezone, CS. Many blessings to the Responsible Couple: Ricardo and Rita Arcay!



Louisiana/Arkansas Region



The Plaquemine LA Sector recently held an Information Meeting in the nearby community of Hessmer, LA, organized by Plaquemine LA Sector RC, Mark and Karen Gremillion. Several couples attended the event.

North Texas/Oklahoma Region



Tyler, TX Pre-Sector

On June 7, the Tyler TX Pre-Sector organized a Spring Social event organized by Chris and Paulina Campbell, Tyler TX Sector RC! It was truly beautiful to see how Sector events are so important and powerful in building our community within Teams.



Dallas, TX

Dallas TX 02 united for Mass on March 25 at Saint Philips Church in Flower Mound, TX which is a decreed sacred site for Jubilee Year 2025.

East Texas Region



Houston, TX A Sector

The East Texas Region Responsible Couple, Steve and Lori Hesse, installed the new Sector Couple for Houston TX A, Lisa and Jerry Zurovchak, on April 5, 2025, at St. Theresa Catholic Church in Houston, TX. Lisa and Jerry are part of Houston TX 30



Kingwood, TX Sector

Michael and Amy Kennedy were installed as the new Sector Couple for Kingwood TX on June 8, 2025 at St. Martha Catholic Church. The event was led by the ERI Transoceanic Zone Liaison Couple for Teams of Our Lady, Ellen and TJ Holt.

West Texas/NM Region



Boerne, TX Pre-Sector

On July 12, 2025, Boerne TX 02 met with Region RC, Hugo and Katia Guerra, to get to know each other, share ideas and needs, and be encouraged. Together, they brainstormed ways to grow their Pre-Sector from 2 teams to 5. These 3 couples said "YES" to serving as Pilot Couples!

On March 22, 2025, the West Texas/New Mexico Regional College took place at Holy Trinity Catholic Church, in San Antonio, Texas. The event was organized by Dan and Natalie Calvet, outgoing Region RC. The South Province RC, Fabio and Camila Cristino, installed the new Region RC, Hugo and Katia Guerra. Also, the new Responsible Couple for the Austin/Dripping Springs TX Sector, Rick and Kerry Strahan, was installed. The day included group activities, informative talks, shared meals together, and Mass.



Regional College

USA-Super Region Growth via Laredo, Texas

Teams of Our Lady (Equipos de Nuestra Señora) began in Laredo, Texas 14 years ago at a time when the USA-SR did not have any materials and resources in Spanish. The Super Region of Hispano America North (Mexico) began and piloted the teams in Laredo. Laredo has been under the leadership of Hispano America North-SR ever since. These teams have grown and flourished under their leadership. Presently, there are two Sectors and twenty teams in Laredo.

In March 2025, the ERI requested that the USA-SR and Hispano America North-SR work together to transition the Laredo teams into the Super Region where they physically reside, USA-SR. Greg and Melanie Gehrt worked with their counterparts, Guillermo and Leticia Munoz in Mexico to begin the process. Through a few months of collaboration with Cristina and Gabino Cerda along with the Laredo Sector Responsible Couples, Ana and Mario Garcia and Sonia Sosa and Adrian Flores, the transition was made official on June 22, 2025 via Zoom with all couples in Laredo invited to attend. Five days later, both Laredo Sector Responsible Couples traveled to California for the USA-SR Sector Couple Experience.

This transition process with the Laredo teams has been such a blessing and a true example of how sharing with one another brings mutual help and collegiality. Isn't that the beauty of the universality of the Catholic Church and the Teams Movement? It is also a true blessing that both the South Province Responsible Couple, Fabio and Camila Cristino, and West Texas/New Mexico Region Responsible Couple, Hugo and Katia Guerra, are bilingual and able to assist with communications as they welcome the Laredo couples with open arms.

Welcome Laredo, Texas to the USA Super Region. Laredo is now part of the West Texas/New Mexico Region in the South Province. We are excited and blessed to have you join us to further the growth and expansion of the Movement.



