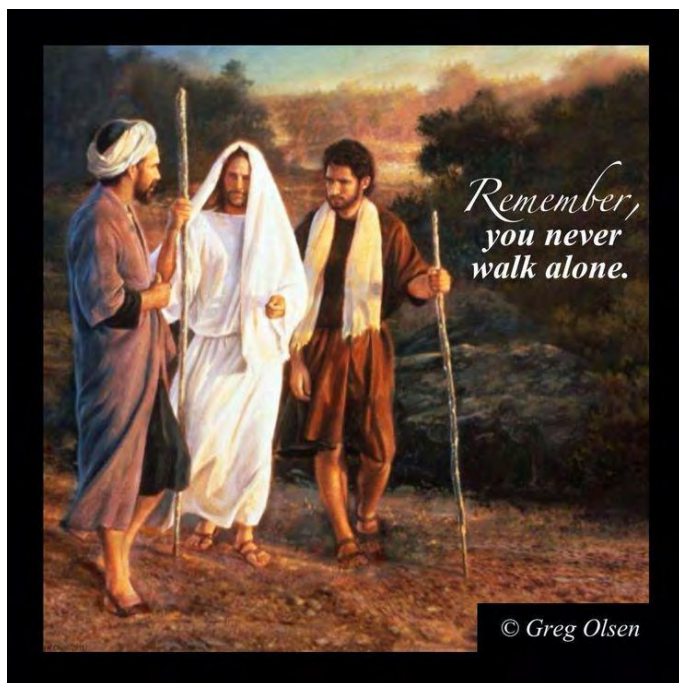




MAGNIFICAT - March 2017

Quarterly Newsletter

If you have ever watched the English soccer team Liverpool play, especially at home, you will hear 50 thousand fans sing their theme song, “You Will Never Walk Alone” as encouragement to the players and fans alike that together they will win.



The bible tells us that from the beginning God intended that we not walk alone, “It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suited to him.” (Gen 2:18) God himself is a community, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

From the beginning of Teams, the message has been that we as individual and couples do not need to “walk alone.” When a young couple came to Fr. Caffarel to help them live their marriage and Christian life more fully, he invited them to come and “search together”; they went out and

invited other couples and the first team met on February 25, 1939.

The Charter of the Teams of Our Lady (1947) beautifully states:

“Because they are aware of their weaknesses and limitations, because they experience daily how difficult it is to live up to the Christian ideal in our modern world, because they have unflinching faith in the power of fellowship and mutual help, they have decided to form themselves into Teams...The word "Team" has been chosen in preference to any other because it signifies that those who belong to the Movement have a specific aim which is jointly and vigorously pursued.”

In a team, each individual and each couple and Spiritual Counselor, is supported, encouraged and challenged to attain their goal: holiness. (*Teams of Our Lady has as its essential aim, to help couples, to strive after holiness – no more, no less.*” Fr. Caffarel)

Just as a couple does not walk alone by joining a team, so a team does not walk alone. It is part a Sector and it is designed to be more intimately connected to the Sector by a Liaison Couple who is part of the Sector Team. A Sector Couple does not walk alone, they are helped and supported by a Sector Team. A Sector Couple is part of a Region and meets with, supports and encourages a Regional Couple. A Regional Couple is part of a Province Team and Province Couple is member of the Super Regional Team. The SR Couple is part of the International College that includes all the SR Couples from the Super Regions of the world. The Team’s International Responsible Couple has a support and encouragement team (all the Zone Couples) called the ERI (Equipe Responsable Internationale). We, in Teams, do not walk alone. At every level of the

Movement, there is “liaison” and we support and encourage each other and work together.

Teams of Our Lady does not walk alone either. We are part of the Catholic Church. The “charism” or “gift” given to Teams by the Holy Spirit is for the good of the whole Church. This charism, “Married Spirituality”, when lived profoundly, enriches the Church. And because “gifts” are to be shared, we invite couples and priest to join the Movement.

A couple or marriage that lives for itself, dies. So, does a team. A team to be healthy, to grow and develop its charism, must be connected to the larger movement, to give and to receive. Prepared, we can give to the Church:

“This was the intuition of Fr. Caffarel, who did not want anyone to join ‘a team to become isolated ... but to learn how to give him/herself to others’ (Monthly Letter, February 1948, p. 9). Rejoicing in all that you have undertaken, I exhort all the team members to participate more fully in the life of the Church...” (St. John Paul II, Address to Teams, January 2003).



