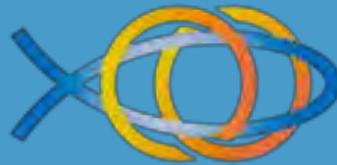




Noélia & Jorge Sousa
Super Regional Couple



Teams of Our Lady
Equipas de Nossa Senhora
Equipos de Nuestra Señora

MAGNIFICAT - Spring 2020

A Newsletter for *Teams of Our Lady* Members

Dear Team family,

We, Noélia and Jorge Sousa, are ending our 5-year term as the US Super Region (SR) Responsible Couple, and this summer, Ellen and TJ Holt will be installed as the new SR Responsible Couple. Fr. Brian Eilers will be installed as the SR Spiritual Counselor.

We have been honored to serve you and the Teams Movement at the national level and we certainly have not done justice to all the Movement needs but not for lack of love and commitment. The Lord definitely does not call the qualified but qualifies those he calls. We want to thank all of you who have prayed for us during our term and, at all levels, collaborated with us. Much gratitude for Inez and Joe Varao, the previous SR Responsible Couple, who helped us and did so much on our first year.

As we started our mission we had specific concerns we wanted to address and to set in place interventions, to make the Teams of Our Lady in the US grow, not only in numbers and in recognition but we primarily wanted to focus on strengthening the Movement within. This meant working in different areas, all of which are interrelated and dependent on one another. These areas are underlined below.

Fidelity to the Movement: The primary goal was to focus on fidelity to the founding charism and to align the structures and processes in the US SR to the International Movement. The most important level of the Teams' structure is the Sector where so much work is done and where the formation and training of new leadership takes place. No Sector Couple should work alone. The goal was and is that all Sector Couples be supported by a Sector Team that shares in the planning, organizing and carrying out all the activities and processes that make a Sector interconnected, vibrant and supportive of each couple's spiritual growth. This also included the re-introduction and implementation of the Liaison Couples who keep in contact and visit one or more teams and provide support and connection to all the teams in the Sector. The Sector Couple also needs the help and support of the Regional Couple. Sector Couples were already meeting at least one time a year with the local Regional Couple as part of the Regional Team but now are meeting once a year with the Provincial Couple and all the Regional Couples and all Sector Couples within the Province. This structure is necessary at all levels, has always been in place at the International level, and is now in place at the National level. We asked all the Provincial and Regional Couples to be "the face of Teams" in all the Teams events and activities in their area.

To lay a solid foundation for new teams and help each couple learn and assimilate the Teams pedagogy and processes, we felt very strongly that the Piloting period should be at least 12 continuous months. The two Piloting books were reworked and updated into one book, primarily by TJ and Ellen Holt, reviewed, and approved by the SR Team, and is now in use. Accompaniment is so important, as is often referred to by the ERI, (International Leading Team), and Pope Francis. The ERI has recently put into place a gathering of all new teams in a Sector or Region, once they complete the piloting period. Called New Teams Welcome Celebration, this gathering has already been implemented in the South and North Provinces and, in the future, will include the whole SR.

Fidelity to the Movement also includes every team studying and following the Study Topic put out by the International Movement. This way, all teams are united in the teaching and message that the International leadership wants for all Teams' members and, ultimately, the Topic also connects everyone to the preceding and/or the next International Gathering. We repeatedly asked US teams to submit, in obedience, to studying the ERI Study Topic made available each year. This year's Study Topic was *The Holy Couple, Joy of the Church. Witness to the World*; this coming year's Study Topic is *Marriage, A Sacrament of Mission*.

One can hardly be faithful to the Movement if one does not know the teaching and thought of the founder, in this case, Fr. Henri Caffarel, and if one does not study the documents of the Movement. That is akin, as St. Jerome says, that ignorance of Scripture is ignorance of Christ, or a current Franciscan friar, not knowing St. Francis, or not studying the Franciscan Order's documents and teachings. We have updated US SR documents and have printed and mailed out thousands of copies of both US and ERI documents. Many of those have also been made available for reading and download in the new, updated website <teamsfourlady.org>. We wanted to make sure all members had access to Fr. Caffarel's writings, and, three of his books, as well as many of his articles and editorials, which are available on the website. Not to mention many articles and presentations *about* him. There are still many more that need to be translated and made available. The new website has much information for Teams members and allows members to update their roster information. It is not only the new website that provides members so much information, but also a Facebook page was created, <<https://www.facebook.com/teamsfourladyUSA>>, to keep members informed and connected.

Due to costs, the SR Newsletter, Magnificat, was only made available online and by email. To keep all informed and connected, we also wanted regular mailing of the Newsletter, and that is being accomplished about three times per year.

We felt that it was important that all members come together regularly and celebrate the Movement, the gifts received and to connect with each other at a National Conference. The National Conferences were suspended for a period of time due to the high cost. It was placed back on track and the SR Team decided it should be held every three years: 2016 it was in Charlotte, NC; 2019 in Navasota, TX; and it is scheduled for July of 2022 in Turlock, CA. The US SR had a record participation (209 members) in the Teams 2018 International Gathering in Fatima, Portugal.

All the above implementations, and others not mentioned, require that Teams Super Region be financially healthy. Contributions were low and the member participation was at about 17%. There were years that the Super Region was not able to send the full tithe to the International Teams much to the embarrassment of us all. Teams members seem to be much more aware of their Teams Responsibilities and 30% of Teams members are now contributing and some Regions have over 50% member participation. Our tithe to the ERI is up to date and paid in full.

Participation in the wider Church events was also a priority, and Teams participated in the EWTN show *Church Universal*, and in the *USCCB Convocation of Catholic Leaders*. Support was also given to, among others, Friends of Fr. Caffarel Association, (<https://henri-caffarel.org/en/>), which is an international association, whose goal is to make Father Caffarel known around the world, and to promote his Cause for Canonization, (opened on April 25, 2006). We have promoted the Young Adult Teams of Our Lady Movement, (YATOL: yatolus.us), which grew out of the Teams Movement but is separate.

