



**THE
TEAM
MEETING**

Rewritten Spring 2006 by the United States Regional Team

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Introduction

The Team Meeting

“..... the kingdom of God is among you.” Luke 16:21

Teams of Our Lady (Teams) is an international community of couples founded to foster the love of God and spouse. It is this love which the New Testament calls *agape*. The monthly Team meeting puts into practice this *agape* as a domestic church, gathering couples of similar purpose.

The team comes together to meet as couples traveling the same road as Christ, our partner on the journey. At our meetings we meet Him through the love, support and interaction with each other and the other couples. We bring to the meeting everything which is happening in our lives, our work, our plans, our joys and sorrows. We come as couples bearing in our hearts our children, our family and our friends.

The team is not an objective in itself, but a means to more deeply develop our relationship with God and our spouse through study, prayer and sharing. The couples make themselves aware that they are servants of God in His plan for us. Their actions aim to reflect God's love to draw others toward Him.

We consider our team as a part of the Body of Christ, a cell in the Church. In this booklet we will look at the Team meeting in depth and try to communicate the reason why we follow the format given to us, with the hope that this understanding will enrich our monthly gatherings.

Chapter 1

We Meet Together

“Now Christ’s body is yourselves, each of you with a part to play in the whole.” I Corinthians 12:27

A Moment in Our Lives

The day may have been full of activity and family needs. We leave behind the distractions of children, elderly parents and worldly concerns to meet as couples with our eyes on each other and our God. We become a small *ecclesia* (church) when two or more are gathered in Christ’s name. This awareness of church should exclude from our gatherings any negative actions, pettiness, or narrow attitudes. When we think and pray as church we open our minds to the intentions and needs of each member worldwide. We open ourselves to the needs of the *ecclesia* worldwide as well as our personal teammates.

The meeting is a step of faith in our present lives, as well as a preparation for what lies ahead.

Our Preparation

When we talk of preparing for the meeting, we must first think of the life style that we have adopted. Is it a life based on faith and *agape* (love)? Prior to meeting with the couples in our team we first prepare. We read the material independently, write our responses to the questions, and then share this preparation with our spouse. It is in this preparation we gain knowledge of our spouse and help to see how we are companions in this faith journey.

Only after this preparation do we send our answers to the discussion couple.

Our Traveling Companions

We meet with our teammates and spiritual counselor at the meeting. Each takes an active part in the welcoming and sharing that has been characteristic of Christian communities since Christ’s days on earth. The formation of teams is the work of the Holy Spirit, with couples formed into community who might never have known each other except for Teams.

The Responsible Couple runs the meeting (see Appendix 1 for details) and each month a different team couple will lead the discussion on the study topic. The spiritual counselor brings the grace of his/her ministry, deeper theological knowledge, and experience.

In the Upper Room

Each of our meetings can be like those of the apostles and Mary in the Upper Room. We gather together in the presence of Christ where we receive the Holy Spirit through prayer and the actions of our teammates. Each meeting can be a miniature Pentecost, not with descending tongues of fire, but with the changing of each of us over time and binding us together.

Christ took care to make Himself the link between the church universal and the small ecclesia. Over time Christ forms us into His Life, breathing into us His love and that of the Father through the Holy Spirit. Praise and thanksgiving are the basis for our prayer. Open to the life of Christ we become vibrant with His life, His church, His Love. The mysterious action of Christ in the group is infused into us, breathed into us by His Spirit. It is He who leads us to address the Father as Abba.

Thoughts to ponder:

- ❖ How might you prepare as a couple for the meeting?
- ❖ Do we prepare for the meeting actively or passively?
- ❖ Why do we believe in Christ's presence at our team meeting?
- ❖ What benefits do we experience after the meeting?

Chapter 2

We Eat Together

“Each day, with one heart, they regularly went to the Temple, but met in their houses for the breaking of the bread: they shared their food gladly and generously; they praised God” Acts 2:46

Its Symbolism

The meeting begins with a meal. Meals are important events in our lives. They bring family together and strengthen its links. They are expressions of friendship and times of community. Christ often used feasts to symbolize messianic joy and the joy of heaven. It was at the Seder meal, the Last Supper, that He instituted the Eucharist. A team meal strengthens friendship and communication with its members. It is a time of personal sharing.

