

Teams of Our Lady

Magnificat

USA NEWSLETTER

FALL 2026

Venerable Fr. Henri Caffarel

**New Milestone on the
Path to Sainthood**

Also inside this issue

The Team Meeting

God Call

Don't Fear the Ask

Living the Commitment

Prayer for the Jubilee Year of St. Francis

Pope Leo XIV provided this prayer to be said often this year!

Prayer to Saint Francis for Peace

Saint Francis, our brother, you who eight hundred years ago went to meet Sister Death as a man at peace, intercede for us before the Lord.

You recognized true peace in the Crucifix of San Damiano, teach us to seek in Him the source of all reconciliation that breaks down every wall.

You who, unarmed, crossed the lines of war and misunderstanding, give us the courage to build bridges where the world raises up boundaries.

In this time afflicted by conflict and division, intercede for us so that we may become peacemakers: unarmed and disarming witnesses of the peace that comes from Christ. *Amen*



Leo P.P. XIV



Greetings from the Gehrts

Over the past six months, our encounters with Teams couples have given us a front row seat to God's love in action and a glimpse of heaven on earth. In April, our base team weekend retreat, centered on Mary's fiat, provided a humbling and renewing opportunity to focus on our spouses, our team, and Christ.

In May, we began meeting monthly with faith-filled couples from across the United States who are helping refresh the USA-SR piloting materials. After months of prayer for the right team to emerge, we have seen the Holy Spirit answer abundantly through the dedication and wisdom of these couples. These couples have a deep love and commitment to this Movement.

In July, we gathered with USA and Trinidad leadership at the USA Super Region Team and College in Buffalo, Minnesota. Centered on the theme of faith from Matthew 17:20, the gathering offered prayer, collaboration, encouragement, and a reminder that God equips those He calls. This was a wonderful opportunity for support and encouragement for those in Region and Province Responsible Couple roles to come together to collaborate and discuss lived experiences. We are better together.

He said to them, "Because of your little faith. Amen, I say to you, if you have faith the size of a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you."

Later in July, we represented the USA Super Region and Trinidad and Tobago at the International Leading Team (ERI) College in Villa de Leyva, Colombia. Under the theme, "Somos un solo Cuerpo en Cristo," which translates to "We are one body in Christ, we experienced the beauty of unity amid diversity as couples from around the world prayed, shared, learned, and collaborated together.

One Spiritual Counselor remarked that the ERI College is "truly Heaven on Earth". We reflected on this and realized he comes from a country with a history of war and ethnic strife. He also remarked about how fortunate we are to live in the United States where "the melting of the world lives in relative peace." This was hard to grasp until we thought about his perspective that is fraught with war and division. With the theme from 1 Cor 12:12-27, we need to remember that we are truly one body in Christ throughout the world.

As a body is one though it has many parts, and all the parts of the body, though many, are one body, so also Christ.

Despite differences in culture and language, we remain one body in Christ. We thank God daily for the unity and diversity found in Teams of Our Lady.

Our Lady, Queen of Teams, pray for us!

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



From our USA Spiritual Counselor

Continuing the Franciscan Journey in Teams of Our Lady

Dear Brothers and Sisters of Teams of Our Lady,

As we continue the **Eighth Centenary of the Death of Saint Francis of Assisi**, we are invited not merely to remember him, but to allow his Gospel-centered life to renew our marriages, our teams, and our mission. **Saint Francis** heard Christ's call to "repair my house." Today, that call reaches us through lives of simplicity, fraternity, prayer, and mercy.

Renewing Our Teams Through Simplicity

Franciscan poverty is not a rejection of legitimate family needs. It is freedom from possessiveness, excessive consumption, and the belief that happiness depends on material things. Saint Francis's Rule calls his followers to serve God "in poverty and humility" and to care for one another as members of one family. Our teams can embrace this spirit by simplifying our lifestyles, using resources responsibly, sharing with families in need, and making greater space for prayer, conversation, hospitality, and service. Each team might ask: What can we simplify so that we may love more generously?

Fostering Fraternity in Marriage and Community

Marriage is a school of fraternity, where spouses learn to listen, forgive, sacrifice, and receive one another as gifts. The family is also the first place where children learn solidarity and concern for others. Our teams become truly fraternal when couples share life honestly, listen without judgment, accompany one another through suffering, and remain attentive to those who are isolated, grieving, ill, or struggling. Saint Francis reminds us that fraternity is more than friendship: it is a way of receiving one another as brothers and sisters in Christ.

Prayer and Eucharist: Our Wellsprings

The Eucharist is the heart of Christian marriage and community. In giving himself completely, Christ teaches spouses to love with fidelity, forgiveness, and generous self-giving. The Eucharist strengthens couples to unite their daily sacrifices and trials to Christ's sacrifice. Pope Francis reminds families that prayer need not always be lengthy or complicated. A few moments each day can place before God our gratitude, worries, decisions, and desire to grow in love. Each couple and Team might renew Sunday Mass, daily prayer together, prayer before important decisions, thanksgiving after Communion, and prayer for couples carrying particular burdens.

Families as Mercy in Action

Saint Francis encountered Christ in the poor and marginalized. His example calls us not only to offer assistance but to draw near with respect, listening, and friendship. Pope Francis urges Christians to make room for migrants, the unemployed, the sick, the elderly, the abandoned, and all who live on the peripheries. Every team can choose one concrete and sustained work of mercy: accompanying a struggling family, visiting the elderly or homebound, welcoming migrants, supporting vulnerable mothers, assisting a food pantry or shelter, or serving another local need. The Eucharist sends us forth to such service and nourishes our commitment to the poorest and most abandoned.

A Shared Franciscan Commitment

As a follow-up to this Jubilee Year, each team might commit itself:

- **To simplify:** surrender one habit of excess or unnecessary busyness.
- **To deepen fraternity:** accompany one another more intentionally between meetings.
- **To renew prayer:** strengthen one daily and one Eucharistic practice.
- **To serve together:** undertake one continuing work of mercy.

Pope Leo XIV reminds us that the Franciscan greeting, "May the Lord give you peace," expresses the peace of the risen Christ—a gift to be received and a vocation to be lived. May our marriages and teams become signs of this peace: communities of simplicity, prayer, fraternity, and mercy. May Saint Francis intercede for every couple and teach us to recognize Christ in the Eucharist, in one another, and in the poor. May the Lord give you peace.



With prayerful good wishes,
Fr. Elias Lopez
USA Super Region Spiritual Counselor
fr.eli.lopez@allsaintscatholic.us

Venerable Fr. Henri Caffarel



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



Scan QR to view
video about
Father Caffarel



Scan QR to
donate to Friends
of Father Caffarel



In this year of St. Francis, we must continue to have faith: faith in our ability to do God's will, faith to strengthen our resolve in the tasks that we have said YES to, and faith that Fr. Caffarel will be declared a Saint. We pray that Fr. Caffarel will be canonized and recognized as a saint, but it will be in God's time, not ours. We people are so impatient... we want everything NOW! We must have patience and trust in the Lord.