Melanie and Greg Gehrt with Leticia y Guillermo Munoz



Zoom screen for the Laredo announcement



Before the ERI College meeting in Lyon in July, Greg and Melanie were in the Basilica of Notre-Dame of Fourvière in Lyon, France in Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. Both of their phones suddenly received a message. Leticia and Guillermo Munoz from Mexico, had also slipped in for adoration a few pews behind the Gehrts and sent them this beautiful message of collegiality and Christian love.

Do you know....

In Laredo and many other parts of the world, teams select a Marian name to serve as the patroness of their team, for example, Our Lady of Guadalupe or Our Lady of Grace. So, when Laredo moved to the USA-SR, all the Teams had Marian names as well as a number. Consequently, our technology couples added a field to accommodate this in our database. If any of your teams follow this beautiful model, please feel free to add or request that your Marian Team name be added.



Canute & Natasha Hudson

*Responsible Couple
for Trinidad and Tobago Region*

Attending the College Meeting: The “Trini” Experience

Teams of Our Lady is an evolving movement. In a rapidly changing world, discerning opportunities and acting on them is crucial for the charism of Teams. Representing Trinidad and Tobago at our first USA Super Region College Meeting and Sector Couple Experience highlighted the immense value of making informed decisions, exchanging ideas, and applying international experiences to local contexts. This experience underscored how discerning the right opportunities, saying “yes” at the right moments, and building connections can reshape both spiritual growth and fraternal development.

The ability to discern is not just a gift but a vital skill in today’s world. Whether it’s recognizing trends in base teams, identifying couples for leadership roles, or developing the right training programs that align with Region or Sector needs, discernment guides decisions that lead to lasting success. During our first regional meeting, we were reminded of the importance of using this discernment to say “yes” to opportunities that can bring positive change. By being open to new ideas and experiences, we can adapt and grow both as individuals and as part of a larger, interconnected global Teams community. It is also important to know that God qualifies the called; not calls the qualified.

One of the most remarkable aspects of the meeting was the honor of representing Trinidad and Tobago. As we met with colleagues from across the USA, we recognized the power of these collaborative, lived experiences. The USA-SR College Meeting was more than just an exchange of knowledge—it was an opportunity to showcase the strength, culture, and unique needs of our nation. It also opened doors for us to forge relationships that will have a long-lasting impact on our future initiatives.

In every exchange of experiences, there was a powerful sense of shared learning. We learned as much from others

as they did from us. The discussions focused on adapting sector-specific skills for our unique context in Trinidad, while also exploring global best practices. Through these dialogues, we realized that training isn’t just about local expertise—it’s about being open to learning and applying global knowledge in a meaningful way.

One of the most valuable lessons came from the ability to bring the experiences of the USA into our own Trinidadian context. During the meeting, we had the chance to see how different sectors approach challenges in areas like awareness of the movement and community engagement. The success stories from the USA-SR, particularly in tech and innovation, provided a blueprint for what could be implemented in Trinidad. With a focused strategy and an open mind, we can adapt these insights to build a more robust and dynamic Teams community back home.

Perhaps the most unexpected, yet rewarding, part of the experience was how warmly we were welcomed. The connections we made with couples and priests opened up new perspectives. The relationships formed have already started to bear fruit. There is a unique value in connecting with others who share similar goals and passions, and the support and camaraderie felt at the event reaffirmed the power of collaboration in building a brighter future.

This College Meeting was more than a conference—it was an opportunity to grow, learn, and connect. Through discerning opportunities and embracing the lessons of others, we are able to bring new insights and practices back to Trinidad and Tobago. As we continue to exchange experiences and take global knowledge and apply it locally, we will strengthen connections across borders.

Anton and Vanessa Caby

“Whenever couples practice mutual help and fraternal love, their hearts grow little by little until soon their love reaches the home, their neighborhood, their country, until their love reaches the furthest shores.” —Fr. Henri Caffarel

Reflection on a Lifetime in Teams

On June 9th, a number of Teams members attended the Mass of Christian Burial for Lolita Jardeleza (age 93), a member of Teams of Our Lady for 61 years. The May 2016 issue of the Mid-Atlantic Region Newsletter (of the East Province) published this article by Lolita. We have edited it to fit in the available space.