We are indebted to so many for the US Region work during these last five years, including our SR Team: Fr. Manuel Sousa, SR Spiritual Counselor; Colette and Robin Quinn, Secretariat Couple; Ellen and TJ Holt, South Provincial Couple; Janie and Bob Mericksko, East Provincial Couple; Glynis and Steve Sturm, North Provincial Couple and Treasurer Couple; Sharla and Rob Walsh, West Provincial Couple and Friends of Fr. Caffarel Association contact; Ed and Gilda Cadieux, new website; Davin and Angela Bernstein, Facebook page; Monique and Paul Harris, Magnificat Newsletter, the National College, and so many more Teams members who worked so hard. To all we say THANK YOU for it was all for the benefit of Teams of Our Lady...and there is so much more to do. We know that Ellen and TJ Holt and Fr. Brian Eilers will provide great leadership, and they will always be in our prayers.

With love and gratitude,

Noélia and Jorge Sousa,

USA Super Region Responsible Couple



What is YATOL?

Young Adult Teams of Our Lady (YATOL) is an international young adult Movement of spiritual formation by, with, and for young adults, that offers its members avenues for Christian and personal growth. In the US, YATOL invites single young adults who are 18-30 years old. The YATOL teams are accompanied by a Teams' couple who hosts the meetings, provides support, and participates as team members. If you feel called to start YATOL teams in your area, check out their website at www.yatolus.us or email yatolus@gmail.com. If you want to speak with a Teams couple who is currently involved as a host couple for YATOL, feel free to contact Jorge and Noélia Sousa at jornoe82@gmail.com, call (209) 648-3801 or (209) 614-4566.

A History of Teams of Our Lady in the US

Many of the couples who began the movement of Teams of Our Lady in the US are now gone... Fortunately there are a few members who can recall those first moments in the 60's and beyond. Bob Walsh, 80 years old, and his wife Sara, 76 years old, were initially on different teams. They each lost their first spouses, met each other and eventually married again. Sara shared with us photos, (posted on page 6), and a poem, "*Oh, What a Lucky Find*", written by Maureen Kenny, now a widow, about their Team experience throughout the years, which is posted on the [Teams' website](#).

Histories of Falls Church 1, VA & Falls Church 2, Detroit 1, Richmond 1, TX, (formerly Petoskey, MI-1), and Florida are provided in this newsletter... you should find these articles fascinating to read. As the couples from the first beginnings in California are no longer available, Jorge Sousa gave an update on the West Province. Perhaps, you'll read more of our history of Teams in future issues of the Magnificat. While Teams started in California, it is truly on the East Coast where the growth of the movement really blossomed in those early years.

with love & blessings, Paul & Monique Harris
Magnificat Newsletter Responsible Couple



Fr Manuel Sousa
SR Spiritual Counselor

Dear Teams of Our Lady Members USA,

I am writing to you on the Vigil of Pentecost. The Easter Season is ending in the midst of a worldwide pandemic. Thousand of teams throughout the world have not met for months. Some are now venturing forth. Many churches in California are preparing to slowly open on Corpus Christi. Even though it may not prove to be fully true, many people feel that the worst is now over. They observed Memorial Day and now are hoping for a real summer. If not a hair of our heads falls without the loving gaze of our Heavenly Father, what are we to think of the strange times we have been experiencing? A proud postmodern world is brought to its knees by a tiny virus so infinitesimal that it is hardly detectable in the microscope. What is God saying to believers and unbelievers alike? How therefore shall we believe and live?

In Teams in the United States, we are preparing for the transfer of leadership after five years. This month of July seems filled with expectation and hope and promises new enthusiasm and new beginnings. I wish to congratulate T.J. and Ellen Holt and their new spiritual counselor Fr. Brian Eilers for the courage of a fruitful YES to Jesus and Mary and to the approximately 830 teams in our country. The Super Region's virtual meetings of July 10 and 11 will be a New Pentecost moving forward. Let us all pray for new gifts, fruits and graces.

I am grateful to Jorge and Noelia Sousa for inviting me to be the Super Regional Spiritual Counselor. I knew I was going to be in over my head with all my limitations and the stresses of different ministries. But, they told me, if I would not accept their invitation, they would not accept the challenge of Teams leadership. In the end, it was all grace.

In my experience, this Super Regional Team has been a powerful team of committed Catholics in love with Jesus, His Church and the Movement of Teams of Our Lady. I witnessed so much work done in an attitude of respect, unity and healthy fellowship. I saw a serious commitment on the part of the Province Couples and their supporting couples to fidelity to the Movement and I am convinced that this will continue to grow and produce abundantly. In the end, we were just tools in God's hand along with so many couples throughout this nation who desire to spread the good news of Christian married love and share it with many couples who are looking for a richer married spirituality.

On my part, I keep many rich memories of the International College of Rome in 2016, with so many wonderful leaders, couples and priests, from throughout the world, and the audience with Pope Francis. I treasure the International College Meeting in Florianópolis, Brazil. The International Gathering in Fatima, Portugal, in 2018, will be with me for years to come. I remember fondly the visits of the Super Region couples to Turlock and to our parish, the National Gathering in North Carolina, and more recently, in Novasota, Texas. It was inspiring to see couples meeting from morning to evening, over a number of days, to carry out the business of the Movement, seeking to take full advantage of each Super Region encounter.

I can only image what God has in store for the next five years and beyond. May God bless the Movement of Teams of Our Lady, and bring about soon the beatification of Fr. Caffarel.

Fr. Manuel Fontes Sousa,
US Super Regional Spiritual Counselor

EAST PROVINCE

Once upon a time, many years ago, we had a Teams Orientation entitled *Take Nothing For the Journey*, based on LK 9:3. This was good preparation for becoming members of the USA Super Regional Team. We learned, that in traveling to our meetings, we should carry little on the airplane, have a medium-sized suitcase containing within very few clothes, and carry two empty, collapsible carry-on pieces of luggage. This is so we could bring back all the paper “stuff” from our meetings. What a hoot! It has been a wonderful experience working with such talented and dedicated people!