Earlier this year our prayers bore fruit as we have reached a new milestone on the path to sainthood for Fr. Henri Caffarel, not quite 30 years after his death on September 18, 1996. On March 23rd, Pope Leo XIV received and approved a recommendation from Cardinal Marcello Semeraro, Prefect of the Dicastery for the Causes of Saints that Fr. Henri Caffarel be declared Venerable. The Catholic Church has officially recognized that Henri Caffarel lived the Christian virtues — faith, hope, charity, prudence, justice, fortitude and temperance. Fr. Caffarel, a Servant of God, has thus received the title of Venerable and becomes a model of Christian life. This is the official recognition that Father Caffarel was a "faithful witness to the Gospel!"

Now there are two more steps to take. We need one miracle for Fr. Caffarel to be declared Blessed and, another, after that, for him to be declared Saint. Let us all persevere in our prayers, support the cause by contributing to Friends of Father Caffarel, and submit any favors of graces received as a result of your prayers. If you need any additional information, go to the Friends of Fr. Caffarel website (henri-caffarel.org). Please continue to persevere, have faith and pray. God will answer your prayers!

Venerable Father Caffarel, pray for us!

The Process of Canonization



- [1] SERVANT OF GOD**
The candidate's local Bishop opens a cause or case and gathers evidence of their life and deeds including witness testimonies.
- [2] VENERABLE**
If the congregation finds the candidate lived a suitably holy life, their application is sent to the Pope, who grants them the title venerable.
- [3] BLESSED**
If a miracle attributed to the candidate is proven, it is announced and the candidate is bestowed the title 'blessed'.
- [4] SAINT**
After a second miracle is verified, the Pope conducts a special public mass proclaiming the candidate a saint.

“I am convinced that every Christian is called to holiness and that marriage is a path towards it.”

VENERABLE HENRI CAFFAREL



Regular Reading of the Word of God



Luie & Ana Nunes
West Province Responsible Couple

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 **Regular Reading of The Word of God** for this issue.

How can we grow to love God more deeply if we do not truly know Him? We come to know God and His Son, Jesus Christ, through Sacred Scripture, which lies at the very heart of the Christian life. After all, how can we genuinely love someone we do not know?

Jesus teaches us, "The seed sown on rich soil is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields a hundred or sixty or thirtyfold" (Mt 13:23). Like fertile soil, our hearts must be open to receive God's Word. Yet simply receiving the seed is not enough. Just as a seed requires water, sunlight, and nutrients to flourish, our souls also need continual nourishment if we are to grow in holiness. Scripture is one of God's greatest gifts for this purpose. Through it, we come to recognize His voice, discern His will, and deepen our relationship with Him. As we read the daily Gospel and prayerfully meditate on Jesus' message, we are invited to follow Him more closely each day and to shape our hearts after His own.

For Teams couples, Scripture is one of the daily Endeavors, and over the years our way of praying with Scripture has evolved. When our children were young, we would read the Sunday Mass readings together before going to church. Preparing as a family gave

us the opportunity to discuss the readings beforehand, making all of us, especially our children, more attentive during the Liturgy of the Word. As they grew older, they eagerly took turns reading the different passages aloud.

Today, we are blessed with many ways to encounter God's Word. We can read the Bible, attend daily Mass, or listen to the daily readings through podcasts or online while commuting or traveling. These opportunities make it easier than ever to keep Scripture woven into our daily lives.

After reading Scripture, we enjoy listening to different homilies and reflections on the daily readings to help us apply God's Word to the ordinary moments of life. Another beautiful way to pray with Scripture is through

Lectio Divina, which allows us to reflect more deeply and encounter God in a personal and meaningful way. In those quiet moments, it becomes simply God and me. He patiently waits for us; all He asks is that we make time for Him.

A relationship with God is built through personal prayer and honest conversation. Yet prayer is not only about speaking, it is also about listening. We must intentionally quiet our hearts to hear what God is asking of us. As Psalm 46:10 reminds us, "Be still, and know that I am God." Being still is often difficult in our busy lives, but Eucharistic Adoration offers a sacred place to do just that. In the silence before the Blessed Sacrament, we can spend time with God the Father, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit, listening for His gentle voice and opening our hearts to His desires for our lives.

If you are having difficulty incorporating Scripture into your daily life, we encourage you to prayerfully consider setting aside a specific time each day to spend with God's Word. You might set an alarm or a daily reminder to help establish this important habit. Start small and be consistent. Small, faithful steps often lead to lasting growth. Put on a podcast of "Bible in a Year" or the daily readings on the road. As you make time for Scripture, you will discover that God is already waiting to meet you there. He thirsts for your love and your time.

God is waiting for you. What are you waiting for?

**We come to
know God
through Sacred
Scripture.**

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

North Province

Central | Lake Michigan
Midwest | North Central

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



Scan the QR code to
watch a video message.

Central Region



Denver CO

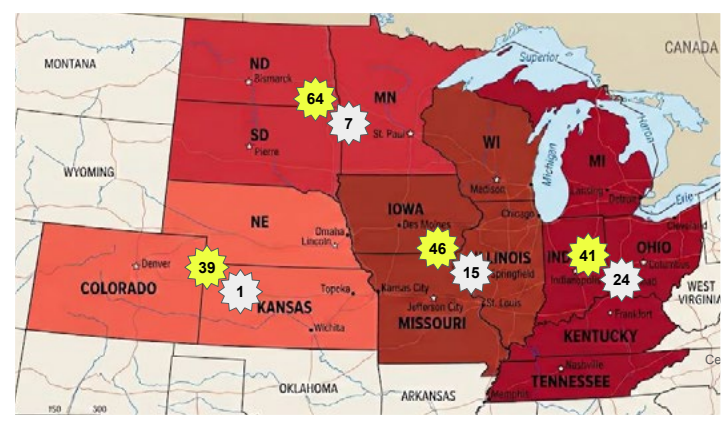
Each month the Colorado Sector invites all Teams families to a Holy Hour of Adoration at one of the five parishes which have Teams. After prayer, we share fellowship at a nearby coffee or ice cream shop. These events strengthen bonds between Teams, as we usually have several Teams represented. Our evenings have been blessed with multiple generations, with children and grandchildren joining together in the prayer and socializing. Christ's draw is so powerful that, on more than one occasion, spouses have come straight from the airport, flying home from business trips, to join their beloved husband or wife in adoration of our Beloved.

Outside of Our Lady of Loreto is from July 14, 2026, members of Denver 02, Denver 05, and Parker 02.



Erie CO

Members of Erie CO 01, Erie CO 02, and Denver CO 02 socializing after adoration on May 1, 2026.



East Central Region



St. Louis MO

On April 18, 2026, teams in both St. Louis MO Sector A and B attended a Sector Day of Reflection held at Assumption Parish.

As the Movement grows and expands across Sectors, Regions, and Provinces, the USA-SR must evaluate the boundaries of these Sectors and Regions to best serve the base teams. The USA-SR is excited to announce re-alignments in the North Province to accommodate the growth and expansion.

With this re-alignment comes the introduction of the new East Central Region which will comprise the states of Missouri, Iowa, Illinois, and Wisconsin. The existing Lake Michigan Region and Midwest Region are being combined into the Midwest Region which will comprise the states of Michigan, Indiana, Ohio, Kentucky, and Tennessee. The existing Central Region will now encompass Colorado, Kansas, and Nebraska. The existing North Central Region will now encompass Minnesota, South Dakota, and North Dakota.