Bob and Janie Mericksco, Historian Couple



When my husband, Jack, and I used to give talks about the Teams of Our Lady, he claimed that we were born in it. We joined Teams in December, 1964. Our team, Washington 4, was one of the first ten teams in the Washington, D.C. area.... [Our team] consisted of four couples.... We had a series of chaplains...

One might say that our most illustrious chaplain was Cardinal Sean O'Malley of Boston who was our chaplain in 1973.

I would say that our spiritual formation from [1964] on came totally from Teams. The notion of a married couple being spiritual together was quite new at the time.... The notion of finding holiness in their being married to each other was ground-breaking. Until Teams' focus on conjugal spirituality, couples strove towards holiness like a husband and a wife heading towards Richmond in separate cars—he in the Knights of Columbus, she in the Sodality. Then Abbe Caffarel and his first teams came up with the novel idea that couples should head for holiness traveling in the same car



with each other—that their vehicle for holiness was precisely their being married to each other.

At our first Teams retreat, the chaplain asked, "Do you discuss your spiritual life with each other?" One of the husbands asked, "What spiritual life?" It was heady stuff in the beginning. We had to learn mental prayer. I had trouble with that so I would ask priests and religious to explain it to me. Fr. Cordoue said, "Prayer that is not vocal is mental." We were to spend 10 minutes daily in mental prayer. So I would try and when I thought 10 minutes had passed, I would check my watch only to find that I had only prayed for 5 minutes. My cousin, Fr. Bernard, Carmelite vicar

of the Philippines, said, "Empty your mind so that you can hear the Lord." I emptied my mind and fell asleep. I read all the books on prayer I could lay my hands on and after I read one I couldn't pray mentally for months, I was so confused. Then I heard Catherine Doherty (foundress of Madonna House) explain mental prayer as thinking about God

the way one did when one first fell in love—first thing upon awakening, last thing before sleep at night. That I understood!...

There always seemed like a dearth of leaders back then and because there were not that many teams yet, they had to use Jack and me. I always believed that, were others available, we would not have been tapped. We were the first Responsible Couple of our team and also Liaison Couple to some teams. We piloted two Spanish teams in Miami in the late 60's by correspondence. We...were the first editors of the *Magnificat*....

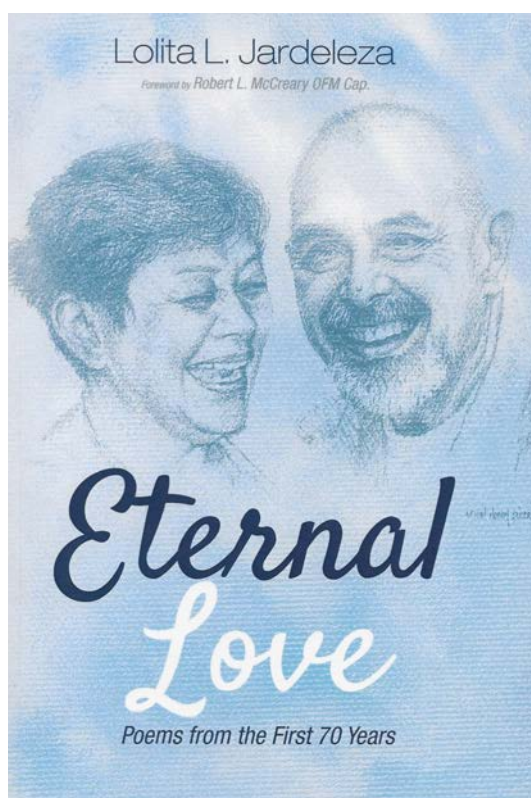
In 1998, my beloved Jack went on to the Father. I did not want to leave

our Team—it was home for me. Not too long after, [two other members died and one couple moved to Florida]. We were decimated! Out of the six couples, we now consisted of three who were widowed and [two] couples. We eventually just stopped meeting.