“Indeed, I would like to insist on this missionary role of the Teams of Our Lady. Every committed couple certainly receives a great deal from its Team experience, and its conjugal life is deepened by

refining itself through the spirituality of the Movement. However, after receiving from Christ and from the Church, a Christian is irresistibly sent out to witness to and pass on what he has received.”

(Pope Francis’ address to Teams, Rome, September 2015)



Beyond your Sector and Regional events there are many activities that are unfolding in Teams. Here are some of them:

June 17-18, 2017

New Teams Celebration

Weekend in Dripping Springs, Texas (the first in the USA in formally welcoming newly formed teams to the Movement).



July 1-14, 2017

Teams of Our Lady will be represented in the first United States Conference of Catholic Bishops Convocation of Catholic Leaders: The Joy of the Gospel in the United States.



July 1-4, 2017
Convocation
of Catholic Leaders
The Joy of the Gospel in America

July 23-29, 2017

The ERI and International College Meeting in Florianopolis, Brazil.





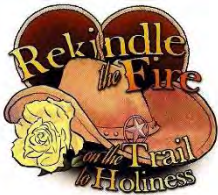
August 2-6, 2017

The USA Super Region and College Meeting plus new Sector Couples Training, Fredericksburg, Texas



July 16-21, 2018

The Teams International Gathering, Fatima, Portugal. All Team members are invited



July 16-19, 2019

The USA SR National Conference at Camp Allen, Navasota, Texas. All Team members are encouraged to participate.

Teams of Our Lady
2019 National Conference
July 16-19, 2019
Camp Allen, Navasota, Texas



We invite you to get involved, share, encourage, support and live the life of the Movement to the fullest!!

May the Lord and His and our Mother bless you this Lenten and Easter Season.

Noélia and Jorge Sousa
USA SR Responsible Couple

FROM FATHER MANUEL:

What significance does the message of Fatima, and now the centennial in 2017, have for the Universal Church and for the Teams of Our Lady Movement today?

St. John Paul II was convinced that the apparitions of Our Lady in Fatima were one of the most significant signs of our times, more crucial and relevant now, than at any time in the past. As you may remember, Our Lady appeared monthly to three children, Lucia dos Santos and Francisco and Jacinta Marto, from May to October of 1917, in Portugal.

Even in the confusion that ensued after the Second Vatican Council, Fr. Henri Caffarel never wavered in his devotion to the Blessed Mother. In his writings, each team meeting is an encounter with the living Jesus, and His Mother is always discreetly present as one who makes our hearts burn with love for her Son. In 1987 he stated: "...our faith in Mary, in her love, in her intercession, was there from the beginning of the Teams... and so I invite you, more than ever, to renew that confidence in the Virgin Mary who will preside over the destiny of the Teams."

From the witness of the three children, the Fatima event is especially about the revelation of the Immaculate Heart of Mary as the bearer of peace to a world set on a dangerous course. After the revelation of the Sacred Heart of Jesus to St. Margaret Mary Alacoque in the 17th century, in Fatima, God showed the world her heart and its burning love for sinners, and her motherly concern for the future of our civilization. It is, then, reasonable to think that as believers we experience the human-divine love of Two Hearts. Yes, they are beating in unison for the steady growth and renewal of Teams. Yes, they hunger for the return of the nations to faith. Yes, they grieve over the apostasy of so many households, and its consequences for peace in the world and the salvation of souls.

With the Miracle of the Sun, in the last apparition of October 13, 1917, Mary showed how dangerous and hopeless the world becomes without God and prayer. The reports are unanimous: the sun lost some of its brilliance and became like a huge disc in the sky, swirling, seemingly out of control, threatening the earth. The crowd of over 50,000

cried out in fear. On their knees and in tears, many



asked for mercy and forgiveness. Then, the visionaries see St. Joseph and the Child Jesus on the left side of the sun making a gesture of blessing over the world. Our Lady appears on the other side, first as Our Lady of Sorrows, and then as Our Lady of Mount Carmel. God in Fatima shows the Holy Family to the nations as a source of healing of marriage and family. He shows them as His ideal and our only hope. God also makes a reference to the mysteries of the rosary as a summons to family prayer and the strengthening of faith. Couldn't the erratic and menacing sun be the more developed revelation of the third secret right in front of our eyes?

