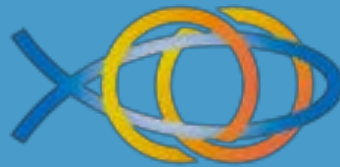




Noélia & Jorge Sousa
Super Regional Couple



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

MAGNIFICAT - Winter 2020

A Newsletter for *Teams of Our Lady* Members

Dear Team Family,

The word “service” comes from Latin, where it has the meaning “slave.” In our faith as Christians when we serve others in the name of Christ, we are “slaves” to God and, through Christ, we are no longer slaves but “adopted” children of the Father. As Christian couples, we live out our Vocation of Marriage but vocation always comes tied to Mission. In Teams of Our Lady, as we receive the tools to live out our calling ever more deeply, we are then to take the “good news” of Teams to other couples, out into the world. We are reminded per Father Caffarel’s speech in Rome, (1970), to Teams members speaking in the voice of God:

“Faced with atheism: Couples ...do you understand the great hope I place in you? You are the bearers of My reputation, of My glory, you are the great reason for hope for the universe...because you are love.”

Vocation and Mission, Fatima 2018.

A couple who greatly exemplify this “love”, this “service” and sacrifice to others, to Teams and to the Church is Ellen and TJ Holt. We are honored to announce that the Teams of Our Lady International Leading Team (ERI) has invited Ellen and TJ Holt to be the next US Super Region Responsible Couple. Ellen and TJ have long been involved in Teams in the Houston, Texas area. The Holts have offered their time and talent throughout the years in varied ways, including National Prayer Couple, Sector Couple, Regional Couple and they are currently the South Province Couple. They have three grown daughters. The Holts will be installed at the end of July 2020 in Warsaw, Poland, and will serve the US Super Region for 5 years. Please keep the Holts in your prayers, as they are sent out in their Mission, and for us, as we complete our Mission!!

God bless!! **Noélia and Jorge Sousa, USA SR Responsible Couple**

usa-sr@teamsfourlady.org



Fr Manuel Sousa
SR Spiritual Counselor

Dear Members of Teams of Our Lady,

The Charter of our Movement promulgated in Paris, France, in 1947, has a strong focus on the Person of Jesus Christ. It affirms that Team members are determined to live for Christ, with Christ and in Christ. It explicitly proclaims that Team members, couples and spiritual counselors and advisors, intend to fulfill their baptismal vows. Couples want to be sanctified by the sacrament of matrimony. They vow to be missionaries of Christ in all times and places. They are freely committed and dedicated Christians, but because they are aware of their weaknesses and limitations, they have formed themselves into teams.

Fr. Caffarel teaches that Jesus is the center of each Team meeting. He is the focus of the prayer and life of each team and that Mary, the Blessed Mother, prepares the ambience of the gathering.

It follows that we, as Team members, take the sacraments seriously as the privileged place of encounter with Jesus, the Lord. In a special way, as Team members, the Sunday Eucharist is the center of our week and of our lives. The Movement strongly encourages its couples to participate in an extra Mass a week and to do an hour of prayer a month for the couples of the Movement and their needs.

We are just days away from Ash Wednesday. Yes, Lent begins already on February 26. For over seventeen hundred years, we Christians have been formally preparing for the Feast of Easter. It's truly a dying with Christ and a rising with Him. At Easter, each year, we solemnly renew our baptismal vows. We renounce Satan and his empty promises and proclaim our faith, our trust and our closeness with the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit as they are proclaimed in the Creed.

I wish to call Teams to observe the liturgical calendar. We see Lent and Easter as a special time in the life of each team. Many parishes provide reflection material for every day of Lent. Parishes in general offer the Stations of the Cross, days of adoration and retreats. It is only fitting that the sacrament of reconciliation be part of Team couples' Lenten observance. It's only appropriate that Team couples would participate fully in the Easter Triduum, accompanying Jesus in His last supper and entrance into the garden of agony and Eucharistic adoration offered that night; that we would stand by Jesus in reparation for the our sins and the sins of the world in the Good Friday liturgy, and that we would be close to Him in the Easter Vigil and Octave of Easter. Now, we also have the special graces of the Divine Mercy novena and opportunities for plenary indulgences.

In the years leading up to the adoption of the Charter, Fr. Caffarel and the early leadership were concerned that some couples were primarily using Teams for their social needs. When the Charter was implemented, approximately one third of the couples rebelled and would no longer belong. Fr. Caffarel still reached out to them to offer another movement with less demands, but this project failed in a period of two years.

As a Movement, we endeavor to call couples to a deeper connection with Jesus and Mary. Without this sacramental devotion, teams languish and are unable to truly rise to the challenges of family and Team life. They remain brittle, unstable and superficial. They become like those teams in France in the 1940's that lost their way and came to nothing.

I wish you all a blessed Lent and Easter Season,

Fr. Manuel Fontes Sousa, Super Regional Spiritual Counselor

What is YATOL?