The map graphic depicts the four regions in the North Province: Central, East Central, North Central, and Midwest and the various states included in each region. The graphic also depicts the number of teams in Sectors (yellow stars) and number of teams in Pre-Sectors (gray stars). The North Province contains the most teams in the USA-SR with 237!

Lake Michigan Region



Detroit MI

On May 30, 2026, the Lake Michigan Region held the second of two Colleges at St. Anastasia Catholic Church in Troy, MI. Twenty-two responsible couples attended the College. Rick & Andrea Rader, Region RC, installed Carl & Marie Weber as the Detroit MI Sector B RC. Fr. Dino Vanin, Spiritual Counselor for the Weber's base team, took part in the installation ceremony.



Pictured from left to right at the dinner following the Regional College are Carl & Marie, Rick & Andrea, and Mary and Ed Quiett. All three couples joined Teams of Our Lady over 35 years ago when they were all parishioners at St. Therese Little Flower Catholic Church in Indianapolis. Ed & Mary were members of Indianapolis IN 01; Rick & Andrea, Indianapolis IN 02; and Carl & Marie, Indianapolis IN 03. They all relocated to different cities in the Lake Michigan Region over 25 years ago and enjoyed their "mini reunion" at the College in Troy.



Indianapolis IN

On April 25, 2026, the Lake Michigan Region held the first of two Colleges in Brownsburg, IN (suburb of Indianapolis). The Holy Spirit was alive and present at this College as great discussions took place regarding teams in the southern part of this Region. "Great conversation with great people!" commented Mark & Patty Conway, North Province RC.



Michigan
Couples from several teams in Michigan attended a Franciscan retreat together.

North Central Region



Fargo ND

On March 28, 2026, 63 Couples (including 2 from Canada) and three Priests gathered for a magnificent New Teams Welcome Celebration at Sts. Anne and Joachim Catholic Church in Fargo, ND. The theme "Unwrapping the Holy Gifts of Teams" was well received. Also celebrated was the recent elevation of Fr. Henri Caffarel from Servant of God to Venerable.



Winona MN

The Sector held a Marriage Retreat and Sector Day on March 10, 2026. The retreat leaders were Sister Sarah Hennessey and Karna Marks from the Franciscan Spirituality Center in La Crosse, WI. The topic for the day was "Joy." Thirty-three couples attended. Couples had an opportunity to share how joy can be cultivated in their marriages despite the busy lives we all lead. Listening attentively to our spouses and really hearing the stories they tell us, proved to be a challenging, but fruitful, activity for everyone! Mass at The Church of the Crucifixion in La Crescent, MN followed the retreat portion of the day. Teams couples fulfilled many of the ministry roles at Mass. The Sector Day followed with a dinner, short presentation by the Sector Team, and some fun trivia!



South Province

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



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



Scan the QR code to
watch a video message.

East Texas Region

Introducing Sector Responsible Couples from the East Texas Region! Thank you for your generous "yes" to serving the Movement. We are so grateful for each of you!



The Kennedys
Kingwood
Sector Couple



The Zurovcheks
Houston A
Sector Couple



The Hills
Missouri City
Sector Couple



The Bissailons
Katy Pre-Sector
Liaison Couple

West Texas/NM Region



San Antonio TX

Installation of Fred and Robin Bueche, Sector Responsible Couple from San Antonio TX Sector B. All teams within the Sector are from Holy Trinity Catholic Church. The Sector currently has 13 teams with 67 couples, of which 4 are new Spanish speaking teams currently being piloted. Three of them are being piloted thanks to Pilot Couples who travel from Laredo, TX for each monthly meeting.

San Antonio TX

The first Spanish speaking team in San Antonio TX Sector B is blessed to have a Priest as a Spiritual Counselor. Father Rodolfo Caballero has accepted to serve as the Spiritual Counselor for the West Texas/New Mexico Region Responsible Couple as well.



San Antonio TX

Three of the six couples on the first Spanish speaking team in San Antonio TX Sector B are blessed to be expecting a baby at the same time. The first baby was born in early July, and the other two babies are expected in November and December of this year.



Laredo TX

Couples from Laredo, TX, together with their families, experienced a truly special pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady of Czestochowa in San Antonio, Texas, as they prepared their hearts to enter Holy Week.



Laredo TX

Couples from Laredo, TX, had the opportunity to visit St. Joseph Catholic Church in La Pryor, Texas, to join Father Heleodoro Lozano, the current Spiritual Counselor of the Sector Team, and his parish community in the celebration of Sunday Mass



Laredo TX

Some couples from Laredo, TX, were blessed to participate in their annual marriage retreat, led by Father Francisco Quiroz, the Sector's Spiritual Counselor. As one of the Concrete Endeavors of the Teams of Our Lady Movement, the retreat offered couples a meaningful opportunity to step away from their daily routines and grow together in faith.

Southeast Region



Atlanta GA

On August 1, the Atlanta GA Pre-Sector had a Mass celebrating the appointment of Fr. Carlos Vargas as Chaplain of Teams in the Archdiocese of Atlanta and welcomed 4 new teams! After Mass, a potluck was enjoyed where many of the members from all 7 teams were present. It is joyful to see how the Lord is working in this area!



Orlando FL

The Orlando FL Sector welcomes 2 new teams from St James Cathedral. Orlando FL 12 is being piloted by Bunn and Danette Rieckhoff. Orlando FL 13S is being piloted by Edwin and Sandy Fernandez.



Pinellas FL

In April 2026, the Pinellas FL Sector held a picnic at Philippe Park in Safety Harbor. Couples brought their families for a day filled with games, food, and prayer.



Miami FL

In May 2026, the Miami FL Sector held a one-day Marriage Retreat in Spanish with the theme of Fidelity and Mission Journey. Their day was filled with prayer, witnesses, sharing, and activities.

Louisiana/Arkansas Region



Lafayette LA Pre-Sector

Mark and Karen Gremillion, the new Region Responsible Couple for Louisiana/Arkansas Region visited the Lafayette LA Pre-Sector on May 23, 2026, to meet team members of their 3 teams. The meeting was coordinated by Rusty and Julie Thibodeaux and held at Holy Cross Catholic Church in Lafayette.

North Texas/Oklahoma Region



Dallas TX

In June 2026, the Dallas TX Sector actively promoted Teams of Our Lady at Our Lady of Lebanon parish in Lewisville. The event featured

the presence of Dave Palmer from Guadalupe Radio Network and Pastor Joseph Kallas. This outreach effort brought the message of Teams directly into a vibrant parish community and opened doors for new couples to learn about the Movement.

Tyler TX

On May 30, 2026 one of the spiritual high points of the semester for the Tyler TX Pre-Sector was a Teams Mass and Adoration celebrated with Fr. Chris, one of the priest spiritual counselors at Chapel of Sts. Peter and Paul in Tyler, TX. These moments of shared prayer and Eucharistic devotion are at the heart of the Teams of Our Lady spirituality and strengthen the couples for their daily mission.



Tyler TX

The Tyler TX Sector Annual Family Social happened on April 25, 2026 at True Vine Brewery. It was an opportunity for all the couples and their families in the Tyler TX Sector to come together and experience the wider Teams community beyond the base Team. It was also a wonderful opportunity for the children to meet each other and develop friendships.