If the Second World War was a terrible chastisement as Our Lady predicted, what waits us in the 21 century? Is there a correlation between Fatima and the message of Divine Mercy by St. Faustina: now mercy, then judgment?

Early in his priestly ministry, Fr. Caffarel was only too aware of the devastating dangers that the modern world posed to marriage and the family. In his

assessment, a deep spirituality of marriage and family was absolutely and urgently necessary if the Church was to help turn the tide of lawlessness and

alienation. He saw Teams as an antidote to the sickness and paganism of modern culture. Many years ago, in an interview, Sister Lucia would endorse

this same prophetic stance by saying: "... the final battle between the Lord and the reign of Satan will be about marriage and the family... this is the decisive



issue. However, Our Lady has already crushed its head!" Yes, the message is of hope. She herself revealed: "In the end, my Immaculate Heart will triumph."

In the apparitions of Fatima, Mary's true role in salvation history is made even more explicit. She is entrusted with the world's peace. Yet, she is herself so ignored, reviled, and offended. Is Mary truly revered and honored in each team of Our Lady? How would consecration to her in the line of St. Louis de Montfort or of St. John Paul II (Totus Tuus) be helpful for a new love, devotion, fervor, commitment to the identity and the mission of the Movement? In my area of the country, after a preparation of 33 days, some of the most dedicated and revered members of Teams have felt the need to make their explicit consecration to Mary.

Behold, the Lord of Lords working together with His Queen Mother for the healing of marriage and family. Isn't this already a powerful inspiration to Christian couples? Isn't this already about complementarity and spousal love in its deepest mystery? Is this not the very essence of each of our meetings?

What is Mary in Fatima saying to us today when some Teams seem tired and dispirited? What useful lessons can we still learn from the children and their families?

Dear Team couples, you have a special place in God's heart and in His plan for the world. You are the only Holy Family that many will ever see to repent and be saved. You are an oasis where Jesus and His Mother wish to rest. You are a Marian shrine of prayer, conversion, consecration and reparation. Let us not hold back in mediocrity and worldliness. Half measures avail us nothing. Let us make a firm resolve to live in fidelity to the spirituality of the Movement. May God bless you and your domestic church.

Fr. Manuel F. Sousa,
Super Regional Spiritual Counselor

South Province

Be Courageous and Be Bold in your walk with Jesus this lent.

"I command you: be strong and steadfast! Do not fear nor be dismayed, for the LORD, your God, is with you wherever you go." Joshua 1:9
Lent is no time to be timid. Changing ourselves for the better is serious business. For Lent you may choose to deny yourself something. You may choose to do things that are positive, like giving alms or serving in other ways. For Teams couples, Lent is the perfect time to work on your Rule of Life.

Whatever we choose, we should pursue it with courage and boldness.

Scripture has this to say about being lukewarm: "I know your works; I know that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish you were either cold or hot. So, because you are lukewarm, neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of my mouth."

Revelation 3:15-16. Wow I hope we are never just lukewarm Scripture also shows example of boldness in the sometimes all-too-human disciples. The disciples also made mistakes but Jesus never discouraged their boldness.

Take Peter when he saw the Lord walking across the water he said, "Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water." Matthew 14:28 Did Jesus say

wait for me, I'll be at the boat soon. No he said only "Come" Matthew 14:29. Peter even walked on water until he got scared by the wind and the waves and began to sink.

After the resurrection when several disciples were out fishing and cast their net and caught the fill of fish "...the disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, "It is the Lord." When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he tucked in his garment, for he was lightly clad, and jumped into the sea." John 21:7
<http://usccb.org/bible/john/21>

When James and John were bold enough to ask the Lord to sit at his right hand and on his left. Jesus asked "Can you drink the cup that I drink or be baptized with the baptism with which I am baptized? They said to him, "We can."" Mark 10:38-39. Jesus, instead of refuting their ambition, redirected them by stating "...whoever wishes to be great among you will be your servant; whoever wishes to be first among you will be the slave of all." Mark 10:43-44

We need to trust Jesus with our hopes and ambitions, and to help keep on the correct path like the disciples did. This trust can allow us to get the insights about ourselves and learn more about Jesus. It is comforting to know that even when we are bold and may fall down or start to sink, Jesus will help pull us up. Boldly embracing our Rule of Life can be easier to begin if we don't worry about mistakes along the way. Don't be afraid to step or jump out of the boat. Don't be afraid to ask for big things. Be Bold and Be Courageous this Lent and find Jesus along the way!