Janie & Bob Mericksko
East Provincial Couple

Beginning in Rome in 2015, we attended an ERI training session that included a private audience with the Pope. It was there that we experienced the breadth of the Movement, with couples from all over the world, gathered to listen and learn, pray, and meet in small Team groups each evening to process. The most moving experience, for us, was a presentation by the leadership from Syria. We worked from early in the morning well into the evening. They feed us well and, of course, there was sufficient wine! On the last evening, each country provided a quick 3-minute entertainment. Oh how beautiful to see colorful costumes and hear lively songs. We dressed as rappers and *rapped* about Teams.



The February 2018 SR meeting was held in Garrison, New York, where it snowed just for our California guests. Father Manuel Sousa, the USA Spiritual Counselor for five years, has been a real blessing to Teams. He has made himself available at each of our meetings providing daily Mass, Adoration and, through his reading of Father Caffarel's books and writings, kept our founder's message to couples alive. Fr. Manuel's faithful companionship has helped us remember the need to seek the Lord's assistance in serving.



July 2018, was our first experience attending an International Gathering in Fatima. What an *intimate* spiritual experience, even with 9,000 other Teams participants! Night-time procession with candles, beautiful liturgies, inspiring talks, and spirited small group meetings filled our days, which passed too quickly. Equipped with an umbrella



for the sun, two stools, and Portuguese bread, the couples spread out in the plaza for their Sit Downs. Always faithful to praying the Magnificat each evening, this Gathering gave us a real richness of the prayer, knowing that throughout the world, the International Movement of couples joins us in prayer every day.

The last memory that we want to share is our visit last year to New Jersey to meet the Portuguese-speaking Brazilian Teams. It was so uplifting! Seeing so many young married couples filled with the desire to enrich their marriages through Teams, brings great hope to the renewal of the Metro Region.



History of Teams of Our Lady in Virginia

FALLS CHURCH #2, Virginia 1966-2020

submitted by Jeanne Trott

In 1966, inspired by the Spirit of Vatican II, our pastor at St. James initiated a parish council. Among the men invited to serve on the council were Ted Trott, Harry Burke, Tom Field, Joe Gallagher, and Grover Stock. All had young families and were very eager to assist the pastor. After a honeymoon period, the pastor was not happy with the advice on certain issues, and the council was dissolved.

Having grown to enjoy one another's company and still invigorated by the Universal Call to Holiness of Vatican II, we gathered several times as couples, looking for ways to improve our prayer life and our family life together. By that time, Grover and Nancy Stock, with others, had formed Falls Church I, and encouraged us to become a Team. At first, we weren't too enamored of the idea of Teams. Obligations? Reports? Structure? But after thought, discussion, and prayer, we decided to give Teams a go. A couple from an Alexandria Team piloted us.

The early days of our Team were very family oriented. One of the first works of mercy our newly forming Team did, was to help us bury our fourth child, Anthony Edward, in March 1966. I was still in the hospital when the Team gathered around Ted and the rest of the family at Mass at St. James to send this little boy to God.

From the beginning, our Christmas celebrations at our December meeting included the Teams children, who at this time were quite young. Also, we managed to have a gathering of families during the summer so that we all got to know one another quite well.

After only a year, one of the original couples, a Coast Guard family, was transferred. Very shortly, we recruited another couple from the parish and others followed.

Our first chaplain, Dominican Father Dick Fleck, came via Tom Field. Father Fleck met with Father Caffarel in 1968. Father Ray Favret, brother of an early Alexandria Team member, joined us in 1970. Father John Geaney, CSP, came in 1971, and stayed with us for more than 30 years. Paulist Father Jim Donovan followed until 2005. Redemptorist Father Jim Dowds and his colleague Father Denis Sweeney were with us in 2006. After we muddled along without a chaplain for 5 or 6 years, Paulist Father Rich Colgan came in 2012, who died of Covid19 on May 25, 2020. We miss him deeply.

The early and middle years were characterized by monthly reports sent to Liaison Couples. These reports provide a lively account of our meetings—reports on Obligations, attendance at meetings, participation in prayer, study topics. They also reveal that current concerns about Sit-Down have a long history in this Team. One early LC responded with this lovely thought: "To many of us the sit-down is the most enjoyable and meaningful of the obligations. It should be something you look forward to—an evening out—a time just for each other." I'm not sure we paid adequate attention. From time to time throughout our recorded history, we dedicated a portion of the meeting to each Obligation—as the Endeavors were called then. With Father Geaney, we almost always celebrated Mass, incorporating meditation and intentions sometimes.



While we did use study material prepared by Teams, we often based our discussions on contemporary issues facing the Church and her members. Magazine articles and even movies provided material for discussion. Father Geaney was particularly involved in choosing topics and he frequently met with the discussion leaders to prepare the topic.

Involvement with the broader Team movement was robust during the 1960s and 1970s and probably the early 1980s. Our team led a National Training Day; we prepared a Penance Service and Advent Evening for our Sector. We regularly took part in annual training days for Responsible Couples and Liaison Couples. We piloted new teams and served as LCs and SCs, publishing a Sector newsletter. During this time, along with Falls Church I, the Alexandria and Arlington teams, we were part of a Sector that included local Maryland and DC Teams. It was a large and diverse community.



West Hempsted, NEW YORK 1966-2020

photos submitted by Sara Walsh

Bob & Sara Walsh met each other through Teams as a widow and widower... BUT, both were previously on separate teams with their first spouses.