However, in 1999, Rockville 4 lost their chaplain, Fr. Bill Talentino, OFM Cap. who was assigned to the Capuchin missions in Papua New Guinea. The team was unable to find someone to be their chaplain when he left and asked me if I would be willing to be their “chaplain.” Happily, I was allowed to be that and irony of ironies, a widow now belonged to TWO teams!...

There was a time when I carried the history of Teams in the area in my head but that was back in the 70's.... As I enter my 84th year, this old gray mare just ain't what she used to be. In the late 70's the then Sector husband introduced Jack and me as the Team antiques. After 37 more years, what does that make me?

In Teams, however, one doesn't get fossilized. Teams somehow make us richer, like humus in forests. Our being in Teams led Jack into the diaconate,



our being involved with the Family Life Board and the archdiocese in the 80's, my going to Papua New Guinea as a missionary in 2001, teaching in the Philippines in 2003, being professed as a Secular Franciscan in 2005.... What I have learned about love and marriage

and parenting in Teams I have taught in my Christian Lifestyle and Sex Respect classes at the Academy of the Holy Cross. What I have learned about prayer and walking with the Lord, I pass on in the retreats I give. The Teams ideals and values like openness, communication, building community, spiritual growth, deepening prayer and living out gospel values ripple farther and wider than we might think, please God.

What Teams does is attach us to the Vine that is the Lord and as long as we are attached, He makes us bear fruit. We don't have to grunt and groan to bear this fruit anymore than a grape or tomato has to. We simply have to let Him have His way with us and use us in the vineyard as He sees fit. Teams teaches us to grow into holiness by “doin’ what comes natur’lly” after hanging out with the Lord and each other.

I earnestly pray that as I was born in Teams I will also die in Teams. Let us praise God mightily that we are members of the Teams of Our Lady!

Lolita Jardeleza
Washington, DC 4



Note: We have included this 1993 copy of the card Offering Couples a Way to Grow in Married Love and Holiness, which includes the Obligations and Membership Responsibilities. Lolita, in her article, beautifully expresses the balance that the Movement offers, Life in Christ and Life in Teams. Both obligations (endeavors) and membership responsibilities are to be incorporated into our life as a married Christian.

A Love Anchored in Faith

Mary & Jack Pulick's 54-Year Journey in Teams of Our Lady

On September 11, Jack and Mary Pulick celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary. They have been in Teams of Our Lady for 54 years. Their journey with Teams has been a big part of their story. They've always seen their marriage as something sacred and trusted in God's plan for them.

In the early days, they had their hands full with four kids and Jack juggling multiple jobs. They felt a bit lost as a couple, but things changed when they found Teams of Our Lady in 1970. This movement gave them a community and spiritual tools that really helped their marriage and provided support to raise a total of eight children.

Over the years, they've been through a lot together. Their team supported each other through tough times, like serious illnesses. Mary and Jack also took on several leadership roles in Teams as well as starting new teams in Florida.

Even when they moved to an area in Maryland without Teams, they stayed committed, traveling monthly back to New York to stay involved. They credit the Movement's disciplines and Endeavors for keeping their marriage strong

and focused on God, especially during tough times like Jack's cardiac arrest in June 2024.

For the past several years they have served as the USA Super Region Intercessor Liaison Couple. Over 60 years ago, Fr. Caffarel called Teams of Our Lady couples to become intercessors, a people of prayer. Intercessor couples commit to giving one hour each month praying for the Teams Movement to be authentic and to continue its mission of spreading the good news of Catholic Marriage throughout the world. Jack and Mary have been the USA Liaison to the International Intercessor group. They will be stepping away from this position and passing the torch to the next couple to take the reins. For more information about becoming an intercessor, visit www.teamsofourlady.org/intercessor.

Jack and Mary's story shows how a Christ-centered marriage can thrive with intentional choices, community support, and continual spiritual renewal. Mary and Jack's journey is a testament to the power of faith and love in a marriage.



