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# TEAMS OF OUR LADY

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## EAST PROVINCE NEWSLETTER

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Dear East Province,

*“Couples do not consider joining the Teams of Our Lady and accepting the Charter as a goal achieved but rather as a starting point. Love is the law of the Christian couple. And love has no limit; love knows no rest.”*

This quote concludes the Charter of the Teams of Our Lady written so many years ago and presented on December 8, 1947. On this happy 74th anniversary date, the Intercessor Prayer Couples of the world are organizing a 24-hour prayer vigil. When you attend Mass, please unite your prayers with theirs, as we pray for the Movement world-wide.

Advent (the beginning of the Church Year) is a perfect time, to review how we uphold the Charter of the Teams of Our Lady. We recommit each year to life with our base team and to the Membership Responsibilities and Endeavors written in the Charter. We, of course, report on our Endeavors at each Team meeting, but how about the Team Responsibilities? Do we daily pray for the Movement and specifically for couples in leadership that they have the grace and energy to fulfill their service to the Movement? Do we contribute annually, so that Teams can continue in the United States and world-wide? If you have not yet contributed, please do so. Your contribution makes available study materials that are printed for piloting, team use, and training for our leadership, as well as bringing the Movement to other countries. The beginning and formative years of Teams in the US were funded by France.

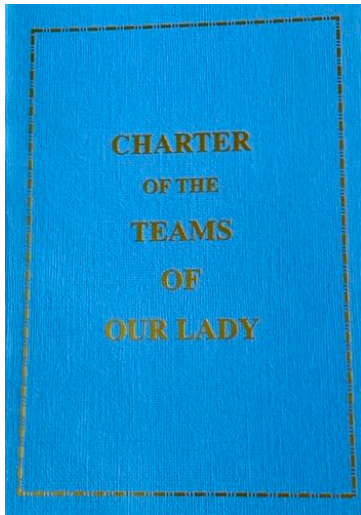
We wish you a prayerful and reflective Advent as we anticipate the joy of Christmas where the presence of Jesus is renewed in our hearts.

With gratitude and prayer,  
Bob and Janie



## Anniversary of the Charter of Teams of Our Lady

A crucial moment in Fr. Caffarel's life was the drafting and putting into effect in 1947, "The Charter of The Teams of Our Lady." It was a very significant move by the leadership of Teams to communicate the essence of the Movement. It was uncompromising. One third of the Teams members abandoned Teams. The means set out in the Charter are demanding. "The endeavors," particularly "the sit down" are characteristic of the daily life of couples. "Having grasped the spirit of the Teams, you will have no trouble in accepting their discipline," says Fr. Caffarel. A couple living according to the Gospel, such is "the way to holiness."



The Charter was officially submitted to Rome on December 8, 1947. Approval of the Teams Statutes was given in Paris on March 25, 1960, by His Eminence Maurice Cardinal Feltin, Archbishop of Paris.

In 1992, having carefully studied the draft statutes submitted for approval and received the agreement of His Holiness, John Paul II, the Pontifical Council for the Laity recognizes the Teams of Our Lady as an Association of the Faithful.

*(Taken directly from the Teams' website)*

## Reflections from an Intercessory Couple

The commitment of an Intercessory Couple is one hour of prayer once a month, at the same time and day each month, to pray for the success of the Teams of Our Lady Movement in the world. So that our prayer is focused, we rise 30 minutes before our scheduled time for one cup of coffee.

From the very start, we decided to pray *The Way of the Cross for Couples* by Pierre-Marie Dumont and published by Magnificat. Each station has a Scripture passage, a reflection on Jesus' life, a reflection of our life, a prayer said together, and a psalm that we alternate in reading. We have chosen each month to also include the book's Act of Reconciliation, Prayer of Renunciation, Renewal of Marriage Vows, and prayers for couples whose marriage is troubled. We conclude our prayer time with a kiss and go back to bed.

What an incredible gift this time has been for us as a couple to offer these Stations of the Cross for others! As we pray, we think of widows and widowers, couples who have suffered infertility, couples who are distant from each other, couples who have financial difficulties, couples who serve the Movement at great sacrifice, couples who grieve a loss, and any others who are



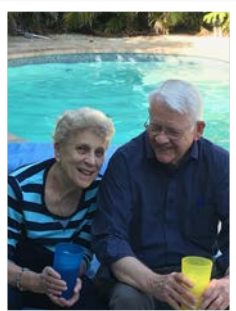
somehow united with this Cross of Christ. It has been transforming in our own lives as we articulate each month words that incriminate us for the times we have not lived our marriage vows as meant by God. We each confess this weakness and ask for our spouse’s forgiveness. Having received forgiveness from our spouse, we can feel the bond between us strengthen. The simple renewal of marriage vows feels like the bond between us is Jesus himself. What a wonderful experience of this holy Sacrament. (For more information about becoming an Intercessory Prayer Couple, contact Jack and Mary Pulick at [intercessors@teamsofourlady.org](mailto:intercessors@teamsofourlady.org).)