Pat & Vic Kimm: In 1965, Vic and I returned from Morelia, Michoacan, Mexico where Vic worked with an NGO, Association of International Development, to set up credit unions. In Morelia, we and our children lived a very diverse and full prayer life within a team of laypeople, supported by two Benedictine priests. In our parish in Falls Church, VA, we missed the interaction with other lay Catholics. A friend who worked at the USCCB told us about a new lay group called Teams of Our Lady. We had become friends with three other couples from the parish, Magda and Vince Boylan, Nancy and Grover Stock, Julie and Tony Albrecht. We had all participated in the door-to-door campaign of the League of Women Voters campaign to promote "open housing" for African Americans. Together, we contacted Andy and Loretta Favret, attended a meeting with their team Alexandria 1 and became Falls Church 1. In due course we recruited two other St James couples, Rebecca and Bob Houlihan and Betty and Jim Cesnik. We owe our thanks to the person who asked a young priest Fr Conan (now Robert) McCreary, OFM Cap a resident at Capuchin College in DC to become our chaplain. When transferred to Pittsburgh, Father Bob was responsible for the creation of 15 teams there.



Falls Church 1 in 2005

Margaret Zebrowski: My husband Ed and I joined the well-established Falls Church 1 in 1997, after we became friends with Magda and Vince Boylan at Holy Trinity Parish in Washington (Georgetown) D.C. Being part of this group helped us to grow as a couple in our understanding of our love of God and of His love for us. Being part of this group was one of the most meaningful parts of our lives since moving down here from NY in the early 90's. We were blessed not only to be part of this team in a spiritual way but to have and have had the Kimms, the Albrechts, the Boylans and Father Mike Hann as dear friends. For the past seven years, however, I have been a single member of our Teams group. Sadly, Ed died in 2012. Being able to remain as part of the Teams, even though a widow, has meant a great deal to me, not only for the emotional support so generously given, but for the opportunity to continue to learn from one another in a spiritual and life-affirming way.

Julie & Tony Albrecht: Teams has been a constant in our life together: We've been married for 65 years and members of Teams for 55 years -- including 5 years in a team in Belgium. Over all those years, Teams has blessed us with a "family" of dear friends. They gave us practical and spiritual support: At meetings they shared their faith or struggles with one of the "endeavors" and listened attentively to us. In addition, they provided babysitters so we could attend the meeting or complete an errand. Like "real" families, our team family has a history to remember: Labor Day picnics, campfires at retreats with all the Team kids, weekend retreats with our chaplains, and the deaths of our companions.

Looking at photos of the Teams friends who accompanied us to the end of their lives touched us deeply. The five of us who remain, are consoled by memories of Teams members, now in the communion of saints, who inspired us by their lives- Ed, Magda, Vince, Nancy, Grover, and Fr. Peter Holden, S.T..



This photo with our kids was taken in late '65, or spring '66, at a diocesan retreat center in Aquia, VA. A team of young adult men and women came from Madonna House in Cambermere, Canada, to provide music for Mass and campfire singalongs. We sang "Michael Row the Boat Ashore". Best of all, they presented a program for our children, appropriate to their ages.

We ask your prayers for Fr. Michael Hann, CICM, (a Belgian order), our chaplain since 2007. He suffered a traumatic brain injury from a fall, last summer. Fr. Mike retired from missionary work in Haiti, also served as a Spiritual Reflector in the Ignatian Volunteer Corps, regularly participated in Cursillo events, said Mass and heard confessions at a Benedictine school on a regular basis, presided at funerals at Arlington Cemetery, and was often on call to visit people in jail or the hospital. May God bless him!

NORTH PROVINCE



Glynis & Steve Sturm
North Provincial Couple

Friends, it is with a grateful heart and a spirit of thanksgiving for all of you that we write this last article as the North Province Couple. Our travels to all the regions has been met with wonderful hospitality in the Spirit of Teams and friendships. Little did we know joining Teams in 1977, what adventures were in store for us? We trusted that the spirit was calling us to leadership roles and would guide us in the right paths. The truth is we have received more than we have given just as the

goodness of the Lord constantly reveals.

Please do not be discouraged in this time of COVID 19 or the unrest, because we believe that God works in and through all things. Our team has met on Zoom and recently social distancing in a Team member's large garage.



The summer Super Regional Meeting and College, along with the Sector Couple Training, needed to be canceled here in Minnesota. We were truly looking forward to hosting everyone in the North Central area of our Region.

Although we may have been social distancing, we continued to be connected in daily prayer of the Magnificat, and asking Mary, Queen of Teams to Pray for all of you. The Word on Fire website, with Bishop Barron, has been a source of daily Mass, comfort, and is an inspiration for us, as well as our local parish and diocese. Bishop Barron recently reminded us that Jesus prayed that we may all be one, and that is our prayer, just as the Lord speaks peace to all of us from the heart of God, we also wish you peace and love.

Steve and Glynis Sturm

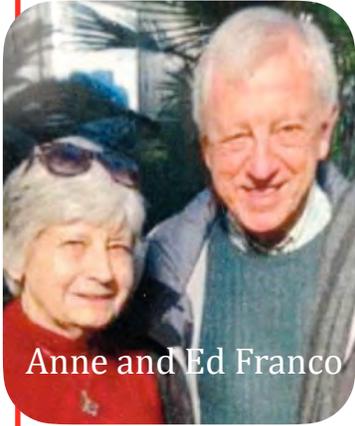
NORTH PROVINCE COUPLE



Mrs. Jones got a little too used to watching online worship from home.

Thoughts on our Experiences as Leaders in Various Capacities in Teams of Our Lady:

In 1966 we, Ed and Anne Franco, along with four other couples, embarked on a lifelong faith journey together in Teams of Our Lady. Detroit 1 ---- If we wanted the Movement to flourish, it was up to us! We all hosted Information Meetings, piloted new teams, became Liaison Couples, and some became Sector Couples. All of us learned the importance of leadership!



