



South Province

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

Upcoming Events

Sector Couple Training
November 15

TEAMS Information and Pilot Couple Training
Oct. 31 and Nov. 14



South Province

Mike and Beatrice Towns
South-PC@teamsofourlady.org

West TX/NM Region

Paul & Chris Sanchez
WestTxNm-RC@teamsofourlady.org

North TX/OK Region

Jim & Lillian Burke
NorthTxOk-RC@teamsofourlady.org

East TX Region

Mike & Caron Blake
EastTex-RC@teamsofourlady.org

Southeast Region

Larry & Mary Kay Kuchta
SouthEast-RC@teamsofourlady.org

Louisiana/Arkansas Region

Larry & Charla Macicek
Laar-rc@teamsofourlady.org



The Fifth Station of the Cross: Simon helps Jesus carry His cross.
(Wikimedia Commons/Pethrus)

My Yoke is Easy, and My Burden Light

By Mike and Beatrice Towns
South Province Couple

Greetings! We pray this finds each of you well and safe as we continue in this time of pandemic. May this time of social distancing also be a time of growing closer to our spouse, our family, our communities, and our Lord.

We are excited as we take on the reins as the South Province Couple. As this is our first South Province Newsletter, we thought we would share with you our Leadership "theme" over the next five years: To be yoked with Jesus and each other to serve Teams in meekness and humility.

"Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am meek and humble of heart; and you will find rest for yourselves. For my yoke is easy, and my burden light" (Matthew 11: 28-30).

The following words by Barbara Brown Taylor, a best-selling author and professor, provides a beautiful description of being yoked.

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“There are two basic kinds of yokes that can be used to bear burdens: single ones and shared ones. The single ones are very efficient. By placing a yoke across the shoulders and fitting buckets hung from poles on each side, human beings can carry almost as much as donkeys. They will tire easily and have to sit down to rest, and their shoulders will ache all the time — their backs may even give out — but still it is possible to move great loads from one place to another using a single creature under a single yoke.”

— “The Open Yoke,” by Barbara Brown Taylor in *The Seeds of Heaven*

A shared yoke works quite differently. It requires twice as many creatures for one thing, but if they

are a well-matched pair they can work all day because under a shared yoke one can rest a little while the other pulls. They

can take turns bearing the brunt of the load; they can cover for each other without ever laying their burden down because their yoke is a shared one. They have company all day long, and when the day is done both may be tired but neither is exhausted, because they are a team.



A shared yoke

Plenty of us labor under the illusion that our yokes are single ones, that we have got to go it alone, that the only way to please God is to load ourselves down with heavy requirements — good deeds, pure thoughts, blameless lives, perfect obedience — all those rules we make and break and make and break, while all the time Jesus is standing right there in front of us, half of a shared yoke across his own shoulders, the other half wide open and waiting for us, a yoke that requires no more than that we step into it and become part of a team.

We are extremely thankful to have passionate and talented couples joined to the yoke with us as part of the South Province Team.



We will strive to respond quickly, serve joyfully and support prayerfully.

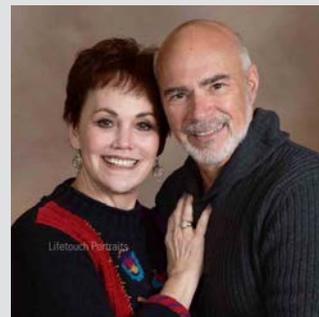
*In Your Humble Service,
Mike and Beatrice Towns
South Province Couple*

Holding fast to God and Teams during the pandemic

What a crazy seven months it has been! February dawned with so much promise and anticipation. The West Texas New Mexico region was (and still is) ripe for growth. With teams in Austin (5), Dripping Springs (6), Fredericksburg (6), Los Alamos, New Mexico (3), San Antonio (32), Abilene (1), Hutto (6), and Waco (2), and with keen interest expressed in other cities, we could not be anything other than delighted about the region.

And then March hit! It seemed that West Texas New Mexico Teams were mirroring the world when it also careened to an abrupt stop. The questions began. What do we do? What is safe? How do we proceed? We needed the support of our teams, but how, when, and where did we meet? What was safe? Today the questions persist and evolve with the changes in knowledge about COVID. For a time, WTNM teams met solely by ZOOM or other social media. Teams shared wonderfully creative ways to enhance their socially-distanced meetings such as the Erpenbeck's of Los Alamos, N.M., who delivered dessert to each couple so that they could share at least a portion of a meal with their Team members as they met by ZOOM. With time the virus has become more controlled in areas, and some teams have begun meeting in person. Other teams that have members with more compromised immune systems and health are proceeding more carefully by meeting in a “hybrid” way — some couples in person and others via ZOOM or other social platform. Father Brian Eilers, our new national Spiritual Counselor from St. Patrick's Catholic Church in Hutto, Texas, has done an exceptional job, in spite of the pandemic. He has six teams waiting to be piloted. Despite initial difficulties concerning how and where to meet (in person or via social media), St. Patrick's will have six new teams!