Young Adult Teams of Our Lady (YATOL) is an international young adult Movement of spiritual formation by, with, and for young adults, that offers its members avenues for Christian and personal growth. In the USA, YATOL invites single young adults who are 18-30 years old. The YATOL teams are accompanied by a Teams' couple who hosts the meetings, provides support, and participates as team members. If you feel called to start YATOL teams in your area, check their website at www.yatolus.us or email yatolus@gmail.com. If you want to speak with a Teams' couple who is currently involved as a host couple for YATOL, feel free to contact Jorge and Noélia Sousa at jornoe82@gmail.com or call (209) 648-3801 or (209) 614-4566.

Finances/Contributions

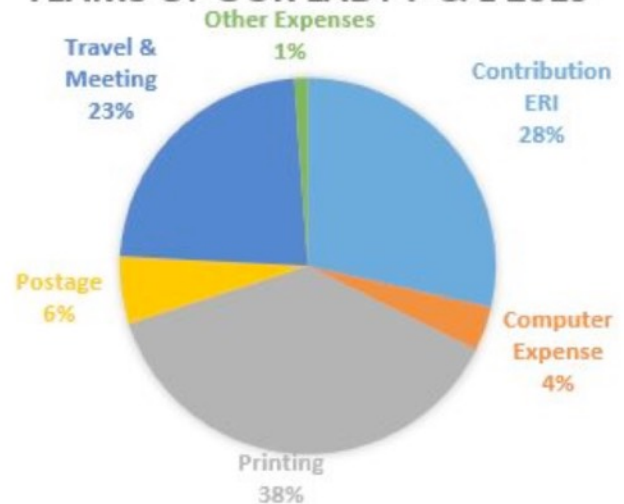
Thank you very much for your generous contributions during the 2019 year in support of The US *Teams of Our Lady* Super Region. Your gift has made a difference and has enabled Team to continue to grow and become strong in the US and we have been able to support the International Movement with the growth of teams in developing countries. The ERI tithe continues to be a large expense for US Teams. We have increased the printing and mailing expenses as our goal is that all members of Teams possess the Movement's documents and literature. The number of Teams' couples who participate in the contribution process continues to grow. The average participation for all Regions rose 1% and now stands at 30%. We thank and applaud the four Regions who have surpassed the 50% of member participation: Western, Northwestern, Midwest and Lake Michigan. Here is a snapshot of the US Super Region finances:

US Teams Financials

| Teams of Our Lady Profit & Loss January through December 2019 Jan - Dec 19 | |
|---|------------|
| Ordinary Income/Expense | |
| Income | |
| 4000 - Total Contribution Income | 274,200.80 |
| Total Income | 274,200.80 |
| Gross Profit | 274,200.80 |
| Expense | 235,299.34 |
| Net Ordinary Income | 38,901.46 |
| Other Income/Expense | |
| Other Income | 5,822.08 |
| Other Expense | |
| 9500 - National Conference Expenses | 8,966.25 |
| Total Other Expense | 8,966.25 |
| Net Other Income | -3,144.17 |
| Net Income | 35,757.29 |

US Teams Financials

TEAMS OF OUR LADY P & L 2019



Website and Facebook

In the last 2-3 years the Teams of Our Lady website (www.teamsofourlady.org) has been redesigned and frequently updated and we invite you to take a tour. To get the most out of the information we ask you to log in, update your member information and then explore. There you will find information about the Movement, National and international leadership. Extensive information about and works by Fr. Henri Caffarel, the Founder of Teams of Our Lady. Three of his books are available as well as many of his articles and editorials. The books can be downloaded to read or to listen to. The US Super Region and Province Newsletters are available as well as the International Newsletters including the Newsletter from the Friends of Fr. Caffarel Association and the Intercessors.

US Teams Members can download US and International Teams documents including:

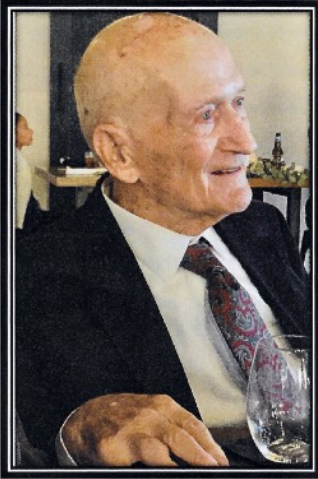
- Study topics for the current* and past years.
- Fr. Caffarel: Prophet of Marriage* (ERI)
(Study Material year following Piloting)
- The Team Meeting* (USA)
- The Team's Responsible Couple* (ERI)
- Sharing on the Endeavors* (USA SR)
- The Endeavors* (ERI)
- Endeavor Booklets* (ERI)
 - Listening to the Word of God
 - Meditation (Personal Prayer)
 - Conjugal Prayer
 - The Sit-Down
 - Rule of Life
 - The Retreat
- Conjugal Spirituality and Its Stages (ERI)
- Guide to the Teams of Our Lady* (ERI)
- The Priest Counsellor and the Spiritual Accompaniment in Teams of Our Lady* (ERI)
- Exercise of Collegiality* (ERI)
- Call to Service in the Teams of Our Lady* (ERI)
- Sector Couple Guide* (USA SR)
- The Sector Couple* (ERI)
- The Information Couple* (ERI)
- Guide to the Liaison Couple* (ERI)
- Liaison Couple Handbook* (US SR)
- Letter to Couples Who Assume Responsibility in the Movement* (ERI)
- The Couple of the Teams of Our Lady on Mission* (ERI)
- Vocation and Mission at the Dawn of the Third Millennium* (ERI) Fatima
- To Go Further: Study Topic for Long-Standing Teams
- The Best is Yet To Be: Study Topic for the Retirement Years (US SR)