Anne and Ed Franco

Three years later while living in Spain, Ed and I were invited to be part of Madrid 1, an experience that paved the way for future international roles in Teams for us. We were both foreign language teachers --Ed in Spanish, (he is also fluent in Italian), and Anne, in French. Detroit has a large Mexican population. When there was a call to help Spanish-speaking couples in search for married spirituality, we responded and in a few years were guiding the first three Spanish-speaking Teams of Our Lady. All the materials were procured in Spanish; meetings were conducted totally in Spanish.

We loved the way these young couples overcame hesitation, kept trying, and gradually embraced the concepts, the practices, and prayer life of Teams of Our Lady. God was already a strong force in their marriages. It was challenging for us at times, but we loved watching them grow. They came to sector meetings. Many were struggling with English, but a warm welcome always brought them back to sector events. Currently there are four Spanish-speaking teams.

A few years ago we agreed to “shepherd” a team in London, Ontario, formed by a Teams couple recently emigrated from Bogota, Colombia. A wonderful experience for us! Another Spanish-speaking team, whom we visited from time to time, came to our home sometimes, and gladly accepted an invitation to Detroit’s Sector Day.

For many years, we were unable to attend International Gatherings. Our first opportunity was in 1994, (Fatima), then in 2000, (Santiago de Compostela), and Lourdes, (2006). By choice, we became part of Spanish and/or French mini-teams. We loved singing in “our” languages, and befriending couples from other countries,. While traveling to Fatima by local bus, a group of Syrians got on, speaking French -- our opportunity to welcome them to the international gathering. They were very gracious, and included us in some of their activities! A blessing!

In 2003, we were installed as Midwest Regional Couple: in charge of about 18 to 23 teams. Every year we visited the Sectors in Michigan, Ohio and Indiana, as well as individual teams in Kentucky and Illinois. We attended team meetings, installed Sector Couples, and celebrated Mass with them. Each summer we hosted the Sector Couples in our home and discussed many common concerns. As Ed and I shared our many experiences, enthusiasm, and dedication to the Movement, we offered support, encouragement, and friendship to the teams in our care.

As Regional Couple, we attended Super Regional Meetings twice a year, most often in Texas, under the leadership of Eileen and Ted Kosnik, but also in Minnesota, California, and Massachusetts, following National Gatherings. These brought us in touch with new ideas, new friends, new responsibilities — all willingly embraced, with greater appreciation for this incredible Movement that Father Caffarel had envisioned so many years ago.

Following the International Gathering in Lourdes in 2006, small international satellite teams were formed for varied purposes. We were invited to join a team of four couples, under the leadership of an ERI couple, Tó & Zé Moura Soares from Portugal, to develop new study material, one each year, for four years. Our team included two Brazilian couples, one from Colombia, and us, the Americans. We were directed by Tó & Zé and inspired by Father Ricardo Londoño, who helped us to learn to love and respect each other and to truly work as a team. Spanish, English and French, were the primary languages of communication. Over the next several years we



Our international satellite team above, hosted by us in New Bedford, MA in 2009. ERI couple Tó & Zé are 2nd from left, then Father Ricardo. Upper right photo: a lighter moment at the end of a long working day in Rio, showing Ed with Tó & Zé Moura Soares, and Fr. Ricardo Londoño.

met annually in various home countries to organize, assign, and map out the plan for developing each year a new complete Study Topic for all teams. Challenges were great, different countries had different priorities, (emphases), but through communication, writing, and re-writing, we would finally achieve our goal, with the material submitted to the ERI in Spanish, English and Portuguese. Italian and French translators completed our work.

Unfortunately, Ed and I were unable to attend the International Gathering in 2012 in Brasilia to reunite joyfully with our team when our hard work would have been recognized.

As we reflect on our 54 years of life with our beloved Detroit I team, (now beginning Zoom meetings with them, since we have moved to Minneapolis to be near family), we can only say "Thank you" to all those who over the years gave us the opportunity to serve in so many capacities. Who we are today is so strongly due to the Teams of Our Lady way of life that we embraced, the hundreds of friends from all over the world we have made, the faith and practices inspired by Father Caffarel, and the support of all of you we call Teams Family.

Anne and Ed Franco Detroit 1 --retired

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Installation of Barb and Bob Doran as Sector Couple of Granville 1



Installation of Roz and John Needham as Sector Couple of Northern Ohio



TJ & Ellen Holt
South Provincial Couple

SOUTH PROVINCE

Over the last five years, it has been our pleasure to be of service to the Team members of the South Province. We have had such a wonderful time meeting and reconnecting with so many wonderful couples at countless events, trainings, summits and especially the

National Conference!

We would like to also thank the wonderful Regional Couples and Sector Couples that we have had the pleasure of working with over the last five years.

As we look ahead, we are humbled to have the opportunity to serve in a different capacity and have the occasion to meet more Team members across the United States.

The last few months have been challenging and difficult for all of us. We've heard many stories of how Team members met via electronic means to share prayer and give support to one another. Just as Teams have been able to do this on a local level, it is our sincere hope that the movement can be a source of hope and love to individual members, Teams, Sectors and the broader movement as a whole. Jesus, near the end of his earthly mission on the cross said "I Thirst." Saint Mother Teresa reminds us, Jesus thirsts for us to be with Him and for us to know how much He loves us. Saint Mother Teresa also reminds us that we need "to aid one another, share our special gifts, support, complete each other, and through this service, God's special Grace will help us to serve as one Family through Jesus." We realize that we together as a movement thirst. We thirst for Christ. We thirst for strong marital sacraments. We thirst for community and support and in the same way must aid one another, share our special gifts and complete each other.

So as we, as a Teams Family, move forward, we ask that you take up your cross and help by sharing your gifts, continue to support and complete each other – without hesitation to help in your sectors, regions or provinces. We must work together as one, to be of service to each other, to successfully continue our mission of supporting Christian marriages in our ever-changing, increasingly challenging society.