Scan to read the full story about Jack and Mary written by Larry and Mary Kay Kuchta

Become An Intercessor

Jack and Mary Pulick, *Intercessor Liaison Couple*

Over 60 years ago, Fr. Caffarel called Teams of Our Lady couples to become intercessors. Intercessors are people of prayer. We are poor, but Jesus and Mary answer our prayers and come to the aid of those we entrust to them. We commit to giving some of our time and ourselves to pray for the Teams Movement to be authentic, and to continue its mission of spreading the good news of Catholic Marriage throughout the world.

Consider signing up to become an intercessor. We would love nothing more than to have more couples from our Super Region sign-up to become intercessors. The time commitment is just one hour each month. Can you and your spouse spend one hour each month devoted to prayer for the Teams of Our Lady Movement? Please sign-up!



Scan the QR code to sign-up on the website

Contributions

The growth and expansion of the Teams of Our Lady Movement is 100% dependent on the generosity of its members. Teams suggests each member contribute one day's wage annually to the Movement.

"The Movement declines toward death when members stop thinking like builders and start thinking like tenants. Contributions help us to be builders."

- Cristiane & Antonio Brito, *ERI Liaison Couple for the American Zone*

By the Numbers:

- 1** Brazil SR ranks 1st in total number of couples in Teams (26,433) with 98% of membership contributing financially
- 2** France Luxembourg Switzerland SR ranks 2nd in total number of couples in Teams (9,198) with 50% of membership contributing financially
- 3** USA SR ranks 7th in total number of couples in Teams (3,556) with only 22% of membership contributing financially

Thank you to those who have already contributed this year. We are humbled and grateful for your generosity. If you have not contributed, please discern a financial contribution using either the enclosed envelope through USPS or electronically online in the Member Portal.



ENDEAVOR ENCOURAGEMENT CORNER



THE ENDEAVORS

Regular Reading Of The Word Of God
Daily Meditation Or Personal Prayer
Daily Conjugal And Family Prayer
Monthly Sit Down
Rule Of Life
Annual Retreat

The Rule of Life

As couples committed to Teams of Our Lady, we mustn't forget about our need to focus on the six endeavors of the movement. As Teams of Our Lady tells us, "The endeavors are attitudes to awaken within us and not merely tasks to be accomplished." Let's have an attitude of awakening and focus on the Rule of Life.

The Rule of Life is intended to be unique and personal to you, shared or not shared. It is to help you become increasingly aware of

who you are and who God is calling you to be. Learning to fully accept the truth about yourself in order to start building upon that is the goal of the Rule of Life.

To draw up a rule of life, we must first come to know ourselves, our strengths and weaknesses, and those areas in our lives on which we need to work. We should consider examining what is currently "ruling" our life to determine how we need to change. As Catholic author, Matthew Kelly, states, "Your essential purpose is to become the best-version-of-yourself." Your rule of life should help you with this.

Your Rule of Life should be SMART:

SPECIFIC – Be very specific on to what you want to focus


MEASURABLE – Be sure you can measure your progress

ACHIEVABLE – Be sure you can accomplish your rule if you set your mind to it

RELEVANT – Be certain it is relevant to your current stage of life

TIME-BASED – Put a time frame to your rule that is realistic

Once you have achieved your current rule of life, celebrate! Then stop, reflect, and examine where you need to focus next. Develop a new rule for yourself and begin the process again. Our lives continually change; therefore, our Rule of Life should continually change as well.



Your essential purpose is to become the "best-version-of-yourself"

Retreat Resources

Ted and Eileen Kosnik, *former USA-SR Responsible Couple (2003-2010)*, made it their mission to provide retreat materials available for couples in order to plan meaningful and rich retreats. Even after Ted's passing, Eileen carries on this mission for the Movement. If you would like to order materials from Eileen, she will ship them to you at no charge. Eileen is also happy to visit with any team member about the type of retreat resources they are looking for. Call, text, or email Eileen for more information. She is a wonderful resource to leverage as a team plans their Annual Retreat. Log into your membership portal for more retreat information.