God Bless – T.J. & Ellen Holt



East Province

*Introducing Bob and Janie Mericsko:
Installed as Responsible Couple for the East
Province in February 2017.*

*Married for 47 years and in Teams of Our Lady for
40 of those years. After 45 years in the
Washington, DC area, we retired and moved two
years ago to "lower, slower Delaware." We drive
back to the DC area at least once each month to
visit our two daughters and attend our own team
meeting.*



Lent: A Time for Good Questions and Listening

We once heard it said that we Catholics are better at doing Good Friday than doing Easter Sunday. Yet, we are called to be an Easter People. If we asked you to list what you like and dislike about yourself, which list would be longer?

Pope Francis' 2017 Lenten message The Word Is a Gift, Other Persons Are a Gift states that "Lent is a favorable season...", the basis for it is the Word of God, and that we ought to "...favor the culture of encounter." Two great gifts that we have in common come to mind: the gift of our spouse in Holy Matrimony and the gift of Teams of Our Lady. "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." (Prayer for the Beatification of Henri Caffarel) What if, this Lent, we spend some time appreciating and being thankful for our spouse and the Teams of Our Lady in a conscious and specific way? The prophet Joel challenges us to return to God with all our heart; this means not settling for mediocrity in our spiritual life.

Do we dare gaze upon our spouse with open hearts, deeply recognizing their value? Are we grateful that God has put them in our lives to love, cherish, and discover God's will for us as a couple? We are who we are today because of them; how else might we seek their guidance and support?

The Endeavors of Teams of Our Lady have been sanctioned by the Holy See as an authentic way to holiness so that a married couple embarks on them together. The weeks in Lent and the Endeavors are both six in number. This Lent we are taking each of the Endeavors and assigning it a week of reflection. What might we discover about their practice and richness? Might we want to put effort toward learning how to deepen their challenges to us? How have they helped us grow spiritually and how might we increase their usefulness?

How can we "favor the culture of encounter"? There are opportunities to encounter every time I have a sit-down with my spouse and each month at our own team meeting.

God speaks through His word, our spouse and our team. Are you listening? One of our wise sector couples recently reminded us that St. Theresa of Calcutta tells us that we must be faithful, not perfect. (Thank you, Clark and Doris.)

Northern Province News



We are Steve and Glynis Sturm, the North Provincial couple, from a small town in Minnesota. Recently retired, we are enjoying traveling and our 5 grandchildren. Steve and I will celebrate 44 years of

marriage in April and 40 of those years in Teams. We have been greatly blessed with Teams in our lives and are compelled to share the Movement with others. Teams is a part of our extended family and prayer partners in all we do. A benefit of Teams is being with others with whom you can pray, study, laugh, cry and grow in your marriage spiritually through the endeavors. Our founder Fr. Caffarel said in a talk at Chantilly that marriage is a work of God, God's masterpiece. Marriage has a soul and is love. The sacrament of marriage was created because with God's help that love will endure. We are all called to be holy just as monks are. It is necessary to develop a spirituality that is different than that of monks. This spirituality can be lived with the help of the Movement to give couples direction in the framework of their lives.

The Northern Province, since this is new to the United States, consists of the these states: Minnesota, Iowa, Wisconsin, Michigan, Ohio, Illinois, Indiana, Tennessee, Kentucky, Missouri, Kansas, Colorado, Nebraska, North Dakota, and South Dakota. There are 4 regions included: Central, North Central, Midwest, and Lake Michigan. Lake Michigan is our newest region which includes Michigan, Illinois, and Indiana currently headed by Frank and Bev Lentine. The Midwest region is now Ohio, Kentucky and Tennessee headed by Roz and John Needham. The Central region is Missouri, Kansas, Iowa, Nebraska and Colorado headed by Kirk and Peggy Peterson recently installed to replace George and Mary Klosterman. The North Central

region is North Dakota, South Dakota, Minnesota, and Wisconsin headed by Mike and Barb Timm.