TJ and Ellen Holt

South-PC@teamssofarlady.org

History of Teams of Our Lady in Texas & the SW Region



Eileen & Ted Kosnik
2016 National Conference
Charlotte, NC

In 1989, Ted and Eileen Kosnik arrived in Sacred Heart Parish, Richmond, TX, when Ted was asked to join the faculty at Baylor College of Medicine. They had been in Petoskey, MI 1 in Northern Michigan and missed the Movement, but the real reason the first teams started was because their son Matthew challenged them to start them! During dinner one evening Matthew asked when we were going on retreat. Matthew was in high school, but he had no memory of a year passing without his parents leaving for an annual retreat. When we stated that we would not be going that year, because we did not have a team, the challenge was made – then start them!

The first two Texas teams began at the same time with Ted and Eileen piloting them both. More teams formed in Richmond, and then a call was received to have an information meeting in Kingwood TX. Eileen had given a pulpit talk in Monroe, LA during a Southern Region meeting held at St

Paschal's church, where Father Bob Lenhardt (former Petoskey 1 chaplain) was pastor. Jennifer and Kent Dold, a Teams couple from the parish were friends of Diane and Phil Applegate, and Jennifer convinced the Applegates that they should sponsor an Information meeting. The Kosniks were called to conduct the meeting and the Holy Spirit went to work! Carolyn Jacques had heard Diane Applegate inviting some mothers to attend the information meeting and asked if she and Don could also attend. Carolyn and Don thought that it was the same organization that they had belonged to on the East Coast years before, and it was! Two teams were formed and piloted by Ted and Eileen. Little did we know that it would be the shortest distance that we would travel to pilot for many years.

The first Sector Days were held in Richmond, but in truth we were not a Sector! That was to come later, when the Southern Regional Couple, Susan and Ed Klein (from Clearwater, FL) installed the Kosniks about 1997 as the first Texas Sector Couple, during a Southern Regional meeting, that was held at the Kosnik's home. It was at this time that the Prayer Couple was established, with the idea of uniting a very geographically challenged area! We could pray for each other as a community. In 2003, when Ted and Eileen became Responsible Couple for the US Super Region, the prayer couple concept was brought to the national level. Dana and Mike Cutbirth were the first prayer couple, followed by TJ and Ellen Holt in 2002. Ellen and TJ continued as National Prayer couple until they became Central Regional Couple.

It was also at this time that retreat tapes were made available for use by couples in the region. We had areas that did not always have a priest for Sunday Mass, so there were definitely not priests available there for retreats! The availability of recorded retreat material made the difference between having a retreat and not.

While team formation was going on in the Houston area, Jennifer and Kent Dold had moved from Monroe LA to Abilene, TX, and began forming teams there. By 1999, there would be six teams in Abilene! Meanwhile in San Antonio, Carol and John Lawlor were being coaxed into Teams by Carol's exchange host couple in Belgium. Carol had lived with the family during her teens as an exchange student, but at that time was not even Catholic. She converted later and it was during a visit to Belgium with her husband John, and sons, John and Joe, that she was told that she and John had to join Teams! Soon after Jackie and Ralph Tygielski, the US Super Region Responsible Couple, attended an ERI College Meeting in Belgium, and were told about a couple in San Antonio ... Tygielskis and Eileen Kosnik had lunch with Carol and John, while attending a Family Ministry Conference in San Antonio. After that meeting, the Kosniks got the call to visit the Lawlors and scope out the possibility of starting Teams in San Antonio. The first two teams were piloted from Richmond, TX, with Mike and Dana Cutbirth, and, Ted and Eileen, traveling to San Antonio monthly.

In July of 1999, the Southern Region was split into two regions, the Southeast Region and the Southwest Region. The Southwest Region was comprised of Colorado, Louisiana, New Mexico, Missouri, Oklahoma, and Texas. [The 1999 Southwest Region Report](#), listed two committed San Antonio teams with an Information meeting scheduled for September 11, 1999, when two more teams were formed. The Cutbirths and the Kosnik also piloted those teams.

In 1999, Ralph and Jackie Tygeilski installed the Kosniks as the Southwest Region Responsible Couple at Our Lady of the Cedar's Maronite Rite Church in Houston, the home of Houston 1 and Houston 2 TX. The entire region consisted of the Texas Sector and "at large" areas: Colorado, Louisiana, Missouri, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Texas. The Region had one Sector and several areas that would become Sectors in the fall, or spring of 2000. Many of our teams are isolated. Texas at this time is one Sector. Within the year this situation will change, but there will always be isolated teams because of the size of the state.

2001 also saw a first for the region. The ERI and the College met at the Retreat Center in Dickinson, TX, in July, with the Kingwood and Richmond teams providing transportation and housing for the attendees prior to and after the meeting. There was also a US Super Regional Meeting occurring at the same time and place. At this meeting, the Portuguese teams were welcomed as part of the US Super Region following the hard work of John and Maria Sousa, the Western Regional Couple. *The Guide* was adopted for use by Teams worldwide, and the Zone system was begun at the ERI level. A community Mass was celebrated at St Martha's Church with a reception following in the church hall as an end to a "tourist" day with the ERI, College and US Regional Couples all in attendance.

In 2003, the National Conference was held in San Antonio, TX, at St Mark's Church, hosted by San Antonio's 3 teams, and after which interest in Teams spiked. Father Kevin Ryan allowed the total use of the church property for the conference. For the first time, conference attendees were housed in a hotel, rather than at the college campus. The Drury Inn was to become the home of other Teams meetings as well.

During the 2003 Conference, Eileen and Ted Kosnik were installed as the US Super Region Responsible Couple, and, Carolyn and Don Jacques would become Regional Couple on February 14, 2004, of the newly formed South Central Region, composed of Texas, Louisiana, Arkansas, and Oklahoma. The other states were divided into other regions, or became "At Large".