West Province

Northwest
Western



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



Scan the QR
code to watch a
video message.



Buffalo, MN

West Province Leadership couples attending the USA-SR College in Buffalo, MN, from July 9-11, 2026. Rich & Karen Hanson, Northwest Region RC, Ana & Luie Nunes, West Province RC, and Camille & Mike Popp, Western Region RC

Northwest Region



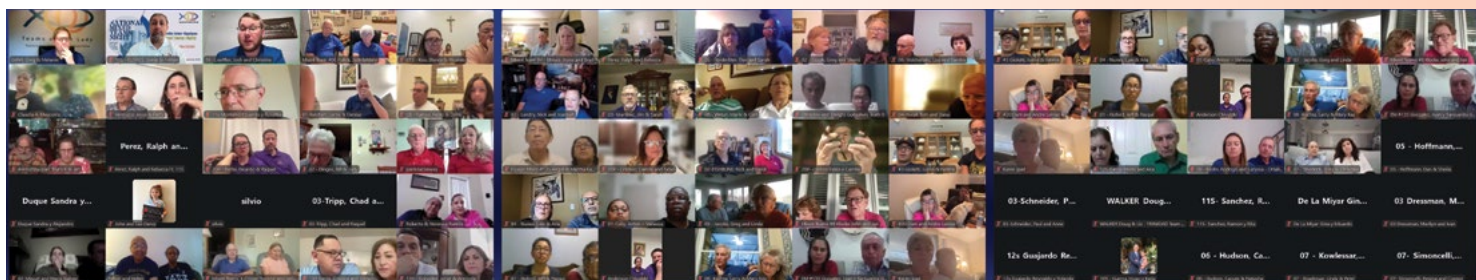
New Spokane WA Sector Welcomes New Sector Responsible Couple

Members of the Spokane WA Sector of Teams of Our Lady gathered at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Lourdes on February 1, 2026 to install Zach and Lindsey Klemmer, Spokane WA 03, as the new Sector RC. Surrounded by fellow Teams members, the evening was a joyful occasion of prayer, community, and commitment as the Klemmers accepted their new role of service to the Spokane WA Sector.



New Spokane WA Sector

Rich and Karen Hanson, Northwest Region RC, with Fr. David Gaine installed Zach and Lindsey Klemmer as the new Spokane WA Sector RC.



National Mixed Teams Night

On August 22, 2026, the USA-SR hosted the fifth annual national Mixed Teams Night via Zoom. Sixty-five couples from across the country and Trinidad participated in this event. The study topic selected for the evening was "Reflections on Mutual Aid and Community Within Our Teams." Participants enjoyed the topic and the opportunity to meet and interact with more Teams couples throughout the USA-SR. The 2027 Mixed Teams night will be held in August 2027. Stay tuned for more information.

Western Region



Turlock CA

Turlock Portuguese 1 Sector gathered for a Retreat titled "O Meu Lugar na Cruz de Cristo" (My Place on the Cross of Christ.)



Turlock CA

More than 20 couples gathered from the Turlock English Sectors at St. Anthony's Retreat Center for a weekend with Adoration, reconciliation, Stations of the Cross, Rosary, Mass, Sit-down, small group sharing, and the newlywed game. The focus of the retreat was Living the Endeavors, a Pathway to Holiness in Marriage



Turlock CA

English Sectors Stations of the Cross at the retreat center.



Phoenix AZ

The Phoenix Sector had a campout in June at Apache Trout Campground in Greer Arizona.



Fresno CA

Several couples from the Fresno Sector gathered at Shrine of St. Thérèse on Sunday, November 2, to participate in a Holy Hour for Vocations. Through prayer and adoration before the Blessed Sacrament, they joined in petitioning the Lord for an increase in vocations to the priesthood and consecrated religious life.

Please email your prayer requests to prayer@teamsofourlady.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@teamsofourlady.org

East Province

Coastal | Lake Erie
Mid-Atlantic
New England

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



Scan the QR code to
watch a video message

Coastal Region



Raleigh NC

On April 18, 2026, the East Province hosted a New Teams Welcome Celebration (NTWC) in Raleigh, NC. Twenty-eight couples and one Priest Spiritual Counselor participated in this inspiring event centered on the theme of "Our Recipe for Married Life".

New England Region



Wilbraham MA 04

Members after their recommitment ceremony during their retreat at Dartmouth College in Hanover, NH in May 2026

Mid-Atlantic Region



Newark NJ

The Newark NJ Portuguese teams held a Sector Day in June 2026. The day was spent talking about and reflecting on "The Sit Down" endeavor.

Lake Erie Region

Buffalo NY
Buffalo NY Sector Responsible Couple installation on May 9, 2026. Emily and Michael Hoffman (left) were installed as the new Sector RC replacing Pat and Mike Hardy (right).



Buffalo NY

Nine teams in the Buffalo NY Sector were represented at the Sector RC installation. Joe & Michelle Lawler, East Province RC, and Deacon Andrew Mical, Lake Erie Region RC, were also in attendance.

Canute & Natasha Hudson
*Responsible Couple
for Trinidad and Tobago Region*



The Trini Teams Experience Marriage Course



Teams of Our Lady Trinidad and Tobago hosted married couples virtually in 'The Marriage Course' (TMC) during the seven Saturdays of Lent, 2026. This online course was created by Nicky & Sila Lee as part of the Alpha programme.

Trinidad first hosted TMC as a couple's retreat for Teams of Our Lady during the pandemic in 2021. It was so well received with tangible benefits to Teams couples, that we decided that other couples should

also gain from the experience.

Since then, we have been able to touch over 300 couples, including couples in St. Lucia, Africa, the United Kingdom, and the United States.

At the end of each session, a blessing is offered by a Catholic priest. This year, His Excellency, The Most Reverend Santiago de Wit Guzman, Apostolic Nuncio for the AEC made himself available for the blessing for each of the Saturdays and was supported by our Spiritual Counsellor, Fr Raymond Francis.

Based on the feedback from our questionnaire, every couple said that they would recommend the course to couples they know.

Others said, "There was significant improvement in the area of improved communication, resolving conflict and forgiveness."



His Excellency, The Most Reverend
Santiago de Wit Guzman, Apostolic
Nuncio for the AEC



Teams of Our Lady – Trinidad
& Tobago Spiritual Counsellor –
Fr. Raymond Francis

We encourage you, whether you've been together for a short or a long time; whether you're in a good place as a couple or you're struggling, whatever your situation, to join the Marriage Course to discover 'How to Love each other better', and not just stay together, but grow and thrive as a couple. The next sessions are scheduled during Lent 2027. It will be advertised. See you soon!!



The Team Meeting

In Teams of Our Lady, we all know that Endeavors are the heart of the Movement and where personal growth occurs through the Holy Spirit. The team meeting is the core place where we receive (and give) support from (and for) one another and are challenged to grow in love for God and each other. The team meeting is also the place of unity across the world. Of course, there are cultural nuances and small differences, but the core of the team meeting is the same in the USA, Italy, France, Africa, Lebanon, Ireland, Brazil, Mexico, etc. Your challenge as a team member is to stay true to the pedagogy set out by Venerable Fr. Henri Caffarel for the Movement.