...and much, much more!!

*Denotes material available in book form at materials@teamsofourlady.org. Piloting and Pilot Couple material are only available through Regional Couple order.

Also check us out on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/teamsofourladyUSA/>

ANDREW FAVRET (1925 - 2020)



ANDREW GILLIGAN FAVRET, former Dean of the Catholic University School of Engineering and Architecture, and father of eleven children, died January 27, 2020 at Georgetown University Hospital. He was 94 years old. Andy was born in Cincinnati, Ohio, on May 9, 1925. He graduated from Purcell High School, and after studying engineering for a year at the University of Dayton, entered the US Military Academy in 1942. After graduating West Point in 1945, he served as an armored vehicle officer in Germany for two years following [World War II](#). He obtained a masters degree in electrical engineering from the University of Pennsylvania, where he worked on the development of the UNIVAC computer. While studying in Philadelphia, he met and married Loretta Moore in 1949...

...A devout Catholic, Andy and his wife helped form US Teams of Our Lady, an international movement for Catholic married couples. Over nearly forty years, they served in a variety of leadership roles, traveling regularly to Europe for international meetings. Andy and Loretta were also appointed by the Archdiocese of Washington to conduct and train other couples in Pre-Cana marriage preparation classes.

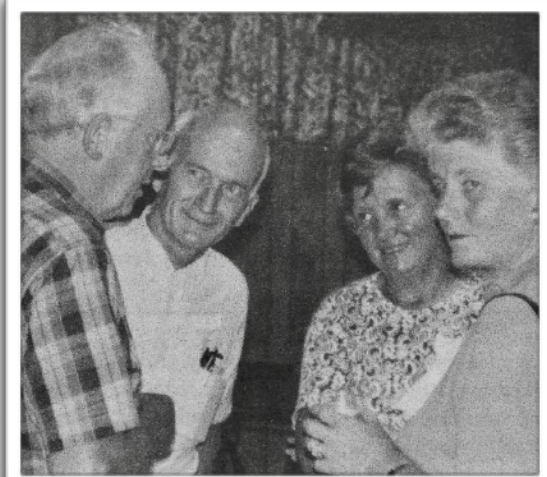


Photo to the right:

From the Fall 1987 *Magnificat* newsletter, showing Andy and Loretta Favret, (in the center), at a reception in Silver Spring, Maryland, attended by Jean-Jacques and Francoise Crepy, (far right), of the Leading Team from France, and Bob Wallace (left). Jean-Jacques was not in the photograph.

For the full obituary on Andy Favret, click on [legacy.com](https://www.legacy.com).

May the Lord bless the soul of Andrew Favret. Read more on the next page about the early growth of *Teams of Our Lady* which Andy had written for the *Magnificat* in 1976.

With love & blessings, **Paul & Monique Harris**, *Magnificat* Newsletter Couple
magnificat@teamssofarlady.org

PART II —EARLY GROWTH

(Second part of a series on the beginnings of Teams, written by Andy Favret, 1976)

In the spring of 1960, the Teams of Our Lady went on pilgrimage to Rome and were greeted warmly by Pope John. It seems appropriate that this demonstration of faith was soon followed by new growth in the United States.

In December 1960, a Brazilian couple who had been in Teams, (Luciano and Alice de Sousa Marques), met with two New York couples, John and Mary Mee and Bob and Jean Cincotta, to explain the Movement. They were anxious to begin a Team in Long Island. So in March 1961, they had their first meeting to study the Charter—3 couples and Father Foley. The Mees became the first Responsible Couple. In July, they had a picnic and invited other friends. There were 8 couples and 36 children. In August, they were visited by Father Murray, the chaplain of Los Angeles 1. He gave them the address of the Enthovens, a couple from the L.A. team who had recently moved to Washington, DC. By November, 1961, there were 8 couples in the Team mostly from Brooklyn, Queen's Village, and Rosedale. In December, they had a special meeting with Larry and Kathleen Scalera and one other couple who were to become the nucleus of a second New York Team.