Eileen asks that if you request materials, please return them promptly a day or two after the retreat. Also, please use the original shipping box to return the materials. The USA-SR is so appreciative of Ted and Eileen's passion for and mutual help with retreat resources. Thank you Eileen for continuing this legacy!

Eileen Kosnik
ekosnik@mac.com
(903) 330-1946

Please scan the QR codes to meet Eileen, learn more about her retreat mission, and learn how to order materials from her.



Scan for
**Testimonial
 Message from
 Eileen**



Scan to Order
**Materials from
 Eileen**



In Memoriam

JOSIE GIESKE
 by Greg & Melanie Gehrt



On August 22, 2025, Josie Gieske passed away after succumbing to injuries suffered in an automobile accident with her beloved husband, Harry. Harry and Josie have been members of Silver Springs MD 01 for many years. They have been involved in Teams in many aspects and roles over the years. They were a former USA Super Region Responsible Couple from January 1985 through June 1992. Most recently, they were part of the formation team for New Teams Welcome Celebrations held in Silver Springs, MD and Newtown, PA. Their love for the Movement was exuberant when they presented. "Josie had an infectious smile," added Ana Nunes, West Province RC.

In June, we received an email from Bob and Janie Mericksco, USA-SR Historian Couple, which stated in part, "After the celebration of Lolita Jardeleza's life at her funeral Mass, we and the Gieskes went out to lunch to talk about the Teams Movement. Josie offered a simple three step process for all service couples. Because the base team rotates the Responsible Couple role each year, every couple should have an opportunity to serve and have others to care for. Each service couple at all levels is to:

- Be true to the practice of the principles of the Teams Movement;
- Animate those couples in their care;
- Identify a couple who will replace them and nurture them.

Bob and Janie went on to say, "Just imagine if this happened in every team and at every level. It is in this animation and caring for the couples that love begets happiness and sacramental love begets holiness."

This resonated deeply with us and reiterates how Josie and Harry were a strong beacon of hope for the Teams of Our Lady Movement. Josie will be deeply missed. However, both she and Harry will continue to be an inspiration to us as we continue to serve in our role as USA Super Region Responsible Couple.

If you know of any Team member who has passed away, please share an obituary announcement to usa-sr@teamsofourlady.org or secretariat@teamsofourlady.org to be included in the next Magnificat issue.

Information received may be edited to a short summary.

Father Caffarel Update: Miracles and Graces Defined



Paul and Monique Harris
*USA Super Region Liaison Couple
for Friends of Fr. Caffarel*

The Friends of Father Caffarel Association invites all those who have received a grace through the intercession of Father Caffarel to share their testimonies with them. These testimonies can be used to further the cause of canonization for Father Caffarel and may be published in the Bulletin of the Friends of Father Caffarel and on the Association's website to inspire others. The format and process is being developed as we speak and we would envision it on the Teams of Our Lady website.

What is a Grace Received?

Throughout history, many people have experienced graces and spiritual favors through the intercession of Father Henri Caffarel. These graces can manifest themselves in different ways and be a source of strength, hope, and renewal in the lives of those who receive them.

The Church recognizes "graces received" as those blessings that do not necessarily defy natural laws, but are a clear sign of God's love in the life of an individual or family. These experiences can help the faithful to grow in faith and strengthen their relationship with God and others.

Types of Graces Received: (through the intercession of Father Henri Caffarel)

1. Spiritual graces

- Personal conversion or that of a loved one.
- Deepening prayer and encounter with God.
- Vocational discernment or making an important life decision.
- Strength and peace in difficult times.

2. Graces in marriage and family

- Marital or family reconciliation.
- Blessings in motherhood/fatherhood.
- Overcoming marital crises.
- Transformation of married life according to marital spirituality.