Simple Meal

The meal is not meant to be a source of stress for the host couple. It should be simple and the responsibility shared amongst the team members. Each should contribute something to the meal to share. This is a beautiful model of how the early Christians shared what they had with each other. Table settings do not need to be elaborate. The food just needs to sustain and comfort. A team does not gather for the food; they gather to be in communion with one another and Christ. It is important to be gathered around a common table where all can see and hear each member of the team.

Highs and Lows

Sometimes referred to as “sharing” or the “whip around”, the highs and lows are intended to be done at the meal table. Be disciplined! Try to be concise and share one high and one low since your last meeting. Share enough information for everyone to connect but don’t get too bogged down in the specific details. The most important

discipline of this time is active listening. Do not pass food, do not leave for the restroom, and do not interrupt. Each member gets the opportunity to share while all others actively listen to what they have to say.

Let’s quiet ourselves...

Be sure to quiet yourselves to enter into this time of prayer. The table can be a lot of fun with sharing, so it is important to switch to a more quiet, calm and reflective mode. Just give some time to settle in silence before jumping right into prayer.

The Word of God

It is great for the team to know what the Scripture passage will be ahead of time. Some people appreciate more time to reflect on Scripture than others. This is neither good nor bad, just the way God made us. During the meeting, listening to the Scripture a couple times in both a masculine and feminine voice is helpful. What is critical is giving some time for silent reflection afterwards.

Personal Response to The Word

This is the time of personal response to Scripture in the form of a prayer. It is important that all team members understand that this is not a discussion or debate about the Scripture, but a personal prayer based on how the living and active Word spoke to you. You are encouraged to vocalize this prayer to the team. This is one way we can enrich each other’s experience by sharing how the Holy Spirit inspired us through reading of the Word. When listening to God’s Word it should touch our heart and soul as it is living and active. Let the Word speak to you and respond to God with a prayerful response.

"Indeed, the word of God is living and effective, sharper than any two-edged sword, penetrating even between soul and spirit, joints and marrow, and able to discern reflections and thoughts of the heart."

– Hebrews 4:12.

Prayer Intentions

This is a time for everyone to pray for what is on their hearts. Most teams pass a cross to indicate it is that person's turn to pray. Conclude each prayer intention with "We pray to the Lord" and the rest of the team responds with "Lord, hear our prayer." The Spiritual Counselor/Spiritual Advisor prays in rotation as a team member.

Psalm (Liturgical Prayer)

To end the prayer section of the meeting a Psalm may be chosen, a favorite prayer may be chosen, or a song may be sung. Many teams prefer ending with a concluding prayer that ties the time of prayer together from the Scripture reading to a Psalm chosen.

Deep Pooling

Next, the meeting shifts to that special time after prayer called deep pooling. Deep pooling springs from the need to support each other in brotherly love with God at the source. Deep pooling is beautifully situated directly after prayer. If a couple or the team needs to use this time, it is asked that they let the Responsible Couple know ahead of time in order to plan appropriately for the timing of the meeting. Deep pooling should not be used at every meeting but is available when needed for situations that arise. It is important that whoever is asking to deep pool be allowed to set the parameters. Are they looking for feedback and input from the team or do they just want to be heard and speak more in depth about something occurring in their life?



Simple Meal with Highs & Lows (Whip Around)



Prayer
Quiet Yourself
Scripture
Response to Scripture
Prayer Intentions
Psalm
Concluding Prayer
Deep Pooling
Sharing on the Endeavors



Discussion & Business

Sharing on the Endeavors

Sharing on the Endeavors, also referred to as the "Sharing Moment", is the single most unique element of Teams of Our Lady. This is where we can help one another grow in discipline and in our spiritual lives, an element of mutual help. This is a time to share, not in the negative,

but in the positive of how the endeavors helped you to encounter Christ each month. This is not about checking off a list of things to do but a true and authentic effort to live the charism (gift) of Teams out of a desire to grow in holiness.

Discussion on the Study Topic

Advanced preparation ensures that couples are prepared for this portion of the meeting. Reading, writing responses to the study questions, and discussing with your spouse all need to happen with enough time to then submit each spouse's responses to the discussion couple. This will give the discussion couple time to read and synthesize a direction for the discussion at the team meeting. This preparation of the discussion can also occur with the Spiritual Counselor/Spiritual Advisor of the team. This doesn't necessarily mean reading or summarizing answers but finding points to get the conversation moving. It is important to allow participation from everyone and avoid a few monopolizing the discussion. If other parts of the meeting run long, this is where the meeting can and should get cut a bit short. Be sure to conclude the meeting with any business and wrap up with both The Magnificat and the Prayer for the Canonization of Venerable Fr. Henri Caffarel.

Points to Ponder...

During highs and lows, how do we show our attention and respect to each member as we eat?

How can we participate in the meditation prayer and petition prayer during the meeting?

Do we pray for each other during the month?

Are we careful to honor the need for confidentiality at all team meetings?

Do we feel comfortable sharing our deepest needs within our team?

How do we help our teammates on all aspects of the endeavors?

How do we help our spouse to live a life of holiness?

How can we better prepare individually and as a couple for the meeting?



Don't Fear the Ask



Josh & Christina Loeffler
Super Region NTWC Responsible Couple

"You are never alone in Teams" has become the thread woven through every "yes" we've said and every role we've been privileged to serve. We began our journey in Teams of Our Lady with our first "yes" at the ripe old ages of 21 and 22. Newly married, we had no hesitations in joining Teams as we knew we desired a Christ centered marriage and a community of like-minded people. This foundational "yes" during a time when we were still young and childlike, without fear of joining an unknown movement, set in motion a domino effect of asks that we had no idea were on the horizon.

Just a few short years later, we walked into Sector Couple training in Fredericksburg, TX with no idea about what a Sector Responsible Couple was and whether we were ready to say yes. Still vivid in our minds and hearts is the energy of a large room filled with couples holding hands and encouraging one another. We were moved with excitement and peace as the couples took us in, mentored us, and modeled what it meant to live a Christ centered life not only in their marriages but within community. Trusting God more than our own understanding, we felt the stirring of the Holy Spirit combined with the energy of the Movement and trustingly accepted the ask to be Sector Responsible Couple.

We have since served as the South Province New Teams Welcome Celebration (NTWC) RC and are currently serving as the Super Region NTWC RC. These subsequent roles have followed similar patterns in saying "yes". Every time, Teams couples cover us in love and support, stirring the Holy Spirit and the trust in God that our gifts will serve the Movement well. Not of our own doing or because we have any control but because of the work of God through the community Teams provides and the discernment of the Holy Spirit. It's natural to experience fear when we're being called to do great works in Christ's name, especially when balancing work, kids, and personal lives. However, with every "yes" we've given to every ask, we have received graces beyond our imagination and feel very anchored in the belief that "You are never alone in Teams".

New Teams Welcome Celebrations



WHAT IS AN NTWC?

A New Teams Welcome Celebration (NTWC) is a day-long gathering that capstones the piloting process and is facilitated by Teams couples from the local area led by NTWC Coordinators.

WHO?