During this same period, things were beginning to move in the Washington area. Alain and Rosemary Enthoven moved to Washington from Los Angeles in 1960. Through their fellow Team member Tom Laughlin, they met Father Geno Baroni who put them in touch with Jack and Gerri Lavan, Bob and Jean Young, and Andy and Loretta Favret all from Alexandria, Virginia. This prospective team met for the first time to study the Charter on April 11, 1961. A few months later, Alexandria 1 with Father Baroni as chaplain completed its piloting phase and applied for admission with the Enthovens as Responsible Couple.

It is not clear exactly how Los Angeles 2 began, but Leo and Murielle Langlois seemed to be the key couple and the team began meeting during the first quarter of 1961. Father Murray (from L.A. 1), was the chaplain.

In October, 1961, Ed and Leslie Costello held an Information Meeting in Boston, Massachusetts, and in November, Boston 2 held its first meeting to study the Charter. Fr. Turke from Winchester was chaplain and the Meesens from Boston 1 helped launch this new team.

By the end of 1961, there were 7 teams in the US Harold and Rachel Neel of Sevres, France, were Liaison Couple, (L.C.), for Boston 1, Washington 1, and New York 1. Annie and François Velarem were L.C. for Los Angeles 1 and 2 plus Alexandria 1. François and Marie de Soras from Paris were L.C. for Boston 2.

Things continued to happen during 1962. New York 2, 3, and 4 began. Boston 3 began (actually in December 1961) with Father Ford and later Father Carrig as chaplain. Washington 2 began primarily under the impetus of Father Geno Baroni. In Los Angeles (Westchester), L.A. 3 began meeting with Joe and Angie Viladas as Responsible Couple. This year also saw the first use of Americans as Liaison Couples with the Enthovens performing this service for Los Angeles 2 and 3.

By the end of 1962, there were 15 teams in the US in 5 different areas. One of these teams was Chicago 1 which had its first meeting in November 1962. It was initiated by an Augustinian priest, Fr. John van der Beck, who met the Costellos while visiting in Boston. It had no Piloting Couple and its first RC was Tim and Maureen Rooney. It is significant because, for whatever reason, the Movement did not take root in the Chicago, Illinois area. This team seemed to lead a normal life for about 6 years then quietly disbanded. As far as is known, no attempt was ever made to launch an additional team in the Chicago area.

A similar example occurred about a year later, in late 1963, a group of couples in Las Cruces, New Mexico, began meeting to study the Charter. They heard about the Teams from their chaplain, Fr. Blasé Schauer, who apparently heard about it from the Enthovens. Fr. Schauer was also chaplain of the Newman Center at New Mexico State University and all of the couples were associated with the University. In order to help pilot the team, the Enthovens would record and send a tape describing aspects of the Movement and how a meeting should be conducted. The couples could then send back a tape asking questions, etc. Since the literature (in English) in those days was minimal and the translations were poor, the tapes were probably a big help. Despite this, no new teams were established in the area and after about 3 years Las Cruces 1 disbanded.

Apparently 1963, was a year of consolidation and, except for Las Cruces, no new starts were noted. Nevertheless, important things were happening to set the stage for a new surge of growth in the US.

During the spring of 1963 the Leading Team asked Pierre-Yves and Susie Tiberghien to be the first "Regional Couple" for the US Pierre-Yves is French and Susie is American. At the time they were living in Brussels and shortly thereafter moved to northern Italy. They were enthusiastic, competent, and filled with the Spirit of the Teams. They were awed by the responsibility but finally agreed to undertake the task.

As a new Region, the US would have to begin providing some of its own administrative support. (At that time, there were 15 teams in the US.) In July, Larry and Kathleen Scalera (N.Y. 2) were asked to take charge of the "Stock of Documents" for both the US and other English-speaking countries primarily England and Australia. This meant being a sort of focal point for dissemination of Team materials in English. They were invited to come to Paris in October to attend a large meeting of Responsible Couples followed by a special International Meeting with a smaller group of couples. Of the large meeting in the Palais de Chaidlot, their report says: "The place was filled with 2800 people. We felt overwhelmed by the large number of people, strangers in tongue and custom. Yet at the same time we felt close, knowing that these couples were here by the grace of the Holy Spirit to testify to their belief that marriage is holy." This incident symbolizes where we were in 1963—one American couple among 2800 people, yet warmly welcomed and helped and encouraged by the rest of the Movement.

PART III— THE BEGINNINGS OF AMERICAN LEADERSHIP

(THIRD part of a series on the beginnings of Teams, written by Andy Favret, 1976)

...There was now a lot of correspondence, (much of it in French), flowing back and forth across the Atlantic. We were all relatively new to the Movement and it was not easy to provide the local leadership that was necessary. Nevertheless, by April, 1964, three of the six Liaison Couples were in the US: Alain and Rosemary Enthoven, (Washington), Jim and Jean Braddick, (New York), and Ron and Barbara O'Reilly, (Los Angeles).

