



Noélia & Jorge Sousa
Super Regional Couple



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

MAGNIFICAT - Autumn 2019
A Newsletter for *Teams of Our Lady* Members

Dear Team Family,

We recently read an inspirational quote: "It is not happy people who are thankful. It is thankful people who are happy." When we realize all the abundance which God has showered us with, we cannot help but be happy and re-double our gratitude to the Lord. The focus becomes becomes Thanksgiving for what we have rather feeling miserable for what we don't have.

As you read the inside pages of this Magnificat issue, you realize how much some couples toiled and sacrificed to bring Teams of Our Lady to the United States--and we are thankful!

You will also read about the many events and get-togethers throughout all the Provinces and Regions and realize the strength, renewal and growth of Teams in the United States—and we are thankful!!!

We hope and pray that you see the strength, renewal and growth of Teams in your area--And that you are thankful. Know that you and your team are needed in this continual renewal and growth of Teams.

May your Thanksgiving and Christmas Season be a time of spiritual renewal, growth and gratitude in your and your team's life. May you always remember that "You are too blessed to be stressed."

Happy Thanksgiving and Merry Christmas!

God bless!!

Noélia and Jorge Sousa, USA SR Responsible Couple

In this issue we are rerunning an article written by Rosemary Enthofen, from the 2006 Magnificat about Francois & Annie Vilarem who moved to LA from France. As you will read, the Vilarems were the spark that ignited the fire for Teams to spread across the US beginning in the late 1950's. Alain & Rosemary Enthoven, (the author of this article on page 3), met the Vilarems in L.A., then moved to Washington D.C., and formed the team Alexandria 1, along with Andy & Loretta Favret, (author of part I included in the last issue), along with other couples.

We hope that you will find the story fascinating, as we did. We have been reaching out to couples who had joined Teams in the 60/s in hopes of finding a picture or two, along with a story to share with you in future issues. If, by chance, you know of any of these folks, please do contact us! We'd love to hear their stories!

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

Teams in the World and USA (December 2018)

Divided by Zones:

Zone America: Blue
 Zone EurAfrica: Green
 Zone EurAsia: Red
 Zone Central Europe: Orange



Teams of Our Lady is organized into 14 Super Regions (some Regions) across 4 Zones:

The Americas (Blue) USA Super Region Brazil Super Region Hispanic America SR North Hispanic America SR South Colombia Super Region Canada Region	EurAfrica (Green) Italy Super Region Portugal Super Region Spain Super Region Francophone Africa Super Region
Central Europe (Orange) Belgium Super Region France-Luxembourg-Switzerland SR Poland Super-Region: includes Hungary, Belarus, Ukraine and the Regions of Germany, Mauritius, Lebanon and Syria	Eurasia (Red) Oceania Super Region (Australia, New Zealand, the Philippines) Transatlantic Super Region (Ireland, Malawi, South Africa, Trinidad, United Kingdom, Ghana and Zambia) India Region

*Non-team countries (gold)

Numbers by Zones:

Zone	Teams	Couples	Widows Windowers	Spiritual Counselor	Spiritual Accomp
America	6.441	37.206	602	3.306	643
Central Europe	3.047	12.749	811	2.527	71
EurAfrica	3.959	19.814	1.170	2.118	786
EurAsia	372	1.661	114	172	49
Total	13.819	71.430	2.697	8.123	1.549

Numbers by Super-Region and/or Country:

Country Attached Region	Teams	Couples	Widows Windowers	Spiritual Counselor	Spiritual Accomp
USA	837	4.435	70	288	60
Canada	77	361	6	54	5
Brazil	4.305	25.567	419	2.103	542
Colombia	571	3.360	38	420	11
Hisp. America South	263	1.408	27	210	8
Hisp. America South	388	2.075	42	231	17
Portugal	1.359	7.233	424	780	58
Syria	40	207	13	35	1
Lebanon	88	472	11	56	0
India	25	123	10	15	0

Please note: European format uses periods instead of commas. For example 8.100 = 8,100

Planting a Seed in America:

The Story of François and Annie Vilarem

Written by Rosemary Enthoven
Magnificat Winter 2006

I think we can safely say that François and Annie Vilarem were the couple most responsible for the spread of Teams of Our Lady in the United States. Through their courageous start of a Team in Los Angeles in 1958, they inspired, couple by couple, the chain that has led to the remarkable flourishing of American Teams. It is a wonderful story.