A very enjoyable part of our duties is to install new regional couples. March 11, we were invited to attend a Day of Reflection in Des Moines, Iowa where we also were able to install the Petersons with The Klostermans. The humble acceptance of leadership responsibilities with the promise of God walking with us is a beautiful statement of faith and love of Teams. We are looking forward to traveling to Detroit for their Sector Day in March and installing the new Lake Michigan regional Julie and Steve Whitmore.

We are just returning from a meeting with Jorge and Noelia Sousa, the Super Regional couple, and the three other Provincial couples and the new

Secretariat couple, Robin and Colette Quinn replacing Janet and Ted Windus. The same address should be used to send roster information. Be sure to check out the Facebook



page Teams of our Lady USA and like us. Our Facebook page will continue to evolve as we build the chain of those who input. We are excited about the growth in our regions, about 3% on average. The International gathering at Fatima 2018 draws closer with September being the time to officially register so more to follow on that timetable. We

*have twelve couples and one priest from our province interested. Great!
We have room for more.*

The couples who have served their terms as regional couples and secretariat have far exceeded the expectations of those offices. George and Mary Klosterman have devoted many miles and hours to the Central region which has encouraged growth and strength to that region.



*Frank and
Bev
Lentine
worked
tirelessly
to
encourage
a new
region in
order to*

better serve the Midwest so we now have the Lake Michigan region. They also have served as the temporary regional couple for that region.

*Ted and Janet
Windus have
served about
three terms
as Secretariat
which
handles all
the rosters,
meeting
minutes, and
a large
part of the contribution information.*



We wish to thank them and all the leadership couples who serve on behalf of Teams of Our Lady. We are all called to leadership and we challenge each of you to take on some role, large or small, and know we are all in this together with God's grace to assist us.

Steve & Glynis Sturm Northern Province

Western Province



Rob and Sharla Walsh met in Beaverton, Oregon in 1967 and were married January 11, 1969. Rob was raised Catholic and Sharla converted in 1977 to the faith. We have had 6 children, four girls and two boys. Our eldest left us at the age of 12½ years, in 1983. Three of our children are married and have given us six beautiful grandchildren. The eldest and the youngest live in Portland, Oregon and are single.

In 1996, a couple came from Bogota, Colombia to our parish on a student visa. One Sunday morning after Mass, we invited the couple to our home for coffee and they told us about the Teams of Our Lady. They asked if we wanted to start a Team in Oregon. We said, "sure", so in 1997 we began our first Team. Our Team life has grown from there. The

Northwest region has 27 teams now and there are 80 teams in the western Region. We are developing and/or piloting teams in Boise, Idaho (four teams), West Linn (one team), Oregon City (one team), Coeur d'Alene (two teams), Redmond, Oregon (three teams) and Gresham, Oregon (one team). Both of our regions are very active and busy keeping Teams vibrant and growing.

Our regional couples, Tom and Gay Locke and Paul and Monique Harris are dedicated leaders. They are committed to organizing all of their meetings and to making sure the sector and regional events are planned and executed throughout the year. We are always looking for others who are willing to offer their time and talents to helping this wonderful Movement expand. These are all worthwhile projects to undertake on behalf of the growth of spirituality and the development of Holiness within our marriages. Please contact us at emmettwalsh@me.com if you are eager to help plan, give information meetings, pilot a team or help put together a newsletter for your region, we would really appreciate it. We love the Teams, and look forward to giving whatever time God allows us to continue to serve the Movement.

*We are presently transcribing the letters from Fr. H. Caffarel's book, "**being present to God; Letters on Prayer**" from book form to electronic form. We can forward them to you if you would like to read them. They will be included in the Website for Teams when it is launched. We are serving as Western United States Provincial Couple.*

Testimony

Mark and I were lucky to belong to a parish in Beaverton, OR, with an active Young Adult Ministry. That's how we met – playing weekly volleyball with the young adult group. We also volunteered together in Youth Ministry, sharing our faith with High School teens in Confirmation Prep and later Middle School Ministry. We were very active in our parish life, but after getting married, we started looking for another option of sharing our faith with a focus on married life.