The NTWC coordinators met in Tyler, TX, June 18-21, 2026 to strategically plan growing NTWC events across the country. The coordinators left energized to bring an NTWC to your area soon!



WHEN & WHERE?

North Province >> 9/19/2026 in Steubenville, OH

South Province >> 10/10/2026 in Orlando, FL

South Province >> 4/3/2027 in San Antonio, TX

East Province >> 7/10/2027 in Philadelphia, PA

God Call



Fabio & Camila
Ruggerio Cristino
South Province
Responsible Couple

"You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit."

(John 15:16)



We have all heard someone say: *"I got a cold call..."*

The expression is understandable. Very often, the couple making the invitation does not know the invited couple very well. It feels like an unexpected, almost impersonal phone call. But... what if we have been looking at that call

the wrong way? What if what seems like a Cold Call is, in fact, a God Call?

When God calls someone in Scripture, He rarely checks a resumé, a calendar, or a list of qualifications. He did not ask Moses whether he felt prepared. He did not check whether Peter was qualified or had enough free time. He did not wait for Samuel or Jeremiah to be old enough. He did not choose Mary because she already had all the answers.

God simply calls.

Because He knows what we do not know. He knows who needs that mission long before the mission needs that person.

Perhaps that service is exactly what God will use to strengthen a marriage, rekindle a couple's prayer life, restore hope, reveal hidden gifts, or draw them closer to Him. Many times, God knows that the mission will do more for the couple being called than for the Movement itself.

Those of us who extend the invitation only see a small part of the story. God sees the whole story.

That is why, before inviting a couple to serve in Teams of Our Lady, we pray. We try to set aside our own human criteria. We are not simply looking for the couple with the most availability, the greatest experience, or the strongest leadership skills. Instead, we prayerfully seek to discern whom God may be inspiring us to invite.

This discernment is never improvised. The entire process of prayer, reflection, and the recommendation of couples is

meant to create space for God to guide our decisions. It is an act of faith, of listening, and of trusting in the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

In that sense, the invitation is no longer simply ours. It becomes, above all, an opportunity that God is offering. And perhaps there is an even more important shift in perspective. We often think that those who accept a responsibility are doing the Movement a favor. In reality, it is almost always the other way around. Those who receive the greatest blessing are those who serve.

Throughout the history of Teams of Our Lady, how many couples have discovered deep friendships, strengthened their marriage, grown in their spiritual life, learned to trust God more fully, and experienced joys they never imagined simply because they said "yes" to a call?

We can personally testify to this. Some of the greatest blessings we have received in our own journey began with the "yeses" we offered when we felt small, unprepared, and unsure.

Serving is not a reward reserved for the most qualified. It is a gift that God offers to those He desires to help grow. Perhaps that is why, after some time, so many couples look back and say:

"We thought we were helping Teams of Our Lady. Looking back, we realize that God was actually helping us."

What a beautiful day it will be when every Teams couple begins to see that phone call through a different lens. Instead of first thinking about their busy schedule, added responsibilities, or whether they are capable, they recognize that this invitation may be a grace prepared by God.

Perhaps it is an invitation to begin a new chapter in their journey. An invitation to draw closer to Christ, to learn from Him, to serve beside Him, and to allow Him to transform their marriage even more deeply.

Because in God's Kingdom, those who serve are never simply the ones who give. They are, almost always, the ones who receive the most. Perhaps it is time for us to stop calling that phone call a Cold Call. After all, when God is behind the invitation, it will always be a God Call.

"A mission is not an extra burden added to our lives; it is a grace that transforms our lives."

— Venerable Father
Henri Caffarel

Living the Commitment



Friends of Father Caffarel

The Association of the Friends of Father Caffarel is an international association whose goal is to establish and carry out actions intended to make Father Caffarel known around the world – his personality, his ideas on marriage and personal prayer, his spirituality – as well as to support the work done for the cause financially. This is the group that is diligently working toward the canonization of Venerable Fr. Henri Caffarel. They have worked hard to complete the documents required by the Vatican to further his cause.

The Association functions with the membership fees paid to the Association each year. The Laredo TX Sector A and Sector B both have nearly 100% participation in the Association of the Friends of Father Caffarel. Each year, nearly all their Teams couples pay the 15€ membership dues. Thank you Laredo TX for your love and dedication to Venerable Fr. Henri Caffarel.

To join the Association of the Friends of Father Caffarel, please visit henri-caffarel.org



Prayer Warriors

For Fr. Caffarel, intercessory prayer is not a passive sentiment but a powerful spiritual force—an active cooperation with God’s redeeming work. There are Teams couples who are in need and request intercessory prayer each day. There are also numerous Teams couples who have volunteered to receive these requests and take them to their personal and couple prayer time.

“It is a privilege when people trust us with their deepest needs and desires in prayer requests. People have let us know that they could feel surrounded by the comfort and peace that prayer can bring in difficult circumstances. Sometimes prayers for healing are answered “yes”, but even if the circumstances have not changed, they have encountered peace. Praise be to God!”

– Cathy (and Art) Beccard, USA-SR Prayer Couple, Omaha NE 04

“As we continue to be part of the Teams of Our Lady prayer chain, we are grateful to God and Our Lady for the privilege of praying for the needs in this community. We deeply believe that God is blessing this effort and thank you (Art & Cathy) for facilitating the process. We pray for you as well as the requests that come for prayer. God bless you.”

– Jack and Mary Pulick, Palm Coast FL 01

Are you in need of prayer? Are you willing to become a prayer warrior for other team members or couples?

Consider signing up at teamsofourlady.org/prayerrequests



Did you know...

The Western Region has the highest percentage of members financially contributing to the Movement. **68% of their members contribute.** This is incredible as the national average has been between 22-24%! The Western Region uses an envelope distribution to each team. The contributions are collected by each base team Responsible Couple and then fully collected at the Annual Region Day held each November. Thank you Western Region for your commitment to financially supporting the Movement in the USA!



2027 SECTOR COUPLE EXPERIENCE JULY 9-11, 2027

for new and incoming
Sector Responsible Couples

MALVERN RETREAT CENTER
MALVERN, PA



Intercessor

Over 60 years ago, Fr. Caffarel called Teams of Our Lady couples to become Intercessors. Intercessors are people of prayer.

Intercessors commit to giving some of their time and themselves 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.

“About a year ago Arnold and I were presented with the opportunity to become the Teams of Our Lady Intercessor Liaison Couple. We have been in Teams for 17 years and have received so many fruits from this beautiful ministry, but did not have an active role outside our base team. After so many years of receiving, we decided it was time to give back. We accepted with excitement to lead others in becoming intercessors and little did we know the impact it would have on us, especially our prayer life. Prayer is a gift from God and an opportunity to be at His feet, meeting His loving gaze and offering up the joys and sufferings of our beloved brothers and sisters. Arnold and I both maintained an active prayer life before, but becoming an intercessor has allowed us to come together as a couple in unison to fervently pray for Teams of Our Lady with a cause and purpose.

Jesus was our first intercessor. Fr. Caffarel wrote that Jesus “relies on us, his disciples. It is up to us to stand in the breach and to keep watch. It is up to us to plead for the vast multitude of humanity, certainly, but first and foremost for that specific patch of ground, time, and humanity where it is our mission precisely to embody Christ and carry on His intercession.”