Annie and François, with three small children, arrived in Los Angeles from Paris in 1957. They were young, lively, attractive, and full of enthusiasm for the spiritual growth they had found through Les Équipes de Notre Dame which they had joined in Paris. François had been a “frogman” with Jacques Cousteau during WWII and had come to California to develop and ultimately run a company that would make wet suits for the newly popular scuba diving. California was definitely a foreign country for them, but one had a sense they loved the freedom and sense of adventure they found in the American west. François spoke fluent English, but Annie struggled, and had the most delightful way of expressing herself, especially in the spontaneous prayer.

After several months in Los Angeles, (Brentwood to be exact), they spoke to their parish priest about the Teams and their desire to start such a group. He pointed them to some young couples, who asked a few other couples, and soon the Vilarems had their “Team.” The parish priest agreed to be their chaplain. We were lucky enough to be friends with one of these first couples.

I so remember these early team meetings! The Vilarems brought a sense of joy and spiritual adventure to the meetings, of openness and a simplicity that were quite new to us. We had never heard our own friends, even Catholic friends, speak so openly and honestly about their everyday struggles to be better Christians and better spouses. The Vilarems were truly gifted in prayer, and the time of spontaneous prayer became a time of great richness and depth for all of us. They kept in touch with the International Team in Europe, and the materials, poorly translated as they often were, were the source of our learning all of the dimensions of Team life. They encouraged us to come together as friends between meetings and to help each other with our children, to welcome all visitors in our homes, and to use the Team structure and principles to bring holiness into all the various aspects of our lives. I think it is the spirit that the Vilarems brought to that first team that has animated all of the Teams in America today.

Alain and I moved from Los Angeles to Washington, D.C. in 1961. Through a local priest in Washington, we met Andy and Loretta Favret, Jack and Gerry Lavan, and John and Barbara Green, and Alexandria 1 began. The rest is history. The Favrets with all their spiritual depth and wonderful energy and talent began one team and then another until there are hundreds in the United States today. What François and Annie started 48 years ago has flourished.

François and Annie returned to Paris sometime in the 60’s and lived in Garches, which is near Versailles. They always remained close to their original French Team and to us in America. Alain and I visited them in Paris several times, and their children as teenagers often visited the Team families in Los Angeles. A few years ago, one of the Vilarem children came to visit us here in Atherton, bringing his wife and seven-year-old son. It was a lovely time, full of his memories and ours.

Annie died several years ago, and François died December 14, 2005, in Garches. He was 85 years old. Although Los Angeles 1 stopped meeting as a formal Team many years ago, we have all remained close friends. In fact, we are all meeting at Rancho Santa Fe near San Diego in March for a few days. We will be remembering how much François and Annie influenced all of our lives, and all the fun, support and many graces we have shared with each other over the years, all the result of the leadership of Annie and François, and our being the lucky couples in Los Angeles.

Sector Couple Training July 10-12, 2020

All Saints Church, Lakeville, MN



Glynis & Steve Sturm
North Provincial Couple

This gathering will be a special time in the “North Star State”- Minnesota, to spend time in prayer, celebrate the Eucharist, form new relationships, renew old friendships, gain knowledge and insight into your new role as Sector Couple.

Sector Couple training is for new Sector Couples or those who have finished their first year as Sector Couple. The names of couples eligible for Sector Couple Training are submitted by the Regional Couples to the Super Regional Couple, Jorge & Noelia Sousa. Invitations and information about the training are sent directly to the aspiring Sector Couples.

In the first week of November, across the nation we celebrated National Vocation Awareness Week. That week was dedicated to pray for more young people to hear the call to be holy priests, deacons and consecrated religious. We prayed that they would be inspired by Jesus Christ, supported by a faith community and they would respond generously to God’s gift of

Vocation. This awareness reminds us of our own thank you to all the priests, deacons, and religious who walk with us as couples in Teams of Our Lady. We urge you to add to your prayers, when you say the Magnificat for the worldwide Teams Movement, for young men and women to answer the call to the priesthood or religious life. In our own Sector we notice a loss in Spiritual Counselor or Advisor for each of the teams. Again in our experience we had a short time without a Spiritual Counselor and his presence was greatly missed. Our Spiritual Counselors are asked to be parish priests for large congregations and/or multiple congregations with multiple meetings and yet they take time out to be with us, to help us grow in our vocation and we in turn, hope to help them grow in their vocation. Two vocations walking together.