And this is where we stand currently. Who knows what tomorrow will bring? Our future seems dependent on the course of this disease and the potential “second wave” of this pandemic. Despite the difficulties we may face, we must hold fast to the lessons that Teams gives us. God must remain at the center of our marriages. Even in good times, marriages are work. COVID can put a strain on the best marriages. Families have been forced to live cooped up with parents working from home while teaching and caring for their children. We can't do it alone. The only answer is God, and Teams helps to place Him right where He belongs, right in the middle of our marriages and in the center of our families.



*God's Peace,
Paul and Chris Sanchez
West TX/New Mexico
Regional Couple*

SOUTH PROVINCE



Msgr. Adam celebrating Mass in the Holy Land in March 2020.



Msgr. Adam on a trip to the Holy Land in March 2020.

Monsignor Adam continues to walk with Teams as spiritual counselor to South Province

Monsignor Adam is the Spiritual Counselor for our South Province. He began this journey with us in 2008 (when Trice and I became the Sector couple for Houston). We began with only one Team and with his help (he was our secret weapon — he knew all the priests in the Diocese) we were allowed to give pulpit talks about Teams at all the Masses in several parishes). With his help, we established Teams at St. Anne’s, St. Teresa, St. Rose of Lima, and the Co-Cathedral in Houston.

Because of Monsignor Adam, Teams grew from one to 15 in Houston in four years. Way to go Father Adam! In 2016, he became East Texas Region Spiritual Counselor and in 2020 he continues with Teams as South Province Spiritual Counselor. We are thrilled he has graciously agreed to “yoke” himself with us.

Some facts about Msgr. Adam:

- Father Adam has spent his entire career in the Galveston-Houston Archdiocese.

- He was ordained at St. Stanislaus in Anderson Texas in 1967.
- His first posting was at St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Church in Houston
- His first assignment as Pastor was at St. Mary Magdalene in Humble, Texas in 1978
- In 1989, St. Maximilian Kolbe Catholic church welcomed Father Adam as the new pastor.
- In 1999 he became the new pastor of All Saints Catholic Church in the Houston Heights.
- He retired in 2015 and continues to walk with us on our Teams journey.
- In 2017 we all celebrated his 50-year anniversary as a priest.

LA, AR REGION



A view of the new South Province.

Pray and hold fast to your Teams, new regional couple says

Larry and Charla Macicek, Regional Couple for the newly formed Louisiana-Arkansas Region, encourage Teams to continue their meetings as best as they can. They added, “Practice the Endeavors. Reach out to one another, stay close. Please know that we pray for your Team daily. Please join us in praying the Rosary daily asking Mary to intercede for an end to COVID19. We are here to support you and your Team.”



FEAST OF ALL SAINTS



Join us in celebration of All Saints Day and All Souls Day with a prayer

Prayer for Faithful Departed Souls

Lord Jesus Christ, thank You for bringing me to this moment of grace.

Father God, I also want to praise and thank You, for all You did through Your Son Jesus Christ, who came to teach me how to live life to the fullest.

I now pray for (N)_____ and ask that You take him (her) into Your kingdom of eternal happiness and peace.

Release them from any suffering. In Your Mercy do not hold any sins against them, but free them today to be in Your loving embrace.

I humbly ask Your forgiveness Lord, for not doing this sooner.

I ask that (N)_____ may now know my personal love and complete forgiveness. I similarly ask to be forgiven for any of my sins against him (her).