Its Simplicity

The spiritual purpose of the meal is signified by the way it is served. It is not a gourmet cooking contest or a menu rivalry. It is accepted as it is presented, whether it is pizza from a box served on paper plates or a roast on china: it does not matter. It is the combined efforts of all present, serving its purpose to nourish us and gather us together. Friendship is stressed, not the meal itself.

It is Sharing

Friendship is maintained by the exchange of news. This is a time for each individual member to share the “highs” and “lows” of the month. It is a time to tell one another the latest news of children, family, friends, work, vacations etc. It is designed for everyone to participate, each in turn, while the others listen.

It requires a certain discipline. Each person deserves the respect of uninterrupted listening. Food should be served before the sharing starts. Refills to plates should be made during a pause between speakers, not while anyone is sharing their news. If you need the salt or butter plan ahead or please wait! There should be no opinions shared, comments made, or cross talk. It is not a conversation requiring a response but a time of attentive listening.

The sharing at the table should be light, and if a weightier topic needs to be shared it would be better to save it for later during deep pooling.

Thoughts to ponder:

- ❖ Do we take too long at the meal?
- ❖ How do we show our attention and respect to each other as we eat?
- ❖ Do we only pass food during pauses in sharing? If not, why not?

Chapter 3

We Pray Together

“In truth I tell you once again, if two of you on earth agree to ask anything at all, it will be granted to you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three meet in my name, I am there among them.” Matthew 18:19-20

The Word of God

Before speaking to God we listen to Him. The Biblical passage we use to begin the second stage of our meeting may be presented in our study topic or may be selected by the discussion couple to compliment the topic of the chapter for the meeting. If it is chosen for the meeting it would be helpful for the couples to know the passage in advance. A simple email or call to tell the couples what passage will be used so that they can use it as personal or couple prayer a few times during the month is appropriate: if different editions of the Bible are used and the passage is slightly different, so much the better.

At the meeting the passage will be read and a period of silence will follow. The length of the silence will depend on the group, but we suggest at least five minutes and probably not more than 10 minutes. Some teams will repeat the reading at the end of the mediation period to focus the prayerful response.

Personal Response

The time after the mediation is a time to share personal insights on the passage. It is not a discussion. Some teammates may not share: it should be spontaneous, using a prayerful form if possible. Prayer is a very profound way of sharing our feelings. The response should be short to allow for all who wish to pray aloud to be able to do so. Some teams find ending a personal response with “Amen” helps others to know when they may speak.

It is also a form of spiritual help, as what is shared can be enlightening to another. The team should adopt a respectful attitude to those who find it hard to pray out loud and patiently wait for when they are comfortable to do so, with no pressure.

Personal Prayer

After meditation and prayerful response there is an opportunity to offer petition prayer. Each team will develop a method which is comfortable for them, but many teams pass a small cross while the intentions are prayed: whoever has the cross has the floor. Intentions may be prayed silently, aloud, or a team member may chose not to pray! If the teammate uses the silent method to pray, then when the cross is passed to the next person the group responds, “Lord, hear our Prayer” (or what ever you all decide is a correct communal response). If the person chooses the spoken prayer, the group responds when the person ends with “We pray to the Lord”, or passes the cross to the next person. If the

person chooses not to pray the cross is just passed to the next person with no group response.

Praying for other people and their needs ties us to the larger international community and its needs, as well as those of our family and friends. The sharing of intentions helps our teammates know our needs so they can remember them in their daily prayers throughout the month.

Prayer of the Spiritual Counselor

The Spiritual Counselor/Spiritual Advisor prays in rotation as a team member, but at the end of the intentions he/she may wish to end the prayer period by gathering the prayers and presenting them to God.