We would like to share a personal experience on the Endeavors. Many of you have access, have received, or can receive copies of the new Endeavor booklet sets. It is too easy to glance through the booklets and set them aside but our team just recently chose to study one of the Endeavor booklets on the Rule of Life. Spending time with it gave us a deeper understanding of the wisdom of Fr. Caffarel and the International Leading Team (ERI) that set forth the Endeavors (Obligations). We all seem to struggle with what is the will of God in our lives and where he is calling us. It came to light that in practicing the Endeavors we may with confidence find that the Endeavors are a path to knowing and doing His will. The Endeavor of Reading the Word of God and/or attending daily Mass draws one closer and deeper into God’s love and what He desires for us as well as strength for the journey.

In this season of Thanksgiving, we would like to thank each of you for saying yes to *Teams of Our Lady* and for all you do for marriage. You are making a difference. We wish each of you a fruitful advent and a blessed Christmas.

Steve and Glynis Sturm

NORTH PROVINCE COUPLE

Dates to remember:

- National Spouses Day is January 26, 2020
- World Marriage Day is February 9, 2020 - not too late to plan an event at your parish or with your sector to celebrate marriage.

East Province

“Put out into deep water and lower your nets for a catch”

Luke 5:4

This invitation by Jesus will be our theme for the weekend of the East Province College Meeting at St. Gabriel’s Retreat Center in Clarks Summit, Pennsylvania. Regional Couples and Sector Couples from the East Province will meet to pray, share and plan. The weekend will be dedicated to the memory of John Holdsworth, who died August 17, 2019. (John and Justine Holdsworth were installed as Sector Couple on October 22, 2017.)

Having recently completed our base team’s, (Clinton Maryland 1), Annual Evaluation Meeting and having just received in the mail the Contribution Letter, gives us pause to apply this Scripture passage to both of these very important Membership Responsibilities (*Life in Teams*).

The Commitment that follows the Team Evaluation comes at a great price. It is hard, sometimes *very* hard, to grow a small Christian community. Each year we peel back where we’ve been and where we want to go in living this Team life. Frustrated and tired from a day of fishing, the disciples reminded Jesus that they had already been fishing *the whole day*. He invited them to deeper waters and they were obedient. We also are invited to go deeper in the Evaluation and not just treat it as an agenda item. Through honesty and perseverance we become less individual minded and more team oriented.

When we arrived at our Evaluation Meeting, Jim and Ruth Wagner, our RC for the year, surprised us with a different approach to evaluating the year by asking us to ponder two simple questions. On one side of a paper we were asked to write, in the fewest words possible, a definition of Teams of Our Lady. After several minutes with wonderful music, we were asked to turn over the sheet and answer in one word or phrase “What are you looking for?” Talk about deeper waters!

Participating in the annual Financial Contribution to Teams, reminds us of the important work that Teams does in this country and in 90+ other countries, to offer couples a *specific way to holiness* together, helping each other in the Sacrament of Marriage. The monies contributed provide the “fishing nets” (training, materials and travel) for the Teams of Our Lady “disciples.”

In the midst of all this serious stuff comes a picnic. The Bethany Beach 1 Team in Delaware invited the rest of the Sector and their Pilot Couple (us). The beautiful Holts Landing State Park provided the environment and the team couples supplied the fun, food and fellowship with families happily playing together. Talk about a *big catch*, this was it.

As we drove away from the event, we couldn’t help but wonder, should we put a question in the Teams Evaluation saying, “How well do you play together?”



Janie & Bob Mericsko
East Provincial Couple



A Letter to Couples from Justine Holdsworth

Background:

John and Justine Holdsworth were installed as the Wilbraham Massachusetts Sector Couple on October 22, 2017. John died August 17, 2019. We asked Justine if we might reprint her letter to the couples in her Sector. Her response was:

“My heart is filled with your kind words and intentions! Yes, please share and ask all Team couples to pray for an increase of dedicated couples who want to share the love The Lord and His Mother have for us!

GBY - Justine”



John and Justine Holdsworth
Wilbraham Massachusetts Sector Couple

Warm greetings and prayers for you all,

I have just returned home from my scheduled hour before The Blessed Sacrament in Adoration. A very special place of respite for me these days! As I wept in His presence, I felt His gifts of grace and consolation to preserve knowing He loves me.