## Reflections from a Piloting Couple

by Don and Yolaine Watkins

**Rockville MD 04 Team/MD-West Sector/Mid-Atlantic Region**

Piloting a new team brings more reward than the effort required. In talking about the Teams Movement, we renewed our enthusiasm and strengthened our dedication to it. We realized again



the value of all the endeavors: couple prayer, family prayer, sit-down, sharing of joys and struggles, etc. We strengthened our faith and our desire to love each other as a couple, to serve God, and put His love in our marriage, in the family, and in the world. We met new couples, made new friends and shared with them the joys of a couple’s love united in prayer amidst the struggles of daily life. We were pro-active in making couples aware of a Movement which really and truly strengthens a marriage, helps with raising children in a Christian faith and introduces them to Family Prayer. Piloting was not always easy, but always

rewarding. Teams has been of great value to our own marriage, and Piloting offered us the opportunity to share that with other couples. We have the impression that we received more from couples than we gave them as they shared their spiritual life with us. We felt uplifted by sharing with couples their spiritual sense, their difficulties, struggles, their sorrows and joys. We Piloted at least 4 new teams that we remember. Our most recent, Kensington MD 08, is pictured here with us at an outdoor meeting in July, 2020.





## Installation of Sector Couple for Charlotte North Carolina

On Saturday, October 30, 2021, Dave and Carol McCaffrey, Coastal Regional Couple, installed Kevin and Lisa Gray as the new Sector Couple for the Charlotte NC Sector. The installation took place at St. Matthew Church in Charlotte. Kevin and Lisa are looking forward to establishing a Sector Team to work with them. They have already been at work establishing the site for the first Coastal College Meeting for SC/NC.

A special thank you to Tom and Danielle and Jim and Mary Anne, previous Sector Couples, for the many years of service to the Movement.

Shown in the photo (left to right) are Danielle Mathis, Kevin and Lisa, Father Binoy Davis, Dave and Carol, and Jim and Mary Anne Kirshner.

Congratulations Kevin and Lisa, thank you for saying yes to Teams!



## Upcoming New Teams Welcome Celebration

The New Teams Welcome Celebration for the East Province will be held on March 26, 2022, at Holy Family Seminary in Silver Spring, Maryland near Washington, DC. If you joined Teams in the last five years or never went through piloting, or just want to spend a day celebrating your marriage with your family (and ours!), we cordially invite you to attend this free all-day event. Your entire team is highly encouraged to attend together!

The first half of the day focuses on the joy of marriage and family life with a special Mass and reception lunch for your family. In the afternoon, couples will hear from speakers testifying to the role of Teams in their lives and participating in the worldwide movement. There will be time for your sit-down, and opportunities for prayer and community building. The event runs from 9am to 6:30pm; light breakfast, main meal lunch, and to-go dinner are included and childcare is provided. Holy Family Seminary, the event location, can arrange accommodations for participants who would like to arrive the evening before or stay the night of the event (space is limited). Registration is open now until March 1. All questions can be addressed to the NTWC coordinators Eva St. Clair and Ernest Tedeschi at [eva.stclair@gmail.com](mailto:eva.stclair@gmail.com).



## Upcoming Coastal Region College Meetings

The Coastal Region College Meetings are on January 29, 2022 at St. Matthew Church in Charlotte for the North Carolina and South Carolina Teams and on February 12, 2022 for the Virginia Teams (location pending). A Regional College Meeting consists of the Regional Couple, their Sector Couples and the RCs of each team. Because the Coastal Region is so large geographically, the College will have two sessions.

The Super Regional Team has recognized that we need to re-establish interactions between and among teams at the Sector and Regional levels. The Coastal College is an opportunity to gather for prayer, fellowship, and information/experience sharing. Participants will meet the leadership in the East Province and Coastal Regions. The day will begin with Mass and will unfold with informative team presentations from couples and clergy, interactions with couples from other teams, and prayer experiences will all be part of the day. The attendance of the RC (or a substitute couple from the team) is strongly encouraged. Details and registration is available through your Sector Couple or Dave and Carol McCaffrey, Coastal Region Responsible at [coastal-rc@teamsofourlady.org](mailto:coastal-rc@teamsofourlady.org).





## To Start the New Church Year...

### Contacts

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#### New England Region

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### Endeavors (Life in Christ)

1. Regular reading of Scripture
2. Daily period of meditation (individual prayer)
3. Daily conjugal (couple) and family prayer
4. Monthly Sit-Down with your spouse and Christ
5. Rule of Life: A private individual endeavor for improvement. This is reviewed regularly
6. An annual retreat.

### Membership Responsibilities (Life in Teams of Our Lady)

1. Pray the Magnificat prayer (Lk 1: 46-56) daily
2. Attend the monthly meetings
3. Prepare monthly study topic as a couple
4. Make an annual contribution for the growth and sustenance of Teams, equal to one day's wages
5. Annual Team evaluation and commitment
6. Read the Teams of Our Lady newsletter
7. Show hospitality to other Teams
8. Attend Sector, Regional, National and International events whenever possible
9. Teams couples in leadership positions should make every effort to attend an extra Mass each week.