Liturgical Prayer

To end the prayer section of the meeting a text may be chosen from a psalm, a favorite prayer may be chosen or a song may be sung. Your team can express its uniqueness with this prayer.

The Magnificat

In unity with the Teams of Our Lady Movement worldwide, we close our meeting with Mary's Cantic, The Magnificat.

Celebrating the Eucharist

The team meeting is not meant to include the celebration of the Eucharist. The Eucharist is a celebration of the larger church community, but we might consider sitting together during special feast days or Teams significant days, like the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, or when a team recommits. Depending on the support you have on a parish level, perhaps seats could be reserved, or you could be part of the entrance procession, do readings or bring up the gifts. We have seen parishes where the priest will ask Teams couples to stand for a special blessing. It is great exposure for the Movement to bear witness to the larger ecclesia!

Points to Ponder:

- ❖ How do we use the scripture for our next team meeting as part of our private or couple prayer during the month?
- ❖ How do we participate in the meditation prayer and petition prayer during our meeting?
- ❖ Do we pray for each other during the month?

Chapter 4

Our Lives Together

"If one part is hurt, all the parts share its pain. And if one of the parts is honored, all the parts share its joy" 1 Cor 12:26

The meeting has three parts: friendship, prayer, and study, though at times they are intermingled. To some extent the meeting is a time when we pool our ideas constantly. At the meal we exchange our highs and lows. In prayer we express our meditation thoughts and intentions. As we study we exchange our views on the material.

Deep Pooling

Pooling, like the sharing we do during the meal, springs from the need for support in brotherly love that has God as its source. It is an act of both faith and charity: it is an appeal to the Teams community to help see God's will for us and our family. Pooling presupposes a mutual trust and discretion on the part of all concerned. It is shared, as are all things at the meeting, in a spirit of confidentiality.

Deep pooling is available for times when couples need to seek the advice or to share a burden with their teammates. It might involve health, children, work or a move. If a couple knows in advance that they wish to share, it would be good to alert the RC so that the discussion topic can be postponed. If the need occurs close to the meeting the RC should be aware that if the pooling takes a long time the discussion may need to be postponed even if it has been prepared. Deep pooling will not happen at most meetings but a situation requiring pooling also requires that in brotherly love hard and fast rules about order and timing be put aside.

Deep pooling requires trust and faith on the part of those sharing. The team must listen silently, prayerfully, compassionately and only offer suggestions or help if requested. The primary purpose of deep pooling is to share what is being offered in the spirit of Christ's love.

A word of caution. In some teams there are people who have a crisis every month. The purpose of deep pooling is not to give a stage to these people, even those with legitimate needs. The purpose is to deal with an unusual event. If a couple has so many needs that they need to pool frequently they need the help of a professional counselor. A couple with extreme needs can drain a team dry, and will destroy the team.

Points to Ponder:

- ❖ Do we listen with compassion when others share their joys, sorrows and problems?
- ❖ Are we careful to honor the need for confidentiality at all Teams meetings?
- ❖ Do we feel comfortable sharing our deepest needs within our team?

Chapter 5

The Endeavors

"Your love without demands diminishes me. Your demands without love discourage me. Your demanding love makes me grow." Father Caffarel

If there is a single element that makes Teams unique it is the endeavors. There are bible study groups that lead you to study and meditate; dinner groups that develop social bonding; but Teams provides steps to conversion and sainthood. Not only does Teams provide the steps, but also it gives you companions and cheerleaders to help focus on them!

The endeavors focus on the spiritual life of the couple and their progress on their spiritual journey. In sharing our progress we seek the help of others to make the endeavors more meaningful for us. We share our difficulties and seek ways to remedy those difficulties. We rejoice in the inspiration and help of our teammates.

The discussion on endeavors is led by the Responsible Couple. It should be positive in approach and not judgmental. Love never condemns: it nourishes. When trying to help, always place yourself in the other person's position and take care to be sensitive.

The endeavors are an invitation to deepen our spiritual life as an individual, as a couple, and as a family. They are an invitation to awaken in us Mary's attitude of gratitude and love so that we are led to a deeper life in Christ. They call us to invite God into our homes and lives in a way that converts our thoughts and actions into those of the Lord, not the world.