Respectfully submitted,
Eileen and Ted Kosnik
Southwest Regional Couple

Ted & Eileen Kosnik were the energizing force for the rapid spread of Teams in the South, but also had many helpers who piloted new teams. For example, when Paul & Chris Sanchez moved to Dripping Springs, TX, after being in Teams for 8 years in Houston, they started Teams in their parish and they now have 7 teams.

History of Teams of Our Lady in Florida

Southeast Region 1982 - 2020
Palm Coast 1, FL Karl & Joanna Grunewald,
Jack & Mary Pulick

The genesis of Teams in a new location most often occurred after a team couple moved away to a new home in a different state. That was the case with Teams in Florida. Mary & Jack Pulick first joined Teams of Our Lady in 1970: North Babylon 1, NY, on Long Island. Back then, Teams was energized, "really hopping... you couldn't go anywhere without running into someone in Teams!", explained Joanna Grunewald, who found just what they wanted after several years involvement with Marriage Encounter.

So as these couples matured and retired, many moved down to Florida. The Grunewalds helped to form their Florida team in 1982; the Pulick's Palm Coast 1, FL in 2010. Priests also can make a difference fostering the growth of Teams, as they are reassigned to a new parish. That's exactly what Msgr. Haut did, asking for help to form new teams. After all, he witnessed first-hand the impact Teams has on marriages, as his sister and her husband are in Teams. For it is often said, without holy marriages, we have no priests...

WEST PROVINCE



Sharla & Rob Walsh
West Provincial Couple

As one of the first four Province Couples for the United States, we began our term, (September 2015 for five years), at the same time as Jorge and Noelia Sousa began their term as United States Super Regional Couple. We received training from Tó and Zé Moura Soares, (ERI Responsible Couple), in Turlock, and off we went! Jorge and Noelia had some goals and an agenda to accomplish, so their first theme of our meetings was, “Back To Our Roots”. They wanted to get back to a full year of Piloting and make sure we instituted Sector Teams and Liaison Couples in every Sector. This meant re-writing the Piloting Books, Pilot Couple Handbooks and redoing many of the documents in the Responsible, Sector, Regional Couple binders, handbooks, and Liaison Couple handbooks. They also had to put together a Province Couple Binder, which is huge. Another project was to proof-read and print the Endeavor Booklets, so that every couple would have a set to refer to. This required a great deal of work from Jorge and Noelia, as they were in charge of the materials. Our printing costs shot up and we decided to forge a newfound campaign to increase contributions; which we did quite successfully! This allowed us to afford the increased printing costs and send people to remote places to give Information Meetings, pilot and visit teams that had been left alone too long. Jorge wanted us to “be the face of Teams”, so no one ever felt alone on their journey toward holiness. As a result, we have done quite a bit of traveling as Province Couple, and have gotten to know so many wonderful couples. We have attended our National Conference in Texas, the International Gathering in Fatima, Portugal, the Colloquium on Fr. Henri Caffarel in Paris, many Sector and Regional Days, and more than one retreat per year. We have given talks on Fr. Caffarel, The Life Before Us, and participated in Sector Couple Trainings. We learned to put on a Summit Conference from TJ and Ellen Holt, which resulted in two new Sector Couples. Thank you for responding to the call of leadership in Teams! We were fortunate enough to be able to install them, as well as our new Regional Couples, Roger & Lynn Porzig for the NW Region, and Tony & Karyn Alamo for the West Region. We gave a talk on “Vocation and Mission”, one of the topics from the International Gathering in Fatima.

During our term, Teams initiated and built a wonderful new website, a huge undertaking. Ed Cadieux has been our webmaster and has done a fantastic job! This website is a great source of Teams of Our Lady information, and in partnership with Eweblife, allows designated leadership access to the entire National Roster. It has been a great ride and we feel honored, privileged, and blessed to have been able to serve with all of the Super Regional Team couples, especially under the leadership of our wonderful Super Regional Couple, Jorge & Noelia Sousa and our Spiritual Chaplain, Fr. Manuel Sousa. We wish TJ and Ellen Holt continued success, knowing they will do a fantastic job as the new US Super Regional Couple of the Teams of Our Lady.

Rob & Sharla Walsh West-PC@teamsfourlady.org

History of Teams of Our Lady in the West Province

West Province 1958 - 2020

Submitted by Jorge & Noélia Sousa,
and Paul & Monique Harris

The “seeds” of the Teams of Our Lady Movement in the United States were “planted” during the years 1958 - 1960 by French, Belgian, Brazilian, and Portuguese couples who had come to the US bringing the love of Teams with them.

François and Annie Vilarem had moved from Paris to Los Angeles, California, and formed the first team there. Alain and Rosemary Enthoven were members of that team. Rosemary recalled the “feeling of joy and spiritual adventure, of openness and simplicity that the Vilarems brought to the meetings.” The Vilarems solicited and received help from Genevieve and Constantin Sipsom of the International Leading Team (ERI) in Paris. Harold and Rachel Neel of Sevres, France became the Liaison Couple to these early teams.

These early teams in Los Angeles disconnected from the US Super Region. Jorge and Noelia Sousa contacted these teams in 2010, when they became the Western Regional Couple. They were down to two teams and were not interested in a liaison visit.

In 1981, the first Portuguese-speaking teams were formed in Turlock, California. At the invitation of Fr. Ivo Rocha and Fr. Jose Carlos Simplicio, Alberto & Maria Ramalheira and Fr. Victor Pinto came from Portugal to Turlock to form the first four teams. By 1987, the Portuguese Teams had spread to Hanford and Tulare, two hours drive for Turlock, CA. The Ramalheiras and Fr. Pinto also formed Portuguese teams in New Bedford, MA. In 1984 the first English-speaking team started in Turlock. And by 1991, there were four Portuguese Sectors in the US thus becoming a Region with Antonio & Mary Borba as Regional Couple. This new Region was then integrated into the US Super-Region in July 2001.

The Teams expanded to Southern California, specifically Whittier, east of Los Angeles in 2003-2004. Two teams were started and piloted by Tony and Mary Salvador and Dave and Patsy Freitas. The teams grew and the area became the Whittier Sector. The Teams also expanded to the San Jose, CA Bay Area about the same time.