As I reflected on my love for John, I knew it was grounded first in my love of Our Lord. Our marriage was rich with examples of His Grace that helped us work through those good times and bad; we knew we had a mediator that would not fail us even though we might fail ourselves and each other. John's great devotion to Divine Mercy and Teams of Our Lady never failed us.

I petitioned Our Lord for this grounding in all married couples. He needs our help! Now, I am petitioning you all to bring more couples to know this love of God through the intercession of His Mother by growing Teams of Our Lady. We have been given a deeper relationship with one another by its mission and the gifts that are manifested through the Endeavors. Won't you help Our Lord and share His gifts!

I prayerfully request that we commit this next year for the growth of Teams of Our Lady throughout the world but much more specific, here in our Sector. When you pray The Magnificat as a Team at each meeting and when you pray it daily as a couple, I ask you to petition Our Lord and His Mother for the growth of this Movement steeped in Sacramental love. This time next year, we will reap the fruits of your prayers!

We have all been given a powerful gift: Mary's intercession in our marriages. There isn't a better gift to give couples in our parishes. Pray for them! I pray for all of you!

*Mary, Queen of Teams, Pray for Us,
Justine Holdsworth*



TJ & Ellen Holt
South Provincial Couple

South Province

Over the last several months, the Regions in the South Province have been hosting Sector Days of Enrichment, Sector Couple Installations, Sector Couple Team meetings, Region Days and just a lot of couple and family fun events. We wanted to share some of the highlights...

From Jim and Lillian Burke North Texas/Oklahoma Regional Couple:

On Saturday, October 26, we attended the "Together In Holiness" Conference presented by the St. John Paul II Foundation in Tyler, TX. The conference is an initiative of the foundation and serves Catholic couples. This was the first such conference in Tyler and it was presented in partnership with the Diocese of Tyler. The daylong event with multiple exhibitors and over 60 couples attending. With the help of Josh and Christina Loeffler, Sector Couple for Teams in Tyler, we were able to secure one of the exhibitor spots and set up a table with information about Teams of Our Lady.

The conference is a Catholic marriage focused event and provided three dynamic talks from Bishop Joseph Strickland of the Diocese of Tyler, Leonara Butau, Ph.D. of the St. John Paul II Foundation, and Patty Schneier, Author and Catholic Speaker. All of the presentations were inspiring and provided insights and experiences related to how we can grow closer to Christ and our spouses through faith and prayer.

Our presence at the conference gave us the opportunity to talk with a number of local couples expressing interest in what Teams of Our Lady is all about. With the Loefflers, we were able to answer questions about Teams and provide information, talk about the experience of being on a Team and invite them to an Information Meeting. It was a wonderful conference and a wonderful way to spread the word about the Teams of Our Lady movement.



Teams of Our Lady attendees from Tyler, Texas and Louisiana

From Mary Kay and Larry Kuchta, Southeast Regional Couple

In mid-October, over 75 couples come together for a Southeast Regional Day. Participants enjoyed presentations from TJ and Ellen Holt, (South Province Couple all the way from Texas), Jack and Mary Pulick, (Team members for 49 years!), and, Nate and Barb Flach (Palm Coast Sector Couple). Marilyn Pasden from Brandon, FL 03, also gave us insight to attending National Conferences and International Gatherings. She also confirmed to say "yes" to leadership positions like Information Couple, Piloting Couple, Liaison Couple, and perhaps Sector or Regional Couple! Remember, God doesn't always call the qualified, but qualifies the called!



Thank you to Tim and Kitty Whitehurst (Hillsborough Sector Couple) who helped everything run so smoothly, especially the kitchen, and helped set up and clean up as did the other presenters, also, thanks to Kitty and Tim who arranged for those great teens to help! They were awesome!