About this time, planning began for the first US Training Session, which was to take place in September, 1964. This would be an opportunity to bring couples together from different parts of the US and to provide training to some couples, who might provide some of the local leadership so badly needed. In conjunction with this meeting, the Tiberghiens would visit each of the areas of the US, as well as attend the Training Session. Their visit was coordinated by Lou and Eileen Garavente, from New York. Also attending a special session in New York, would be Constantin and Genevieve Sipson, from the Leading Team, and Father van Wynsbergh, representing Father Caffarel. Andy and Loretta Favret were asked to plan and coordinate the Training Session.

This historic event was held at Our Lady of Aquia House, Stafford, Virginia, September 25-27, 1964. There were 35 of us, counting the Tiberghiens, plus about 6 priests, who were present at one time or another. Except for the McDowell's from Chicago, all were from either the Washington or New York areas. At first there was a little tension between couples from different areas; but, by the end of the weekend, we had all developed strong bonds of friendship and understanding.

It's funny now to recall that there were about 100 type-written pages, (in French), describing every detail about conducting a Training Session, from the detailed content of each talk, to the questions for discussion at workshops, to administrative details, like providing for the sale of books, stamps, and even providing a ball for exercise. In typical American spirit, many "adaptations" were made.

In early 1964, prior to the Training Session, "Coordination Teams" were set up—one in New York, and one in Los Angeles. One was established in Washington in October, 1964. A Coordination Team is sort of an interim arrangement that encourages some interaction between teams in an area that is growing, but doesn't have enough teams to become a Sector.

At the end of the Training Session, the first American Sector was established in New York, with Lou and Eileen Garavente as Sector Couple. By the end of the year, there were eight teams in New York, and many activities such as Chaplain Meetings, R.C. Meetings, Sector Days, and Sector Retreats.

It's difficult to convey the dynamism of the Tiberchiens. During those important years from 1964 to 1965, they must have written literally hundreds of letters to a variety of couples in the US. Here is a brief excerpt from a letter, (three typewritten pages), sent to seven couples responsible for US Teams, shortly after the Training Session:

"Let us all this year, especially work to think big and to make each American team think big. We all are busy; we all are caught up in a web of letter writing...but letters are not enough. We first must pray and think, (and we are speaking for ourselves). Once we have understood the mission of the Teams, once we have acquired a living conviction that the Teams are truth and charity...then we will accept the sacrifices involved in our service through the Teams to God."

That kind of commitment is contagious. After much correspondence and cajoling during the spring of 1965, I finally agreed to go on the Pilgrimage to Lourdes at Pentecost, and a subsequent International Meeting in Rome. At the end, the Sipsoms told me that Washington was to become the 2nd U.S. Sector, and Loretta and I were asked to be the Sector Couple. We were overwhelmed; but, when you witness the spirit and dedication of other couples at these International Meetings, it is difficult to say "no."

The same thing was true two years later, when we were asked to succeed the Tiberghiens as Regional Couple. It was equally true for John and Barbara Green, who agreed at that time to establish the first U.S. Secretariat. That milestone, (summer of 1967—after the International Meeting in Varese, Italy), marks the end of this story, and the beginning of a new one. From then on, the U.S. provided resident leadership for the Regional and the Secretariat and—through the grace of God—the Movement.



Glynis & Steve Sturm
North Provincial Couple

Cheerleaders for Marriage, Jesus and Mary

We recently had the honor of speaking at a Cana dinner, and we asked ourselves about the significance of the passage in John's Gospel about the wedding feast at Cana in Galilee to weddings and marriages. Jesus, his disciples, and Mary were all in attendance. These weddings were occasions of great joy and lasted days. The groom's family was responsible for the food and the wine. This shortage of wine would have been a

great humiliation and who notices the shortage of wine but Mary and she turns to the only person who can solve the problem, her son Jesus. This miracle, His first public one, shows the intercession of Mary for our needs without our even knowing it and His response of overflowing abundance which continues today.

Fr. Jeffrey Kirby from Word on Fire ministries, in a recent homily stated that, by this powerful miracle, Jesus is applying the graces of his Paschal mystery to marriage itself and elevates it to this dignity of a sacrament. This he says is an inspiring action for all those called to holy matrimony. The Lord surprised everyone at Cana turning the water into wine. So he can turn any darkness to light, any brokenness into something beautiful, and any sin into an occasion of grace. He is the God of new creation.

At a recent married couples retreat, it was presented that St. Pope John Paul II described the two people who enter the sacrament of matrimony with God in the center are in an orbit of grace. He described the sacrament as a gift to each other with the priest as the witness. Marriage is a constant giving of oneself with God filling us up so we will never be empty.

Marriage is a vocation to holiness. This holiness will grow through small gestures of love and sharing, self-sacrifice, prayer, life in the community, caring for others, participating in the sacraments, and following in the footsteps of Christ. We are called to be holy by living our lives with love and bearing witness in everything we do, wherever we find ourselves. We have air pods, ibuds and earbuds. In our noise-filled world, we could use a set of spiritual buds. What do you listen to when you have moments of silent time? Remember we are not alone and prayer is a life source. Think of prayer as a holy fire extinguisher.