We must guard against a need of "getting them done" and racing through the list with an imaginary pencil checking off each in turn so that our well-developed Catholic guilt is satisfied! They must awaken in us an attitude for change. They are nouns not verbs, a means of conversion and formation, not actions to be accomplished and finished. Let us look at the **six endeavors**:

- regular reading or hearing the Word of God
- daily period set aside for personal prayer.
- daily period of conjugal prayer, and for those with family at home, a period of family prayer
- monthly sit-down between husband and wife in the presence of God
- rule of life
- yearly retreat

The Teams publication, *"Sharing on the Endeavors"* page 4 (a copy is in the RC Binder), notes that we must constantly seek to know God's will for us.

As team members we enlist the help of our spouse and teammates to encourage us, in a respectful way, to move forward in our search for God's will in our lives. Our

patroness, Mary the Mother of Jesus, is an example for us of how to live our lives as disciples. She was fully human, yet she was brave enough to say, "YES" to the Lord. Her love carried her into motherhood and to stand at the foot of the cross.

The Regular Reading, or Hearing the Word of God.

Daily Mass is one way of satisfying this endeavor and has the added benefit of the reception of the Eucharist. If work schedule, parenthood, or the availability of a priest makes this impossible, find time to read God's word. The length of time is less important than the daily "doing". If you have time to read a phrase, start there! Just start.

Perhaps this could be a part of your couple prayer and you could alternate listening and proclaiming The Word.

A Daily Period of Personal Prayer

The same comments as above apply here. If you do not have a regular time to spend with the God who holds you in being, who provides your every breath, rearrange your priorities! Develop an attitude of gratitude for your daily breath as well as your daily bread. Take the time to focus on your Lord, even if the time is less than you would like. A journey begins with the first step.

A Daily Period of Conjugal and Family Prayer

We are called to spend time with our spouse and our family. We unite as a domestic church to worship God in our marriage and our home. We hear couples complain that they "hit the floor" in the morning and run all day. Try reaching for your spouse's hand and praying together before you get out of bed! If evenings are rushed, start the day with family prayer before the children head to the school bus or car pool. The time spent in prayer will lighten the burdens of the day.

A Monthly Sit-Down

“And indeed, which of you here, intending to build a tower, would not first sit down and work out the cost to see if he had enough to complete it.”

Luke 14: 28

Father Caffarel stated that if it is true for a tower, how much more important for a marriage.

This endeavor is firmly grounded in the gospel of Luke. You make appointments for everything else in life; make a date with your spouse. Light a candle to remind yourselves of God's presence and open your heart and mind. Pray together and then open yourself in honesty to share yourself with your spouse. This is an in-depth talk and should be without the distractions of children or telephone. If you have an answering machine, turn down the volume. If your children are small wait until they are in bed, or leave them with a sitter and leave the house for a walk or coffee.

We know some teams where couples regularly baby-sit with each other's children so their teammates can enjoy their monthly sit-down. What a heart-warming example of helping each other on the road to sainthood!

A Rule of Life

Each person will handle this endeavor differently. It is designed to help us understand ourselves, accept the truth of who we are, and realistically look at where we fall short. The idea is to identify a specific area of our life that needs improvement and work out a means of correcting that shortcoming. It is the search for the root of our struggles and the grace to open us to change. Identifying our weaknesses gives ample material to form a rule of life!

We again are invited to seek not to please ourselves, but to increase our ability to reach out to others in love and service. We seek to be like Christ in loving our spouse, teammates, and community without counting the cost. We do this not when we want to, but always.

The Yearly Retreat

In the United States most teams do this endeavor as a weekend event, from Friday evening until Sunday afternoon, as a team. The benefit to this method includes getting to know your teammates in an entirely different way! On rare occasions couples are unable to get away with their team, but will make a couple's retreat at a local retreat house, or make a Marriage Encounter. Retreats as a team help us to know one another, an indispensable need if we are to help one another! It also allows us to include Team methods in the retreat, perhaps allowing "sit-down" time, or special time for couple prayer. Some Sectors hold retreats.