In Faith, I am now certain that You have always

desired this prayer. You have shown me so many times:

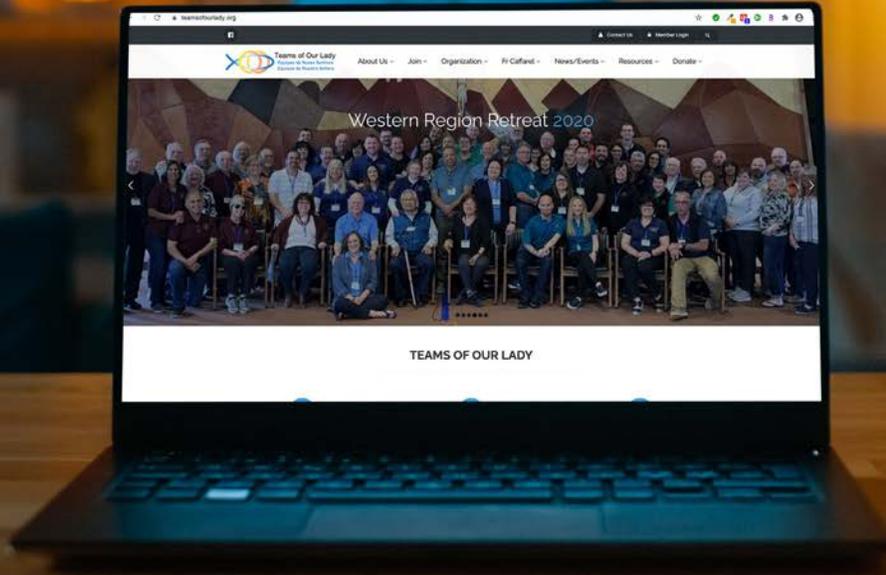
That in the sacred bread I will receive at Mass is Your life, Your Body and Blood, Your brokenness and wounds. I believe there is healing through Your stripes; that in Your Precious Blood is the free gift of freedom from guilt and stain of sin.

Through Your Mercy, we have direct access to You. In Your rising, You defeated Satan and all the forces of evil and became available to all the living and deceased.

Now may the angels of mercy with (N)_____ see You open heaven's gates. May they be accepted and reunited in Heaven with all Your saints and angels.

Lord Jesus Christ, now that I have surrendered (N)_____ to you, I will pray for them whenever You choose to bring them to my consciousness.

Amen.



VISIT THE TEAMS WEBSITE

Make time to login at the Teams of Our Lady website

If you haven't logged onto the Teams website in a while, please do so at TeamsOfOurLady.org. We think you'll be pleased with what you see.

If you've never logged into the website, no problem. You can find instructions on how to create your Member login as well as instructions for updating and editing your Teams of Our Lady contact information. Simply, go to the Teams of Our Lady website, click on "Member Login" at the top of the page and then click on "Login Instructions" on the next screen.

Remember, by keeping your contact information updated, you help Teams stay in touch with you and it helps you to have access to the latest news and information.

If you need assistance, feel free to reach out to your Sector Couple, Regional Couple, or us. We are here for you.

*In Your Humble Service,
Mike and Beatrice Towns
South Province Couple*

NORTH TX & OK REGION



Team 10 in the Fort Worth sector held its recommitment ceremony via Zoom.

North Texas/Oklahoma Teams continue meeting despite pandemic

Jim and Lillian Burke, Regional Couple North Texas, reported that during a challenging year defined by the coronavirus pandemic, Teams in the North Texas/Oklahoma Region found creative ways to continue the mission of the Teams movement. Several Teams have been meeting via Zoom while some have started to hold socially distanced gatherings in driveways or backyards. "Our couples have found that whether or not they are physically together, prayer, sharing, and reflection can still happen and be very powerful," the Burkes said. "Mary and the Holy Spirit are showing us that love is strong, God is good, and that we will get through this pandemic together."



Amarillo Team 5 attended their yearly retreat in-person, taking care to observe COVID precautions during the pandemic.



Team 2 in the Frisco Sector was creative and is meeting in host couples' driveways, backyards, and patios. They are committed to the movement and meet to share even in the midst of a pandemic.



After meeting virtually on Zoom for six months, Team 3 of the Dallas English Sector decided to meet in person outside to take advantage of the cooler weather in North Texas.

Welcome new sector couple!

Jim and Lillian Burke on August 27 installed Joe and Misti Triana (right) as the new Sector Couple for the Nacogdoches Sector. They are replacing Jeremy and Rebecca Higgins. "We thank Jeremy and Rebecca for their service to Teams and welcome Joe and Misti to this leadership position," the Burkes said. "We are excited about the energy and devotion they will bring to the Nacogdoches Sector."



EAST TEXAS REGION



Even during the coronavirus pandemic, East Texas Region has been able to perform two installations: one in August, and one in September. East Texas Regional Couple Mike and Caron Blake also look forward to installing two sector couples for Kingwood soon.