We are thankful for the opportunity we had to speak at the Cana dinner and attend the married couples retreat. We urge couples to participate in these events to bring the message of Teams of Our Lady.

Wishing you a fruitful Lent.

Steve & Glynis North-PC@teamsfourlady.org

PS We are looking forward to meeting the couples attending Sector Couple training in July.

“In those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a city of Judah, and she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth.”

Lk 1: 39-40

We can all tell the story of the Annunciation and Visitation, but recently this was brought to mind and heart on our trip to Israel. Just last week we traveled by bus from Nazareth, Mary’s home, through the hill country of Judea to the site of the homes of Elizabeth and Zachariah. It would have taken Mary four days traveling over some pretty rough country. She would have had to travel with companions for protection against any potential dangers.



Here we have Mary, a prayerful young woman with news that could likely have filled her head with hopes and dreams about being the mother of Our Lord and Savior, but instead, she *hastens* to Elizabeth to *serve* Elizabeth in her pregnancy and the birth of John. Our photo of this sculpture, outside the Church of the Visitation, of the pregnant Mary and Elizabeth was most moving. Their importance in salvation history was lovingly displayed by the closeness of the two women and the serious direct gaze of each to the other. Besides the sculpture, mounted on the wall in the courtyard of the Church, were 42 ceramic tablets, bearing the verses of the Magnificat in different languages. I, (Janie), was asked to pray out loud the words of Mary’s Magnificat. We both could not help but think of the many couples in Teams of Our Lady throughout the world who lift their prayers each day in solidarity with the Movement.

When last we wrote, we were preparing for the first East Province College Meeting in Clarks Summit, PA. Assembled were our five Regional Couples from the East Province and their Sector Couples. We are most grateful to

our Regional Couples for their input to the content of the weekend and for giving colorful presentations on the Endeavors. Father John Dillon, our Province Spiritual Counselor, gave two talks that challenged us to be holy couples and commissioned us to help other couples who seek the same goal through the Team Movement. Father John continues his contacts with Spiritual Counselors and Spiritual Advisors throughout the Province. We were most grateful for his support at the College and providing us with daily Eucharist, Confession, and Anointing of the Sick.

Nilson and Marioli Marques, Metro Regional Couple, continue to do the most marvelous work with the Brazilian Portuguese-speaking Teams in the New York City area and act as liaison to Brazilian Teams in other states in the East Province; their additional work with couples who are not canonically ready to form Teams of Our Lady but need support, guidance and encouragement, is invaluable to the rest of the Province, since we are confronted with these issues in all languages. Mike and Emily Hoffman, Lake Erie Regional Couple, somehow balance a very active family life with five children, but find time to promote new Teams and sustain existing ones with retreats, Sector days, a Regional day and, most recently, a Teams of Our Lady Valentine’s Dinner/Evening. Mark and Anne Ehrick, Mid-Atlantic Regional Couple, are to be congratulated on having the only Region in our Province that has all of their Sector Couples; kudos to them for some very fine work through prayer and persistence; we look forward to re-establishing Teams in Washington, DC. Mike and Patti Bernardi, New England Regional Couple, are joined by John and Deb Coty, the new Sector Couple for Wilbraham, Massachusetts; together, they ask all Team members in their Region for assistance to revitalize existing Teams and seek leadership in Sectors without leadership. Dave and Carol McCaffrey, Coastal Regional Couple, have done an outstanding job with developing leadership in areas that lacked direction for years; they had the most representation of Sector Couples at the East Province College.

Two days before leaving for Israel, we attended a beautiful Mass of Christian Burial for Andy Favret. Although the readings and songs sounded like Andy’s choice, the back of the program belonged to the children; it began: “All because God blessed two people who loved each other so much.” The page was beautifully bordered by an oval black outline of the names of each of the children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren—fifty in total. The blessing of God was upon Andy and Loretta as they raised their children, but also as they grew and nurtured Teams of Our Lady in the US. They found their model of service in the person of our Mother Mary, and we are so enriched by the efforts of the Favrets, as well as so many others who served the Lord through their ministry to couples in Teams of Our Lady.

Let us offer a Lenten Challenge: pray daily for the Teams Movement and those who serve; sharpen your knowledge of each of the Endeavors; and speak to priests and couples about Teams.