3. Health-related graces

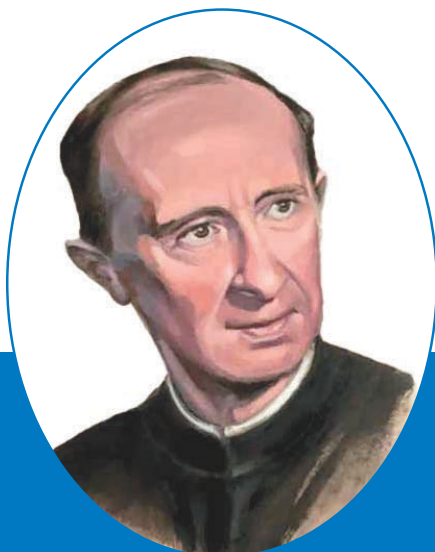
- Significant improvement in an illness or health condition.
- Peace of mind when facing a serious illness.
- Access to the resources needed for treatment.

4. Graces in professional and apostolic life

- Enlightenment in professional or apostolic decisions.
- Opportunities in serving the Church.
- Growth in an apostolate or evangelization project.

Many thanks go to Carolina et German Gutierrez, Columbian Liaison Couple for Friends of Fr Caffarel and to François and Marie Christine Genillon, Friends of Father Caffarel Association, who have spearheaded this initiative.

Please pray daily the prayer for the Canonization of Father Henri Caffarel.



"My every thought, my every effort has been to teach, to help married couples discover that human love is a pathway toward God.... I strongly believe that human love points to the love of God, like a kind of parable."

Father Henri Caffarel

The Geppetto Project

"The Lord be with you" - The Archangel Gabriel's greeting to Mary in the Holy House. Within the walls of this home, Mary received the Annunciation and the Incarnation. This is the same home where Mary, Joseph, and Jesus lived after returning from Egypt, so these walls also witnessed the life of the Holy Family. In 1294, their house was saved from marauding Muslims and reassembled in Loreto, Italy. While the basilica that surrounds it is ornate and beautiful, the actual walls are unadorned and rustic.

In the shadow of this modest family home, the John Paul II Pontifical Theological Institute for the Sciences of Marriage and Family Life held a weeklong seminar for marriage ministries in July. They invited Équipes Notre-Dame (Teams of Our Lady), Marriage Encounter, Love and Truth, and other movements, representing 6 continents and 25 countries.

The JPII Institute's world-leading scholars presented numerous talks on marriage and family, and, while these were important, the most impactful elements of the week were our synodal discussions, which lead us toward unity. (from *Conversations in the Spirit* [1.1] See QR code on right to view the entire document)

In a divided and troubled world, the Holy Spirit teaches us to walk together in unity.... "The earth will rest, justice will prevail, the poor will rejoice and peace will return, once we no longer act as predators but as pilgrims. No longer each of us for ourselves, but walking alongside one another." – Pope Leo XIV

Participating in synodal discussions and prayerfully listening to the Holy Spirit speak through each other, we discerned how God is guiding us toward a common mission. During our discussions, the disciples' words on the road to Emmaus rang true, "Did our hearts not burn within us?", as we heard each couple share their love for Jesus and His church.

Don't we already practice prayerful listening during our team meetings? Can we consider new tools and new structures, like synodal dialogue, to grow stronger in our conversations with each other?

Each marriage ministry demonstrates a unique charism and focus. Some ministries are focused on marriage preparation and others on accompanying couples in crisis. Teams of Our Lady also has a unique charism: helping married couples strive for holiness. Although each ministry has different charisms, we share one mission: to build up a church of holy families, families that radiate the love of Mary, Jesus, and Joseph to the world. Taking the Holy House of Our Lady of Loreto as our inspiration, let's endeavor to bring others closer to Christ through the lived witness of our Catholic sacramental marriages.



Mat and Katherine Aschenberg, Denver CO 02, represented the USA-SR of Teams of Our Lady at the Geppetto Project seminar for marriage ministries in July in Loreto, Italy.

View the video testimonial from Mat & Katherine.



View *Conversations in the Spirit* document.



Équipes Notre-Dame (Teams of Our Lady) couples attending from around the world



NTWC NEWS AND PLANNING

We are excited to announce that planning is underway for New Teams Welcome Celebrations (NTWC) across the United States, arriving in your province by no later than Fall 2026. These energetic, full-day events are held to recognize and celebrate new teams that have completed piloting within the last 1-5 years and have recommitted to continue in the Movement. An NTWC is a free event and consists of prayer, presentations, large and small group discussions, team building activities, couple time, and celebration with fellow Teams couples from around a Region! If one of these events is coming to your Region, watch for an invitation to register to attend.