Essential to this endeavor, as with the others, is to just do it. Take time to be with each other in prayer, silence, recreation and study. If your area does not have a priest, deacon or other spiritual advisor to help you plan your retreat, the Teams Office has many videos that can be used to make going on retreat a growth experience. During your RC Meeting with the Sector Couple share locations, topics and games used during successful retreats. Help each other if baby-sitting is needed: be community and form community.

Membership Responsibilities

In addition to the endeavors Teams has a list of actions that are referred to as "responsibilities". They differ from the endeavors in that Father Caffarel thought they were so obvious as to not be required, much as breathing is not required, but comes naturally. They are verbs, signifying action. There are ten:

- ❖ Pray the Magnificat daily
- ❖ Attend monthly Teams meeting
- ❖ Prepare monthly study topic as a couple
- ❖ Contribute annually to support the Movement
- ❖ Evaluate your team annually and recommitment for the next year
- ❖ Read the *Magnificat* newsletter
- ❖ Extend hospitality to others
- ❖ Attend team conferences and sector events
- ❖ Participate in an extra weekly Mass if in leadership
- ❖ Imitate Christ in our daily life

While we do not discuss the Responsibilities at our meetings it does not mean that they should be ignored. They enrich our team life, our discussions, and our lives. They also require us to look beyond our own lives and team to the broader Movement.

Concluding Thoughts

Pursuing each of these endeavors and responsibilities we look to Mary, Mother of God and perfect disciple, as our model. She was respectful of the needs of others and unflinching in her faithfulness to God. What better model for us as we try to follow her Son.

"Be perfect as your heavenly Father is perfect." Matt 5:48

Matthew reminds us of our endeavor to do just that - seek perfection - with the help of spouse and teammates!

Points to Ponder:

- ❖ Do we view the endeavors as steps to sainthood?
- ❖ Are we missing opportunities on our journey to live a life of holiness and charity?
- ❖ How do we help our teammates on all aspects of the endeavors?
- ❖ How do we help our spouse to live a life of holiness?

Chapter 6

We Study Together

Better gain wisdom than gold, choose understanding in preference to silver.
Proverbs 16:16

It is essential for us as Teams couples to strengthen and deepen our faith and understanding of theology. It is in knowing God we shall increase our love for Him.

Deepening Our Faith

The study topic is meant to be one of long range, normally the team year, and designed to increase our knowledge and improve our spiritual life. The team will choose it, after the pilot period and recommended readings are completed. The team should be aware that the International Leading Team (ERI) provides topics for study that are translated into all the languages recognized by the international movement. They should be given very careful consideration before choosing another topic. This is especially convenient for teams where couples may be more comfortable reading in a language other than English, but very comfortable with spoken English, or where the team speaks another language, as the Team Office can provide the study material in multiple languages.

Preparation of the Topic

“The heart of the intelligent acquires learning, the ears of the wise search for knowledge.” Proverbs 18:15

As in all meaningful endeavors, advanced preparation insures that the team members will be prepared to share thoughtfully on the material. Reading the assigned chapter early in the month allows time to thoughtfully prepare the topic. Before the responses are sent to the Discussion Couple, reread the material and answer the questions: after writing your answers set aside time to discuss them as a couple, perhaps even as a sit down topic. Give yourselves time to read each other’s answers before having a discussion. Often a couple will have a verbal and a less verbal member, and writing the answers evens the playing field!

Only after you have done the above do you share your answers with the Discussion Couple. It is important that you delete any material that may be too personal to share or might offend your spouse if discussed beyond your own home.

Discussion at the Meeting

The Discussion Couple will lead this part of the meeting, and as the job rotates monthly, each couple will have a turn. It is helpful to begin the discussion by asking an open-ended question, such as “Did anyone have a comment about the reading that they would like to share that is not covered by the questions?”