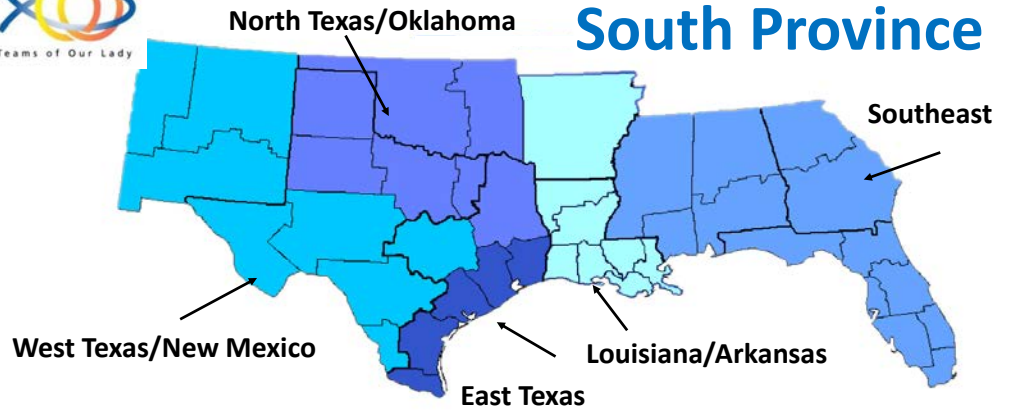


Janie & Bob Mericsko
East Provincial Couple





TJ & Ellen Holt
South Provincial Couple



When do you find time to slow down? It seems that is a very hard question for many of us to answer. In these busy times, we are so grateful that God actively engages in our lives to make his plans come about, even in our state of brokenness. Sometime its that work ahead sign, or the detour sign God places in our path, to change our direction, or at least break the routine, like auto-pilot on steroids. Often in these unplanned path changes, we look more carefully at the change of scenery and we see beauty in our Movement, through growth in faith, understanding couples, and the blossoming of the Movement, which reflect His providence showered upon us. God’s hand is truly at work in Teams of Our Lady. We see it every day when we pause long enough to look.

If you are not sure that He is active in your life, consider volunteering to serve in Teams. It is often in these times, we see His hand more clearly than ever, since we attempt to cooperate with Him, rather than ignoring His plan. His face can appear as the smile of a child at an event, the wink of a friend in a meeting, or the thank you of a Team member. We pray that you, especially in this Lenten season, will see His Divine presence in your life, and accept His aid, unexpected detours, grace and beauty as he offers it.

Gratefully, Ellen and TJ



Photo above, from left to right: T.J. & Ellen Holt, Jim & Lillian Burke, Mike & Trice Towns, Larry & Charla Macicek, Paul & Chris Sanchez, and, Larry & MaryKay Kuchta



We are excited to announce a new Regional Couple and Region to the South Province! Please help us welcome Larry and Charla Macicek, as the first Regional Couple for the Louisiana/Arkansas region.

Larry and Charla have been married for 46 years and members in Teams for 16 years. They are currently members of Houston, TX, Team 2. Over the last three years, they have served as Sector Couple for Houston, TX, which experienced much growth during their term.

Prior to moving to Houston in 2004, they lived in Lafayette, LA. Their two sons have given them ten grandchildren with four in Lafayette and six in New Orleans. For this, they now have two homes, one in Lafayette, “Charla’s nest,” for gathering the big family, and a home in Houston, to stay near their “Teams family.”

Recently, Larry and Charla have piloted and begun three new teams in Lafayette, and are anxious to continue building Teams throughout the Louisiana/Arkansas region.

During their 16 years in Teams, Larry and Charla have piloted new Teams, lead numerous information meetings, completed the term of Houston Sector Couple, assisted in the National Conference, participated on the New Teams Weekend Celebration Team, and in the Teams data base rollout. They are very enthused to help Teams in this Regional role.

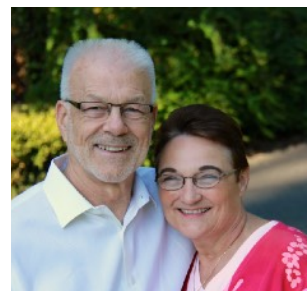
And we are extremely thankful for their “yes.”

TJ and Ellen Holt

South-PC@teamsfourlady.org

“In his mind a man plans his course, but the LORD directs his steps.” Proverbs 16:9

We want to say hello to “everyone” and that we are praying for God’s great graces to be upon you and the entire Movement. We have just finished our Super Regional Team meeting in Turlock, California, with Jorge and Noelia Sousa, Fr. Manuel Sousa, the Secretariat, Treasurer, Webmaster and the other three Provincial Couples. It was productive and we will pass all of the information on to our Regional Couples at the end of March who will disseminate it to all of the Team members shortly thereafter.



Sharla & Rob Walsh
West Provincial Couple

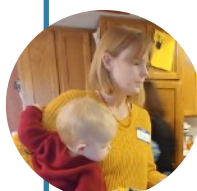
As your West Province Couple, we want to let you know how much we appreciate our Regional Couples: Roger and Lynn Porzig, the Northwest Regional Couple, and Tony and Karyn Alamo, the Western Regional Couple. They are both very efficient, organized, and technically efficient. Boy, do we need help in that area!