From Paul and Chris Sanchez, West Texas/New Mexico Regional Couple:

The Dripping Springs Sector held its annual Sector Retreat on September 28 at St. Martin de Porres Catholic Church in Dripping Springs, Texas. The Teams of Our Lady Sector Couple, Myron and Chery Lutz, did an outstanding job of organizing and leading the event. Approximately 100 individuals were in attendance, including Teams of Our Lady couples from Dripping Springs, Waco, San Antonio, and Austin. Attendance was also open to all married couples from throughout Dripping Springs and the surrounding vicinities. The event was titled “The Fruit of Spousal Prayer”. Fr. Charlie Garza, the Spiritual Counselor for the West Texas-New Mexico Teams Region, from St. Albert the Great Catholic Church in Austin, led the morning presentation. Fr. Garza taught the couples present the most effective methods for praying together as couples. Time was then allotted for couples to utilize the suggested techniques to pray together. All couples who attended left with a greater understanding of how effectively to utilize conjugal prayer to grow in spirituality as couples. The afternoon session began with a moving presentation by John Ganzerla, a member of Teams of Our Lady at St. Martin de Porres in Dripping Springs. Mr. Ganzerla shared the touching personal tale of the spiritual journey that his wife Melanie and he have experienced as a result of his daughter Eden’s near-fatal car accident. His tale of faith, prayer, and miracles was a huge inspiration to everyone attending. Finally, Fr. Justin Nyugen from St. Martin de Porres Catholic Church in Dripping Springs led the group in effective techniques for practicing guided meditation. The Sector Event concluded with adoration, followed by Mass. It was an outstanding Sector event that left participants with a better understanding of how to pray that leads us all to a heightened spirituality and greater love for our spouses, families, and those we come in contact with each day.



From Mike and Trice Towns, East Texas/Arkansas/Louisiana Regional Couple:

Trice and Mike attended Mass on Saturday June 8, at Jesus the Good Shepherd, 2510 Emerson St., Monroe, Louisiana. After Mass, we hosted a Monroe, Louisiana, Sector event at a local Piccadilly Cafeteria. We had a private room and the kids and family were all welcome!



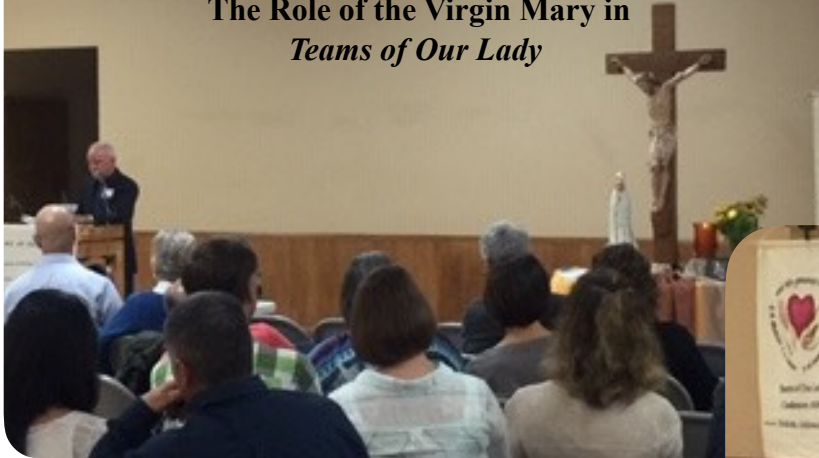
Sharla & Rob Walsh
West Provincial Couple

West Province

We would like to follow up from our last Province Report with the recent activity taking place here in the West Province. We attended the Western Regional Day on October 5, 2019 in Turlock, CA, put on by Tom and Gay Locke and their Regional Day team. It was well attended and the speakers were dynamic. Their theme was *Evangelizing in Teams*. The Sousas provided an overview of the worldwide Teams Movement and on *Do Not Be Afraid, Let's Go*, an orientation of the International Gathering at Fatima last year.



Fr. Manuel Sousa, USA Super Region Chaplain giving talk on:
**The Role of the Virgin Mary in
*Teams of Our Lady***



Stephen Valgos, Catholic Evangelist speaks on
Evangelizing the *Teams of Our Lady* in Our Parishes.
This was a spectacular speaker

Sharla inspired us with a talk on the new publication from the ERI called, *Vocation and Mission*, and how Fr. Caffarel's vision and message plays into the team concept. It is a very excellent document and an impetus for us to undertake and evangelize to the world on the beauty of love in marriage and beyond.

No conference should occur without mention of Father Caffarel. Rob gave a talk on the vocation of Fr. Henri Caffarel and the impact it has had on the world. This overview came from several talks given at the 2017 Colloquium in Paris, France. Rob also presented *The Life Before Us Movement*, an offshoot of *Teams of Our Lady* for the elderly, formed of groups with eight to ten people, and as such, they become a close knit community who care and pray for each other. They learn contemplative prayer for the good of the world and help each other alleviate loneliness and prepare for the final passage to heaven.

