



Coastal Region Newsletter December 2019

Wishing All a Joyous New Year

Greetings to all the Coastal Region Teams of Our Lady families – on this Feast of the Holy Family. We, Carol and Dave McCaffrey, Coastal Regional Couple, send you best wishes on this special day.

Father Henri Caffarel devoted his life to helping us grow in holiness - to be holy people, holy spouses, holy families, and holy evangelists. If you haven't been praying for the cause for canonization for Father Caffarel, the prayer can be found on the Teams of Our Lady website www.teamsofourlady.org. A direct link for both the Magnificat and the prayer for the canonization of Servant of God Henri Caffarel is: www.teamsofourlady.org/prayer.

Many things have been happening since the last Regional Newsletter. This is our first effort.

We attended the **National Conference for Teams of Our Lady** held in July in Navasota, Texas. Navasota is between Houston and Dallas. This is where we were installed as Regional Couple. It was a very enjoyable, inspiring, and a little relaxing event with wonderful talks, workshops, and liturgies. Both Bishop Joseph Strickland of Tyler, TX (who has served as a Teams Spiritual Counsellor) and Cardinal Daniel DiNardo (President of the USCCB) were present. Cardinal DiNardo came almost directly from Rome to our conference. Both Bishop Strickland and Cardinal DiNardo are in our corner and ask for our help in strengthening commitment to our unique sacrament.

Our Provincial Responsible Couple, Janie and Bob Mericsko, arranged for the **first Eastern Province College Meeting** Saturday-Sunday, November 9-10, 2019. The meeting was held at St. Gabriel's Retreat Center in Clarks Summit, PA (near Scranton). Provinces are relatively new to Teams in the U.S., and Janie and Bob are the first to gather their Province Team (they, the Provincial Spiritual Counsellor, and the Regional Couples are the Team). Add in the Sector Couples and you have the College. There are five Regions in our Province (New England, Lake Erie, Metro (NY), Mid-Atlantic, and Coastal). The easiest way to describe the Province is all the states on the Atlantic Coast from Maine to South Carolina plus Vermont and Pennsylvania.

It was a delightful chance to meet with those we had already met plus make new friends. We refreshed and deepened our knowledge of Teams internationally, nationally, our Province, and our roles within our region and sectors. We were spiritually enriched with our Liturgies, Eucharistic Adoration, and shared prayer. Four new Sector Couples were installed. We learned of new developments in Teams and shared ideas for helping enrich the lives of the couples on the Teams we seek to serve.

Almost all of the Attendees at the Province College Meeting



Fr. John Dillon Assisted by Dcn Dave McCaffrey at Mass



What's New in the Coastal Region

Alexandria returns to the Coastal Region - After several years as part of Mid Atlantic Region, the Alexandria Sector has returned to the Coastal Region. We welcome them back!

New Sector Couples – We also welcomed and installed two new Sector Couples: Scott and MaryAnn Harrison for the Loudoun County, VA Sector and Richard and Cathy Schwarz for the Raleigh, NC Sector.

The new Sector Couples join our already-serving Sector Couples: Sarah and Jeremy Greiner for Alexandria, VA, Danielle & Tom Mathis for Charlotte, Mary Ann & Jim Kirchner for Charlotte South, Ed and Gilda Cadieux for Virginia South, and Alvaro & Olga Lucia Barbosa for Simpsonville, SC. **Merging of small sectors** – There have been changes to several sectors as a number of Teams have stopped meeting in the past ten years or so. The Mixing Bowl and Fair Lakes Sectors will be merged or placed in other sectors. The Dulles Corridor and Tysons Corner

Sectors have been merged into the North Fairfax County Sector. The Loudoun County Sector will include Front Royal until there are enough teams to be a stand-alone sector. Prince William County Sector will include Fredericksburg until there are enough teams to be a stand-alone sector.

Piloting has been revised and updated. It is now a twelve month process, accompanied by the Pilot Couple for the entire period. We have new teams in piloting and several trying to reach the required number of six couples so they can start piloting. Needless to say, if we are to be able to serve interested couples, we need generous couples willing to serve as pilot couples. Without these volunteers, we can't start new teams.

Alexandria Sector Event

On Saturday, October 19, the Alexandria Sector held a brunch in honor of Our Lady at the Parish Center of St. Rita Church. Families made rosaries, followed by a recitation of the Rosary, brunch, and a talk about Conjugal Prayer by Deacon McCaffrey. Deacon Dave McCaffrey and his wife Carol are the new Regional Couple that includes our Sector, so the brunch was an opportunity for couples to meet them and for them to meet us. Many of the couples who attended were on our waiting list and had an opportunity to meet potential future teammates. The weather was beautiful, and the small children enjoyed playing outside on the preschool playground.

World Marriage Sunday

Arlington Diocese is hosting a Mass and Reception Saturday, February 8 (the Vigil Mass for Sunday) at St. Thomas More Cathedral. Advance registration is required. Here is a link with further information <https://www.arlingtondiocese.org/wms20/>. We are planning to attend. Be on the lookout for similar events in your diocese.

Final Thoughts

Looking way into the future, the next National Conference for Teams of Our Lady in the US is scheduled for July 8 through 10th 2022 in Turloc, California.

Sectors are very much encouraged to have Sector Events at least annually. (Feel free to combine these efforts with nearby sectors.) Let us know of your activities and we will share your ideas with other sectors and make a serious effort to attend.

We have found the Teams of Our Lady publication **Vocation and Mission** very inspiring and well worth reading and reflection. A link to this document can be found at the Team's website: www.teamsofourlady.org →resources →teams documents →vocation and mission