In the Western Region, Tony and Karyn Alamo, who travel from California to Texas twice a month to manage two businesses, just received a call from a priest in Ogden, Utah. He had been involved in *Teams of Our Lady* in Bloomington, Indiana, and wants to begin Teams in Ogden. The Alamos will stop by there soon.....yea! We do not have Teams in Utah yet! Tony and Karyn are a smart, amiable, and most importantly, a spiritual couple; they will set Utah on a productive and Holy journey.

In Central Oregon, Redmond-01 and Redmond-02 are planning their first Annual Retreat at the Powell Butte Retreat Center, for October 23-24, 2020. The Most Reverend Liam Cary, Bishop of Baker, Oregon will be saying the closing Mass and joining the retreatants for dinner on October 24. The theme for this first retreat is, “Team Life and the Path to Holiness”. Our Retreat Master will be Fr. Sibi Poulouse, the Priest Spiritual Counselor for Redmond-02 team. One of our Team couples from Portland is coming to the Retreat to give a wonderful presentation on the Endeavors, based on their personal journey of the Camino de Santiago.

Our New Teams Welcome Celebration (NTWC) team has had their second meeting to plan the NTWC for the Boise/Meridian, Idaho area. It has been decided to postpone the NTWC until an “**Idaho Teams Gathering**” takes place and we have a Sector Couple in place. Our hope and prayer is to have a couple step up and attend the Sector Couple training in Minnesota, this summer. It is very important that they have a local contact that has been trained to lead them, especially since Idaho is on fire with the growth of Teams of Our Lady.

In the Northwest Region, we are proposing to make a pre-sector from the two Coeur d’Alene Teams and the new Spokane, Washington Team. Presently, Tamarack and Susan Andrews are driving the 45 minute drive each way, every month, to Pilot our newest Team in Spokane. Tamarack and Susan have told us that Piloting is truly the most rewarding job in Teams. These seven new couples have thirty-two children, four of which are of the nursing age, present at the meetings. Everyone is enthusiastic and enjoying the Piloting process. Tamarack and Susan feel like this team will thrive and grow, inspiring many more teams in the area. David and Diedre Wilson, who split their lives between Spokane and Phoenix, actually initiated this Team, so that they would have a Team to be a part of in both places. We thank them for their love of the *Teams of Our Lady* Movement.



Rob & Sharla Walsh West-PC@teamsofourlady.org



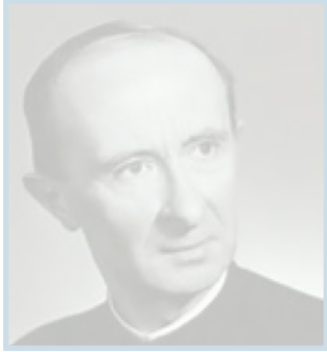
A hearty welcome to Fr. David Gaines, Mike & Sheila d’Esterre, Matt & Alicia Ries, Colin & Brenna Kelly, Scott & Megan Fleischman, Peter & Ray Palubicki, Cory & Athena Gaunt, Rich & Karen Hanson!



Teams of Our Lady

www.teamsfourlady.org

<https://equipés-notre-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

“The Two Loves”

Excerpt from Chantilly Talk in Chantilly, France May 3, 1987

..... “The result was that I had before me, couples in whom dwelt two loves: love of their spouse and love of Christ. At first sight, one might think that conjugal love and the love of Christ are each all consuming and intransigent, but they had the curious experience of discovering that these two loves, which are absolute, fitted perfectly together in their spiritual life without their really being able to understand the uniting of the love of spouse and the love of Christ; this is why they were eager to discover how to progress towards holiness with those two loves in their heart. The first meeting, very joyful, full of optimism, flowing from the great joy, which was theirs, of loving each other and loving Christ. They put thirty six questions to me and suddenly my apprehensions disappeared, I was even surprised to feel so much at ease, and then I understood why I was so much at ease; for the previous 10 or 15 years I had had a relationship of love with Christ, and in the company of these couples, who spoke to me of their love, I discovered that in the life of the couple were to be found the laws which I had discovered in my relationship with Christ; the laws of love are the same everywhere. And this is what immediately won me over and made me enthusiastic, we were going to be able to help each other, they would bring to me the concrete life which they were leading, and I would bring to them such notions as I had about spirituality. How many times have I said to myself that I would by no means have developed in the way I did if, instead of meeting these four couples, I had at the commencement of my ministry discovered marriage in the confessional; I would have got to know the moral difficulties and the psychological difficulties, I would have formed a much more sombre idea of the union of man and woman; fortunately it was with these four couples that I became interested in marriage... The second orientation: all of them, without exception, had no difficulty with the thought that their vocation was – holiness: holiness seemed to them to be the flowering of love, the completion of their conjugal love and of their love of Christ. And then, this thought immediately led them to discover in a wholly new way the sacrament of marriage, not just a formality but a source of prodigious grace, Christ coming to save love, ailing since original sin, and bringing to it much needed help and huge graces”. *Therefore, after meeting those couples who wanted to seek holiness, Fr. Caffarel started the Teams Movement for sacramentally married couples.*

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