Fargo, ND – March 28, 2026 (North Province)

Orlando, FL – Fall 2026 (South Province)

Turlock or Fresno, CA – Fall 2026 (West Province)

Berryville, VA - November 8, 2025 (East Province)

Raleigh, NC – April 18, 2026 (East Province)

Welcome to our New Teams Welcome Celebration Province Coordinators



Jim & Sarah Martinec (East Province), John & Jan Klocke (North Province),
Josh & Christina Loeffler (USA-SR), Juanjo & Claudia Mascorro (South Province),
Matt & Lisa Lawrence (West Province)



Do You Know?

Official Languages of Teams

**Teams of Our Lady has
5 official languages
that College Meetings
and International Gatherings
are conducted in....**

French (of course!) - Équipes Notre-Dame
Spanish - Equipos de Nuestra Señora
Portuguese - Equipes de Nossa Senhora
Italian - Equipes Notre-Dame
English - Teams of Our Lady

Currently, in the USA-SR, we have Teams meeting and materials available in all the official languages except Italian.

NOW OPEN

Teams Online Store*

Check it out to find some classic must-haves, like the Teams embroidered polos, and some new favorites like fun caps and totes in all the province colors. There are still Sector Couple Experience shirts and totes available for those interested.

**Explore all the new
Teams swag here:**

<https://bit.ly/teamsmerch>
or scan the QR code. ➡



**Your order will begin production as soon as you checkout; no more waiting for the store to close.*

Prayer for Discernment

Heavenly Father, we come before You with humble hearts, seeking Your divine guidance.

You have taught us that the Holy Spirit instructs the Church in the life of prayer, inspiring new expressions of blessing, petition, intercession, thanksgiving, and praise.

We ask that You send forth Your Holy Spirit upon us, that we may learn how to pray and have the will to pray, as prayer cannot be reduced to a mere spontaneous outpouring of interior impulse.

Grant us, O Lord, the gifts of wisdom, faith, and discernment, which the Holy Spirit bestows for the common good of prayer. Please help us to interpret the data of our experiences and the signs of the times, assisted by the virtue of prudence and the advice of competent people.

We pray for the grace to discern between trials, which are necessary for our spiritual growth, and temptations that lead to sin and death. May we also discern between being tempted and consenting to temptation and unmask the lie of temptation,

whose object appears good but whose fruit is death. Teach us to know ourselves through these revelations, and to give thanks for the goods that temptation reveals to us.

May our hearts be nourished by Your Word, so that as we seek in reading, we may find in meditating; as we knock in mental prayer, it may be opened to us by contemplation. Engage our thoughts, imagination, emotions, and desires in meditation, that our convictions of faith may deepen, our hearts may be converted, and our will to follow Christ may be strengthened. Help us to recollect our whole being under the prompting of the Holy Spirit, abiding in the dwelling place of the Lord, which we are, and awakening our faith to enter Your presence. May we let our masks fall and turn our hearts back to You, O Lord, who loves us, so that we may be purified and transformed.

We ask all this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Fr. Elias Lopez, USA Super Region Spiritual Counselor



Teams of Our Lady

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ACTION REQUIRED - Member Portal Registration - ACTION REQUIRED

Visit the new Website and Member Portal at www.teamsofourlady.org

“Member Only” resources are available only on the Member Portal. You must register to access the Member Portal. If you have not yet registered, search your email from September 19 or 20, 2025 for an email from technology@teamsofourlady.org. This email has the link and instructions for you to register and establish a password.

Once registered, login to confirm your personal contact information or make any necessary changes. View the contact information for your base team and encourage each member to create a login and update their own information. Additional “Member Only” resources (Resources menu) will be added as new materials become available. Check back often!!!

If you have any questions, please contact technology@teamsofourlady.org.



@teamsofourladyusa