After our stay in California, we traveled to Phoenix, AZ to meet the new Sector Couple Chris & Jen Bradley. We quickly realized that the area is alive with faith and ripe for harvesting couples for Teams. We thanked them for their hospitality and service. We also met Jenny and Aaron Martin who generously organized and executed the Sector's first Team Retreat. The Retreat Master was Fr. John Nahrgang who talked eloquently on the beauty of our marriage Sacrament. It was enriching and up-lifting. We also met Mike Phelan, the Director of Marriage and Family Life for the Diocese of Phoenix and discussed Teams and also the new Movement, *The Life Before Us*.



Retreat in Phoenix, AZ, Oct 12, 2019

From Tony & Karyn Alamo: Western Region

The Western Region gathered on October 5, 2019. Tom & Gay Locke, Western Regional Couple, hosted a wonderful day of fellowship, prayer and learning for the approximately 150 people who attended the day's activities and were treated to some great speakers and prayer time. Topics included evangelization of Teams of Our Lady to prospective couples, the status of the Super Region, introduction to the new program *The Life Before Us*, and recruiting our parish priests in the role of spiritual advisor. The event concluded with a beautiful Mass where we, Karyn and Tony Alamo, were installed as the new Western Region Couple. Days like this would not be possible without the wonderful support of so many people. Special thanks to Tom & Gay Locke, Father Manuel Sousa, Jorge & Noélia Sousa, Rob & Sharla Walsh, Steve Valgos, Mary Salvador, Nancy Lourenco, our Sector Couples and many volunteers. Mark your calendars for October 3, 2020 for our next Regional Day.



As your new Western Region Couple, we have been busy setting goals for our four year term. One of our first tasks was communicating with our Sector Couples regarding roster updates. This review will allow our Region to function more efficiently and identify areas of need for our teams. We are also starting to set dates for upcoming meetings and schedule visits to Sector events. We are excited to welcome to the *Teams of our Lady* family Lodi 3, Whittier 8, Whittier 9 Spanish and Merced 1. We anticipate many blessings as we get to know the couples who comprise our Region and look forward to the tasks that will come our way.

From Roger & Lynn Porzig: Northwestern Region Idaho & Washington are on Fire with New Teams!

Team couples are on fire to be the spark for new teams in Idaho and Washington. Through an Informational Meeting in Twin Falls, ID, 28 couples expressed interest in joining Teams of Our Lady. Two of our Boise couples stepped up to be Pilot Couples for 3 new teams. Boise, ID, has grown from a Pre-Sector to a Sector, with 6 teams and a seventh one on the way! This growth presents the need for a team couple in Boise to respond to the call to serve as a Sector Couple. Join them as we pray for a "yes" to this Team leadership role.



Sharla & Rob Walsh,
Vivian and Tom Patrick
There are now 3 new teams
in Twin Falls, ID, in addition
to the 6 teams in Boise!

In Washington a recruiting effort was undertaken by team members David & Deidre Wilson that led to a number of interested couples. The Wilsons live in Arizona and 'summer' in Spokane, WA. They organized and hosted information gatherings. This bore fruit with seven couples saying yes to become a new team. Susan & Tamarack Andrews, a team couple from Coeur d'Alene, ID, responded to the call to be the Pilot Couple for this new team. We are grateful for their service to the Teams movement.



Tiago & Clarissa de Moura

Now we introduce Tiago & Clarissa de Moura, a wonderful couple from Brazil that had moved to Bothell, WA. In following the long-standing way of Teams spreading to new areas by couples who had already been in a team, they reached out to us, only to find no teams nearby. As they had been in Teams ten years, they are motivated to establish a new team, and are taking steps to begin with couples from St. Brendan. We will travel to Bothell to present the Information Session. Welcome Tiago & Clarissa!

The Life Before Us

Rob and Sharla Walsh

Rob and Sharla made the first official presentation of *The Life Before Us*, (LVDN), Movement in the United States on July 17, 2019, at the National Conference in Navasota, Texas. The presentation was made to the 16 Regional Couples for the USA Super Region. *The Life Before Us* is an outgrowth of Teams of Our Lady for the elderly, ~72 yrs and older, inspired by Fr. Henri Caffarel. This movement began in Versailles, France, started by a team couple, Louis and Marie d’Amonville, after Fr. Henri Caffarel had stepped down from leadership of Teams in 1973.