The Discussion Couple should not read or summarize answers. The written answers should be returned to the couples before the discussion begins. The following hints are suggested:

- 1) Start discussion with a few introductory remarks. Have two or three open-ended questions ready to use during the discussion.
- 2) Try to include EVERYONE in the discussion, directing comments away from those who tend to dominate the discussion.
- 3) If a side conversation develops, ask people to share their comments with the group.
- 4) Be prepared to bring discussion back to the central theme when inappropriate tangents arise.
- 5) Don't let discussion run over allotted time unless it is important to continue.
- 6) Let people finish their comments; don't cut them short.

Some Discussion Couples might generalize the questions and simply ask for comments on the topic of each question; other couples might read the questions one by one. The most important part of the discussion leaders' job is to see that the discussion stays on topic. If you have a spiritual counselor present he/she can point out matters of doctrinal interest. It must be commented that this is not a class; it is a discussion and the responsibility lies with the couples, not the spiritual counselor, to move the topic forward.

If the spiritual counselor has the time the Discussion Couple could meet with him/her to go over the answers prior to the meeting. This has the advantage of being able to prepare for any problems that might arise. In any case the discussion couple should review the answers, and if a problem appears, they can consult a spiritual counselor prior to the meeting.

Points to Ponder:

- ❖ How can we better prepare individually and as a couple for the meeting?
- ❖ How do we try to grow in our faith and spiritual life as new thoughts are presented in our study topic?

Chapter 7

Annual Evaluation and Recommitment

Do not refrain from speaking when it will do good, and do not hide your wisdom; for your wisdom is made known by what you say...

Ecclesiasticus 4:23-24

Evaluation

It is important that each teammate examines his/her progress and contemplates ways to improve his/her spiritual life and that of the couple. We also examine the meeting and try to identify ways to improve it during the coming year.

These evaluations can be done on the anniversary of a team's first commitment or during an annual retreat. It really does not matter when you do it, but it is healthy to do it annually. The Responsible Couple Binder offers two versions of the evaluation or your team may choose to make up your own.

If your evaluation takes place during a team meeting there would be no other study topic for that month, but all other elements of the meeting would remain the same.

Recommitment

*There are three things my soul delights in,
and which are delightful to God and all people:
concord between brothers, friendship between neighbors
and a wife and husband who live happily together.*

Ecclesiasticus 25:1-2

Also in the Responsible Couple Binder there are long and short forms for the recommitment meeting.

Why do we have a recommitment meeting? Because team members deserve to know that those who are journeying with them are committed to them. When we share our hopes, faith and dreams, we would like to know that those hearing these things will be there next month and the month after that. Obviously we cannot see the future and events may occur that change our plans, but we make our commitment with what we know at the time we make the decision. It gives the team a sense of future.

- ❖ How can we make our evaluation and recommitment a special and sacred moment for our team?
- ❖ How can we use the evaluation meeting to consider ways that our meeting can prove?
- ❖ How can we improve our approach to the endeavors?
- ❖ How do we look beyond our own team in forming a Christian Community?
- ❖ How do we demonstrate that are we conscious of being part of a national and international Movement?
- ❖ How does our team take part in the national and international Movement?
- ❖ How well do we communicate with our Sector Couple, Regional, Provincial or Super Regional Couple?

Appendix 1

Team Meeting Format

A. Simple Meal with Sharing of Highs and Lows - **RC** makes sure that no one person takes too long.

B. Time of Prayer **RC**

- Become aware of the presence of God.
- Read the Word of God - **Chosen by Discussion Couple if not provided in the study material and read by them. It should reflect the study topic or the day's gospel. Discussion Leaders may choose a reader if they prefer.**
- A Time of Silent Meditation. **RC**
- Shared prayer on the scriptural text. NOT A DISCUSSION - but prayerful reflection. **RC**
- Sharing of prayer Intentions. (Pass card or object so people can pass gracefully) **RC**
- Liturgical prayer. (Psalm - with group responding) **RC**
- Conclusion of prayer Time. **RC or Spiritual Counselor/Spiritual Advisor**

C. Time for Sharing:

- Deep pooling: a time to share on more serious matters or when the input of the group is requested. Will not happen at all meetings. **RC**
- Sharing on the Endeavors: **RC**
 - Monthly sit-down
 - Personal, couple and family prayer
 - Regular reading or hearing of scripture
 - Rule of Life
 - Annual retreat. (Discuss plans, update information)

D. Discussion of Study Topic **Discussion Couple**

E. Administrative Matters **RC**

F. Final Prayer: Magnificat **RC**

The meeting is facilitated by the RC with the exception of the scriptural reading and discussion.