LEFT: East Texas Regional Couple Mike and Caron Blake install new Missouri City Sector Couple, Hector and Merrie Guerra, on September 13. Mike and Caron were the previous Sector Couple before they graciously said "Yes" to becoming the East TX Regional Couple.

Houston Sector uses Zoom meetings to maintain contact with Teams

Houston A Sector Couple Greg and Lisa Getty reported that with Zoom meetings being the new normal, 10 responsible couples in their sector attended a virtual RC meeting in late June. "Though there is nothing like an in-person meeting, great ideas were shared on how to continue to keep our teams united during the pandemic," they said.



Welcome new Spring/Tomball Sector Couple!

East Texas Regional Couple, Mike and Caron Blake (right), install new Spring/Tomball Sector Couple, Eddie and Dora Carranza (center, first row), on August 8 at Christ the Good Shepherd Catholic Church in Spring, TX. They are shown with Father James Burkart and other members of the Spring/Tomball Teams.

SOUTHEAST REGION

Southeast Region remains active in pandemic

The Southeast Region remains active through the pandemic with most teams still meeting virtually, but there are some teams resuming the traditional meeting. Three of our four piloting teams continue to meet virtually, with Ocala, FL 2 resuming face-to-face meetings with social distancing and bringing their own meals. Birmingham, AL has also resumed their traditional meetings. A lot of the Hillsborough, FL Sector teams are resuming the face-to-face meetings also.

New Teams are being formed in the Hillsborough, FL Sector through the assistance of Gil and Valerie Morales, Lead Information Couple. Pre-piloting meetings begin Nov. 1.

More and more couples are requesting information on Teams of Our Lady in the Miami area as well as a new area in Gainesville, FL. Through the effort of our couples active in Teams in the Southeast Region, more couples are looking to nurture their marriages and grow in holiness together. We thank all of you for staying strong in your commitment to your marriages and your prayer life, and especially for keeping your faith during these challenging times of uncertainty.



Sector Retreat brings reminder of listening deeply in prayer

On September 19-20, the Southeast Region, Hillsborough Sector, Teams South Tampa, FL 1 and South Tampa, FL 3 held their annual Teams retreat at the beautiful Bethany Center in Lutz, FL. Father Michael Muhr, Spiritual Counselor for South Tampa, FL 1 and the Sector Team, was the retreat presenter. There was time for reflection, reconciliation, recitation of the Rosary, Mass, renewal of marriage vows, and socializing. The teams also enjoyed meals prepared by the wonderful Bethany Center chefs and some of the attendees stayed overnight at the Bethany Center lakefront lodgings. It was a beautiful weekend of graces and blessings!



On September 18, Members of Palm Coast, FL Teams 1 and 2 (above) and Miami Team 3 (below) participated in Mass



to celebrate the 24th Anniversary of Father Caffarel's death. Teams across the globe prayed and remembered Fr. Caffarel on that day.

SOUTHEAST REGION



Gratitude and service in Fort Myers

September 26, 2020, the Southeast Regional Couple, Larry and Mary Kay Kuchta attended a beautiful Fort Myers, FL Sector Team Meeting at John and Linda Stankiewicz's home. John and Linda have served as the Fort Myers, FL Sector Couple for almost 5 years! We thank them for a job well done and so appreciate all their love for Teams.

At Mass at St. John XXIII Catholic Church, Dave and Joyce Mraz were installed as the New Fort Myers, FL

Sector Couple. We also thank them for their "yes", and their enthusiasm in their new role. Both the Sector Team Meeting as well as the Mass had an amazing turn out of dedicated Teams couples.

In the photo Fr. Saji Ellickal is in the center and serves as the Spiritual Counselor for six Fort Myers, FL teams. Holding the Certificate of Appreciation are John and Linda Stankiewicz, and the New Sector Couple holding their Sector Candle and the Holy Family icon are Dave and Joyce Mraz. Thank you Fort Myers, FL Sector!!

Perservering through the pandemic

On September 12, 2020, the Southeast Region connected virtually with Sector Couples, Piloting Couples, and Information Couples. Our new Intercessor Liaison Couple for the U.S. Super Region, Jack and Mary Pulick, also joined in to explain that process a little.

There was a lot shared and learned by all the couples, and although it wasn't as personal as a face-to-face meeting, it was still a fun and informative meeting, and great to see new and familiar faces! Holding virtual meetings is a way we can keep in touch and stay informed. We pray soon for all to be able to return to personal meetings. Until then, we persevere because Teams is too important not to!