The Study Guide, *La Vie Devant Nous*, LVDN, is printed only in French and the copyright was not cleared for us to have the material translated into English, so we wrote our own study topic, *Come Pray Together* with an introductory prayer, an appropriate letter from Fr. Caffarel’s book, *Being Present to God*, and three study questions for each chapter.

The Life Before Us Movement helps us to understand our great value in our later years, as God’s precious creation. We are taught to embrace suffering, form friendships within our group, learn about the Sacrament of the Sick, and pray for our families and friends. These groups are formed by giving Information Sessions at Churches and Retirement Homes, explaining the procedures for the group. Once formed, the group meets one time per month for 1 1/2—2 hours.



Rob and Sharla Walsh, giving talks on:
The Life Before Us
Fr. Henri Caffarel

We are asked to form a “Leadership Team” in each Province of the United States Super Region consisting of: a priest and three to four individuals. The responsibility of the Leadership Team is to arrange a Mass for the elderly one time per year, know all of the teams that are formed in their Province, pray for them, review the group evaluations at the end of each year, and choose new study topics for the coming year. The Leadership Team also assigns and prepares couples to “pilot” new groups of *The Life Before Us*. At present, we have our Western Province Leadership Team in place: Fr. Jose Mudakodiyil, Rob & Sharla Walsh, Jim & Connie Busse, and Mike & Mamie Dec.

Since this great age entails, in an almost inevitable fashion, disabilities and suffering, there is a means for us to apply St. Paul’s words, *I now rejoice in what I am suffering for you, and I fill up in my flesh what is still lacking in regard to Christ’s afflictions, for the sake of His body, which is the Church.* (Col 1:24). No matter what the action undertaken at this time in the evening of our life, the hour has come to give priority to a contemplation of the infinite Love - the ideal time for thanksgiving.

This is the time “to have time,” to welcome others, be available for them, be available and open to God and prepare for the final passage to Him. In my life, did I not often make them wait? How wonderful now to be able to say: my time is yours; joyfully, I “consecrate” it, dedicate it to you! (LVDN, page 8). Fr. Henri Bissonnier, the author of the book, *La Vie Devant Nous*, noted, “I believe in eternal life and I know that I am called to it by the One, who created my immortal soul and who enabled me to enter into his own life when I was baptized in the resurrected Jesus Christ. Why therefore would I hesitate in saying it: ‘My whole life is before me.’”

At present we have these groups in Oregon: Redmond with Jim & Connie Busse, Aumsville with Fr. Dick Rossman, and Portland with Mike & Mamie Dec. We plan to hold an Informational Meeting at Juniper Springs Retirement Home, in Redmond this coming December. We invite your inquiry (emmettwalsh@me.com) to form new *Life Before Us* groups throughout the United States. Bishop Carey of Baker Diocese strongly supports this new Movement for the elderly. We have a great deal of information to assist you in getting started. In closing, we are living happily in Redmond, Oregon, trying to backfill our own team and spreading the new *Life Before Us* Movement both here and nationally.

That leads us right into the Christmas Holidays, so.....Merry Christmas to all and God Bless you and your Teams.

Marriage is Holy

Excerpt from Fr. Caffarel's book, *Marriage is Holy*



Teams of Our Lady

www.teamsofourlady.org

<https://equipenotre-dame.com/en/>



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

Rare are those Christians who think of thanking Our Lord for the magnificent gift of the sacrament of marriage. And yet, what would have happened to human love, if He had not renewed it? It was like the lepers and the possessed who waited outside the gates of the cities of Palestine for a Redeemer. The Savior passed by one day and elevated love. He cured it and blessed it. He delivered it from the terrible law of gravity that pulled it towards the animal and from the discouraging influence of routine and satiety. Henceforward love became indwelt by grace—the energetic, indefatigable grace that ennobles and constantly renews it.

This grace utilizes, with supreme and delicate artfulness, the joys, sorrows and even the faults of love in order to perfect and consolidate the union of husband and wife. In appreciation of this grace of the sacrament of marriage, a certain husband, after a severe crisis had passed, wrote these penetrating lines: “Yes, the sacrament is upon us; we received it without being fully aware of what it was, but we were disposed to receive it. That is why it took root in us; it rewards us now for the vague gesture of confidence we placed in it and returns our love delivered, multiplied and rooted in the eternal.”

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