In Arizona, the first team (Gilbert 1) started after Jenn and Jason Norman moved to Arizona from Texas. They had been part of a team in Texas for short time, but loved their experience and wanted to start a team in Arizona. They got the green light to start a Team in Arizona and in February 2010; Gilbert 1 started meeting with 5 couples. After about a year, 2 of those 5 couples moved out of state for job opportunities including the Normans. Gilbert 1 persisted adding couples along the way. By 2013 Gilbert 1 needed to add couples again and they were contacted by Dave and Deidre Wilson in Phoenix who were interested in learning more about Teams. At the beginning of 2014 Jorge and Noélia Sousa re-piloted Gilbert 1 with new couples and piloted Phoenix 1 and Phoenix 2. In 2017, the pastor from Our Lady of Fatima in downtown Phoenix contacted the Jen and Chris Bradley to hold an Informational Meeting at his parish. It was a couples event, well organized by the priest, and the Bradleys shared about Teams. Couples were excited and a couple from Phoenix 1 volunteered to pilot that new team (Phoenix 3), however this team did not make it much past the piloting and eventually dissolved. Phoenix 2 also dissolved around this time after struggling for years. In the summer of 2018, thanks largely to Phoenix 1, two brand new teams were formed, Phoenix 4 and 5. Couples from Phoenix 1 piloted them for the full year. Teams is in a very good and exciting place right now in the Phoenix area. A Sector Team has recently been formed led by Chris and Jen Bradley. We are planning to reschedule 3 informational meetings that were cancelled in March due to the pandemic. While none of the teams have a dedicated chaplain at this point, all the teams do have interest and frequent priest participation in our team meetings.

Also, just want to mention that the Normans (who started Gilbert 1) relocated to FL, where they formed a couple new teams. A few years later they relocated to St. Louis where they have also formed their current team. :)

In 1997, Rob & Sharla Walsh were invited to join Teams by Jaime & Cata Sanz de Santamaria from Bogata, Columbia. Jaime was finishing his MBA at the University of Portland, staying in the area for several years. They were also members of St Francis Parish in Sherwood and became good friends with Rob & Sharla, and asked if they would be interested in starting a team of Team of Our Lady, to which they said “YES”, the first of many. In 2003, the Walshes flew to San Antonio, TX for training as a Pre-Sector Couple, and to attend the National Conference. Two years later they became a Sector Couple. They fell in love with the Movement and the fire within them help to spread the Movement, growing to 12 teams within 10 years in the Portland area. In 2010, Rob & Sharla said “YES” to becoming the NW Regional Couple. Soon efforts were made to spread teams in Idaho and Washington. Informational talks were given in Tacoma, WA, resulting in one new team, and in Coeur d’Alene, ID, resulting in 3 new teams. Rob & Sharla Walsh were replaced as NW Regional Couple by Paul & Monique Harris, as Rob & Sharla stepped up in 2015, to be the West Provincial Couple. The Movement continued to spread as inquiries are made, both in Washington and Idaho.

Jake & Yesenia Ineck called three years ago, asking if they could have some help to start Teams in Boise, ID. Jake & Yesenia had been in a team in Arizona for a short period and loved the experience. They wanted to continue in Teams but had recently moved back to their home state of Idaho. As a result of much effort, there are now 5 teams in the Boise area and two piloting in Twin Falls. The greatest joy in Teams is witnessing the growth of love within each team and between the couples!



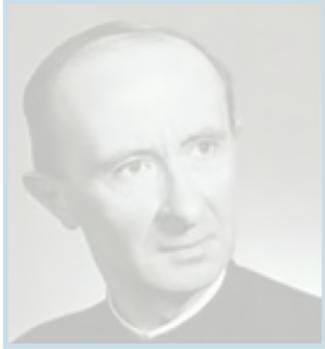
“Love Your Spouse as Jesus Loves You— Eternally; Never Discouraged”

Teams of Our Lady

www.teamsofourlady.org

<https://equipés-notre-dame.com/en/>

Henri Caffarel, Interview Radio Canada, 1980



Fr. Henri Caffarel

Founder of *Teams of Our Lady*

Born - July 30, 1903, Lyon, France

Ordained to the Priesthood
April 19, 1930, Paris, France

Died - September 18, 1996
Troussures, France

“And that is what changes someone’s life: the day they discover that God loves them. And I say to them, ‘You are loved for all of eternity because, with God, there is no such thing as the passage of time. You are loved personally and not with a kind of anonymous love, that cannot be love. You are loved just as you, with your goodness and evil, with your miseries and your virtues. And you are looked at with this gaze of love that the Evangelist talks of when he notes, Jesus looked at him and loved him.’ This is the great truth to be spoken about and proclaimed: it is what all men hunger and thirst for. They need to discover that they are loved, that they are loved with a love that can never be discouraged.”

God Our Father,

You planted deep in the heart of your servant, Henri Caffarel,
a fountain of love which bound him totally to your Son and inspired him with a wonderful capacity to
speak of Him.

A prophet for our time, he revealed the dignity and beauty of the vocation of every person in the words
Jesus addresses to each of us: “Come, follow me.”

He made couples enthusiastic about the greatness of the sacrament of marriage, the sign of Christ’s
fruitful love for the Church and of His union with her.

He showed that priests and couples are called to live a vocation of love.

He was a guide to widows: love is stronger than death.

Prompted by the Holy Spirit, he accompanied many Christians on the path of prayer.

Seized by a devouring fire, he was a dwelling place for you, Lord.

God, our Father, through the intercession of Our Lady, we ask you to hasten the day when the Church
will proclaim the holiness of his life, so that people everywhere will discover the joy of following your
Son in accordance with their particular vocations in the Holy Spirit.

God our Father, we invoke the intercession of Father Caffarel for _____. Amen