We are honored to be stewards of this mission to pray not only for the Teams of Our Lady Movement, but for each couple, their families and their marriages. We also place ourselves on the Mantle of Our Blessed Mother trusting she will lead us to her son and we all will receive an outpouring of graces from her intercession. Arnold and I pray the rosary daily, go to an extra mass and attend first Friday adoration. Doing this together as a couple has filled our marriage with peace, joy, a deeper closeness, a renewed love and commitment to each other. Who knew such small acts of love and intention would result in such a great reward, thanks be to God. Eph 3:20 “Now to him who is able to accomplish far more than all we ask or imagine, by the power at work within us.”

– Annette (and Arnold) Canales, Kingwood TX 17

Please consider signing up to become an Intercessor: teamsofourlady.org/intercessor



Priest Spiritual Counselor

At the heart of the Teams' charism is the conjunction and mutual enrichment of two sacraments: Holy Orders and Matrimony. Father Caffarel, along with later church leaders, noted that this close bond between the married couples and the priest is essential to the future of the Church.

“My parents celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary a few years ago. They have had a rich relationship full of highs and lows and have witnessed well to the vocation of marriage. Nevertheless, they are my parents. As a result, their marriage just seems “normal.” Shortly after I was ordained, I received an invitation to join a team as a spiritual counselor. Having remained with the same team for eighteen years now, I have grown in my understanding and appreciation for the vocation of marriage as I have witnessed each of the couples - in their various ways - striving to “remain always one” in good times and in bad, to raise their children (even as adults) amidst the challenges of this world, and to grow in holiness. For my part, I hope that I have been able to offer our team prayerful support, spiritual insight, and the knowledge that their vocations are appreciated. There is a complementarity between married couples and celibate priests and Teams provides a wonderful opportunity for both the sharing and receiving of grace. Throughout my many appointments during my priesthood, this team has remained the one constant; for that I am very grateful.”

– Fr. Will Thompson, Rochester MN 27

Consider asking more priests to become a Spiritual Counselor for a team. Access new promotional materials inside the member portal or by requesting from materials@teamsofourlady.org



OUR TESTIMONIAL

Attending the 2025 Sector Couple Experience was an amazing opportunity from the moment we arrived in Fresno, CA. Every detail of our travel was seamlessly handled. The meetings were prayerful, well-organized, fun, and packed with useful information. We truly enjoyed meeting couples from all over the U.S. Through this experience, we made beautiful new friendships and found support from so many lovely people who will help us achieve our goals.

The Sector Couple Experience gave us great insights into how many people are involved in making this Movement a success. We left energized and excited to share everything we learned with our team and Sector!

Tom and Dana Hurak Palm Harbor FL 04, Pinellas FL Sector

The Intercessors



The practice of intercession is a monthly commitment of volunteer Teams couples. The Guide to the Teams of Our Lady, 2018 Edition, page 106, says: "The Church has always encouraged its members to practice prayers of intercession since we are affected by the sufferings experienced by others. It is in this spirit that in 1960 Father Caffarel called for volunteers to get involved in intercession, because he worried about the increasingly large difficulties faced...by Christian marriages. Thus a movement of 'vigil' within Teams of Our Lady was born."

In the Archives we currently have 27 of the approximately 200 issues of a short publication from the International Intercessors Animating Team, originally titled Letter to the Intercessors and most recently titled Intercessors Quarterly Letter. The practice of intercession is a monthly commitment to the proposed three options of prayer, fasting, and daily offering of one's life. We have extracted some nuggets from three of the letters.

Bob and Janie Mericks
Historian Couple

Letter to the Intercessors, Letter #2

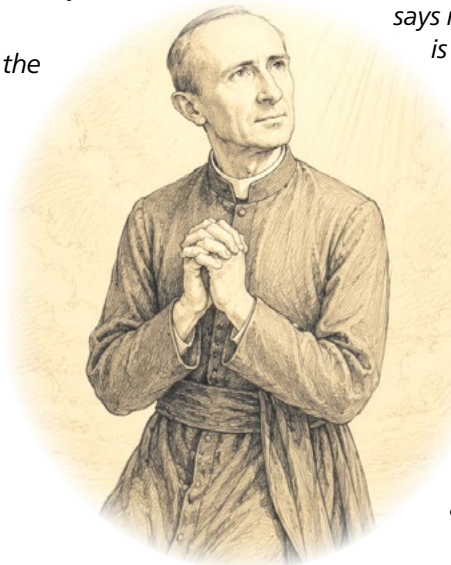
Prayer: You are Expected (undated)

(written by Father Henri Caffarel)

When we arrive at a port, or the station or the airport of an unknown place, we are unhappy if there is nobody there to meet us. Whereas, if we are welcomed by some joyful face, if we are warmly shaken by the hand, we immediately feel wonderfully at ease, and saved from the painful feeling of being lost. What matter then that people are dressed differently and talk a different language to what we are accustomed to. We do not mind at all being a stranger for the time being in everyone's eyes, for we know we are someone's friend.

It is also comforting to find that our hosts have been expecting us. The parents and the children do not need to say much for us to guess that they are glad to see us, a certain eagerness on their part to show it is enough. This is confirmed when we find flowers in our room and some artistic book to read, which shows that they have not forgotten our tastes.

I want you, my friend, always to have the strong conviction when engaged in mental prayer that you are expected; in this case by the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, the family of the Trinity. Your place awaits you, for you will remember that Christ said: "I go to prepare a place for you." You may object that in that case He was talking of heaven. That is true, but mental prayer is indeed heaven, for the essential reality of heaven is there; the presence of God, His love and His welcome to His child.



The Lord is always expecting us. What is even better is that hardly have we gone far, when He comes to meet us. You remember that in one of His parables it says: "And while he was a long way off, his father saw him and filled with compassion, ran and threw his arms round him and hugged him fondly." And this, although the son had grievously offended his father. All the same he was awaited impatiently.

Letter to the Intercessors

June 1980—On the Train to Bamako

(extracted from a letter written by a young seminarian named Alain)

On the 14th I took the train for Bamako. As the journey lasts 36 hours, I offered myself a sleeper. Imagine a little wooden joy ride train, infested with bugs and cockroaches. The person who is to share my compartment arrives. It is a lad of 14 years, brought by his parents, who is traveling for the first time alone. The mother gives me a lot of recommendations.

The boy is shy. Having said hello, he settles in a corner and says nothing. I settle down to read. I see that the boy is fidgety, anxious about something, wanting to speak. So I start the conversation. I learn that his name is Ibrahim. Then there is an exchange of commonplace ideas.

Finally he comes to his problem. He points to the cross I am wearing. I tell him that I am a Christian. In answer to his question, I tell him that Christians pray. "Then it will not annoy you if I pray? Because it is the time." He was uncomfortable about spreading his prayer carpet for the usual inclinations.

Afterwards we discussed Christianity and Islam and more particularly the Ramadan.... I asked

him what the month of fasting of the Ramadan meant to him. "It is to wipe out sins." I asked if he had so many sins that he must fast for a month to wipe them out. "I don't know if I have as many sins as that, but others have, and my fasting wipe out theirs as well." I took that smack in the face. Maybe he was reciting his catechism but he had fully assimilated it, and it obviously was not just words to him.