To preserve the focus of the meeting, request that cell phones be turned off or silenced. Answering machine should be turned down and the phone not answered.

The meeting takes place once a month for about 3 hours - turn your troubles over to the Lord and your attention to your teammates!

Appendix 2

The Team Meeting Element A Christian Community Formation

Meal and Light Sharing (about 60 minutes)

- ❖ We listen in silence, respecting each other's right to share without comment
- ❖ We commit ourselves to each other in love

Prayer (about 45 minutes)

- ❖ Grace
- ❖ Scripture
- ❖ Meditation and reflection
- ❖ Prayer intentions
- ❖ Psalm, concluding prayer or song
- ❖ Magnificat at meeting's end

Deep Pooling (when needed)

- ❖ Prayerful consideration of personal matters
- ❖ We mutually support and listen with strict confidentiality

Sharing on Endeavors (about 15 minutes)

- ❖ We work to live out our Catholic Faith
- ❖ We strive to embrace the structure the Endeavors give us
- ❖ We mutually support and lovingly challenge each other to live out our Teams life

Discussion on Study Topic (about 45 minutes)

- ❖ We prepare the topic and respond in writing
- ❖ We discuss it with our spouse prior to the meeting
- ❖ We study the truths of our faith and the teachings of the Church
- ❖ We work to understand our faith more fully and respond to the call of the Holy Spirit

Administrative Matters (about 10 minutes)

- ❖ Schedule meetings
- ❖ Retreat Planning
- ❖ Sector, Regional, National or International events
- ❖ News from the Movement

Appendix 3

The Magnificat

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord
and my spirit exults in God my Savior;
because He has looked upon His
lowly handmaid.

Yes, from this day forward
all generations will call me blessed,
for the Almighty has done great things for me,
Holy is His name,
and His mercy reaches from age to age
for those who fear Him.

He has shown the power of His arm,
He has routed the proud of heart.
He has pulled down princes from their thrones
and exalted the lowly.

The hungry He has filled with good things,
the rich sent empty away.
He has come to the help of Israel His servant,
mindful of His mercy —
according to the promise He made
to our ancestors —
of His mercy to Abraham
and to His descendants forever.

Our Lady Queen of Teams, Pray for us.



THE TEAM MEETING

“There is there, in the midst of these couples gathered together in a room in an apartment, the intense presence of the Risen Lord, alive, attentive to all, loving all of them, with their mixture of good and bad, and anxious to help them to become the kind of people they want to be. He is there, as on the evening of the Resurrection, in the upper room in Jerusalem, when He appeared suddenly to those other team members, the apostles. He breathed on them, saying: ‘Receive – the Holy Spirit.’ And they became new men. Jesus Christ, in the midst of couples, does not fail to impart His Spirit to them; and those who open themselves to His Spirit – this is something that people learn gradually – become people of the Spirit. And the whole meeting is animated by the Spirit. To these men and women who, in the evening, after a hard day, often arrive exhausted and weighed down with worries, this Spirit communicates Christ’s twofold passion: His impatience for the glory of His Father, and His burning and gentle pity for the crowds ‘who are like sheep without a shepherd.’

What I have just described is not what it always is, but how it ought to be. For a meeting of a team which is not first and foremost a joint effort to meet Jesus is something completely different from a meeting of a Team of Our Lady.”



Teams of Our Lady

Equipas de Nossa Senhora • Equipos de Nuestra Señora

**TEAMS OF OUR LADY
United States Super Region**

Revised October 2019

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