I had brought a cold meal with me, but I did not have the courage to eat it while he was fasting. So I did like him. Neither eating nor drinking from the sunrise to sunset. It is very difficult. But he seemed so happy. And a little day of fasting never hurt anyone.

Letter to the Intercessors

December 1984 – Offering

Among the Intercessors, we welcome those who "offer". They are those who, often for reasons of fatigue or sickness, cannot give a monthly hour to pray or fast. In reality, their offering is prayer and fasting; and those who "pray" and those who "fast" are invited to "offer". Father Caffarel explains to us, in a letter on prayer, this fundamental disposition of "offering":

Letter to John-Peter

...That prayer is reduced to a superficial activity that does not commit our deep being is, I agree, a permanent danger. And you are right to fear it.

I am not far from thinking that more than one prayer is just a gentle purring of the cat by the fireside, while for others it is a torrent of words that are empty of substance, meriting

the words of Christ, "It is not he who says Lord, Lord, who will enter the Kingdom of Heaven."

In reality, one can speak to God without committing oneself; one can have subtle meditations, and feel great spiritual emotions, and not be more committed.

What is the interior act which, during prayer, will make you commit your deep inner being, compromise yourself, which will seize your past and your future to give them to God, which will make you stake your life? A word, a verb, defines this act: offer oneself. Yes, prayer is before an offering of oneself to God.

You will say: why not speak rather of love? It is true, loving and offering are inseparable: offering is to love what the fruit is to the tree. The long patient secret labor of the tree during the unending winter prepares the savory fruit that the sun in June ripens on the branch. It is the same for the offering of oneself: this fruit of love, patiently grown during numerous prayers one day, of itself, during prayer falls into the hand of God, held out to welcome it.

Saint Paul has a marvelously meaningful phrase to invite us to this offering. I should like you to know it by heart, that you may repeat it slowly and with great attention at the beginning of your prayer: "So then, my brothers, because of God's great mercy to us, I make this appeal to you: Offer yourselves as a living sacrifice to God, dedicated to his service and pleasing to him. This is the true worship that you should offer." (Rom 12:1)



Become An Intercessor

Arnold and Annette Canales, *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



In Loving Memory

Mary Beth Retamoza
Ocala FL 02
July 26, 2025

Edward (Ted) A. Trott, Jr.
Falls Church VA 02
January 6, 2026

Rob McKee
Tomball TX 03
January 17, 2026

Trisha Brookins
Dubuque IA 10
April 15, 2026

We honor the lives of these fellow
Teams of Our Lady members
as we mourn their passing and
recognize their contributions to
the Movement, their communities,
their families, and their base team.

If you would like to share an
obituary announcement with us,
email us at
info@teamsfourlady.org
or mail to
Teams of Our Lady, #109,
12620 FM 1960 W STE A-4,
Houston, TX 77065

Richard "Dick" Bergeson
Dubuque IA 06
April 20, 2026

Deacon David McCaffrey
Falls Church VA 02
April 27, 2026

Patrick Liston
Son of Sean and Linda Liston
Palm Coast FL 01
June 24, 2026

Words for Times of Trial



The Death of a Teammate

A Path of Hope to be
Lived as a Team

*Have you lost a team member or a spouse?
What is next for you and your team?*

The USA-SR has received many requests from team members for resources for widows/widowers. The Super Region of France-Luxembourg-Switzerland has written a beautiful three meeting study topic entitled "**La mort d'un équipier... Un chemin d'espérance a vivre en équipe**" translated in English to "**The Death of a Teammate... a Path of Hope to be Lived as a Team.**" The USA-SR is in the process of having this study topic formally translated to English, Spanish, and Portuguese from French and then made available electronically for all Teams members in the USA and Trinidad and Tobago. More information will be forthcoming.

Holy Family Icon

The Holy Family Icon was written for Equipes Notre Dame (Teams of Our Lady) by Sr Marie-Paul Farran of the Benedictine Monastery of the Garden of Olives in Jerusalem in 1984. Sr Marie-Paul was the Iconographer for over fifty years. She died in May 2019 at the age of 89.

The Holy Family Icon is a picture of Communion, of the tenderness of God, and of Life. It is, therefore, an icon reflecting the Trinity. It is a picture of the Church, of her espousal to Christ and her fruitfulness which springs forth through the mystery of the union of man and woman and the fecundity of their love. (Genesis 1:27)

It is an icon of a married couple, wherein each spouse finds his/her own personal identity through each other's diverse gifts and through their union as a couple. It is an icon of each individual being, yet simultaneously one in three.

In addition, many other mysteries of the icon are waiting to be revealed to those who take the time to look for them. Some of these mysteries are explicit, such as, the attitudes of Mary and Joseph - their great tenderness and confidence, the Child whom they support together, He who is both Word of God and Source of their love.



The hands of the Holy Family, joined together, evoke the covenant that exists between Christ and the couple in marriage.

We can go even further and enter into the heart of this mystery of the couple, this "icon" of God par excellence, to discover that through the diversity of gifts and of character, each being is at one and the same time man, woman, and child, son or daughter of God, the total "fruit" ascending towards the Light.

The woman symbolizes the heart, the interior of one's being, and hence her royal robes of purple and red. One's total being is in profound harmony when a pure and holy heart reigns over interior chaos and brings forth unity: "You are a kingdom of people..."

The man symbolizes a priestly character, one's exterior being. It is he who offers, who protects, who works, who sacrifices and hence his robe of brown (an earthly color and symbol of asceticism) and of dark blue (a symbol of faith announcing a dawn).

From the images of each of these two beings, expressed as a couple united in love, is born a Child robed in light (cloak of striped orange and gold) and plenitude (white tunic), the fruit of a lifetime. But the Child is also at the origin of this Life, Servant of this work of God modeled patiently in each one of us. The Servant bears the yoke of His shoulder (Isaiah 42) designated by the shoulder strap or the deacon's stole.

Consequently, as with every icon, this picture of the Holy Family, this "Word in Image," is an undying source of reflection. It tells of God, of His mystery revealed through creation and revelation. "This mystery is great," says St. Paul. It is revealed through a multitude of signs to those who know how to seek, welcome, and open themselves in silence.

Do You Know?

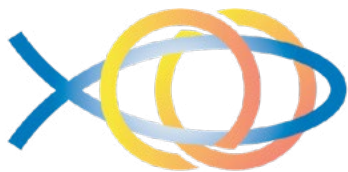
The Holy Family Icon is presented to each couple installed into a leadership position in Teams of Our Lady (Sector RC, Region RC, Province RC, and Super Region RC). These couples are encouraged to hang the icon in their home during their term as a blessing and a reminder of their service to God and His people. The Icon is then passed on to the next Responsible Couple.



Teams of Our Lady

#109
12620 FM 1960 W Ste. A-4
Houston, TX 77065

Non Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Houston, TX
Permit #542



Teams of Our Lady

- Classic must-haves
- New merchandise
- English, Spanish, Portuguese options
- Open 24/7
- Begins production immediately



SCAN ME

TEAMS *Store*



Polos



Short Sleeve Shirts



Long Sleeve Shirts



Outerwear



Hats



Accessories