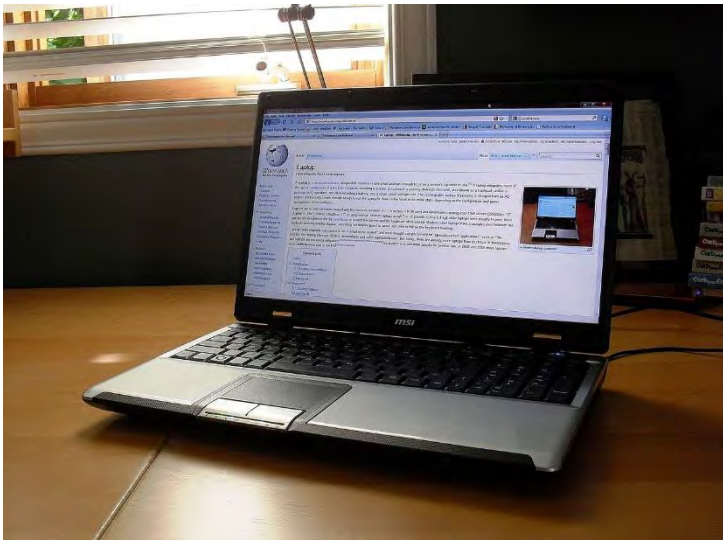
Our beloved Young Adult Group was mostly single friends with different needs and goals, so we asked other couples at our parish what they did to nourish their marriages. Thankfully, several pointed us to this international, but just growing locally in Oregon, “well-kept secret” called Teams of Our Lady.

We invited a few other married friends to “get informed” with us and shared info about Teams on our Young Adult Ministry website seeking other marrieds like ourselves. That was the beginning of Portland Team 5. Funny thing is that of the seven original couples, only one of us had a baby. Within the year, four of us were expecting. We shared our new parenting journey as well as sadly, our grief from losing our first child (stillborn). After 12 years in Teams, and five kids later, we are still finding nourishment and support in sharing our Catholic marriage journey with other couples in Teams. Sure, the monthly childcare can be a challenge, but it's worth it. And our Teams calendar is very family-oriented. We include our children in our annual Christmas Party and Summer Swim BBQ, and we commit to the second Sunday of the month being our normal Teams meeting, so it's easy to plan ahead. We also look at our monthly Teams meeting as an afternoon “date-night” (with encouraging adult conversation/meal/and prayer). What married couple with young kids doesn't appreciate that on a regular basis?! ;)



~ Julie & Mark Wagner, Team Portland 05

Teams of Our Lady Website Update



Teams of Our Lady has a new website. This is the first phase of several updates that will be rolled out over the course of 2017. Please email the webmaster at webmaster@teamsofourlady.org if you have any suggestions, issues, or other comments. Feedback will help us to make this new site as useful as possible to our new and prospective members. Additional content such as newsletters, pictures, documents, etc. will be added monthly. The next major phase (summer 2017) will enable Teams couples to login into the website. This will allow couples to update their own contact information for the Teams of Our Lady roster.

It will also give couples the ability to sign up for newsletters & events, make donations online, RC manual updates, and more! <http://www.teamsofourlady.org/>

Message from the International Responsible Couple

Dear Friends,
Paris, March 20th, 2017

The next International Gathering of Teams of our Lady will take place in Fatima, Portugal. This choice was a consequence of a consultation "Zero Kilometre" done in the Rome Regional Gathering in September 2015.

Since then, the ERI (The International Leading Team) has been thinking and working to prepare this great pilgrimage. The journey begins when we start thinking and preparing it. A time of waiting begins with the announcement of the event which is practically already at our doorstep.

Let's then leave all together to the Gathering



Place : **Fátima, Portugal**

Date : **16 a 21 Julho 2018**

Chosen Gospel as theme: **The Prodigal Son (Luke 15: 12-32)**

LOGO of the Gathering: *The image created for this purpose will accompany us during next year. It is the work of a Portuguese artist and it was chosen after analyzing many other proposals. It is a very pretty image with many symbolical meanings: we invite you all to discover them on the attached explanatory sheet. Keep it in your heart as this is the image which will unite us on our way towards Fatima, where Our Lady will be waiting for us to lead us to the Father.*

We invite you, Teams' members throughout the world to start preparing for the journey that will lead us to the XIIth International Gathering of our Movement. Undoubtedly not everyone will be physically present in Fátima, but all will be able to participate in the lead up stages and share the experience of conversion which is always lived each time one undertakes a journey of the heart and soul. We sincerely wish that everyone could have the greatest possible participation in the Fátima Gathering. That's why we expect each of you, Teams members from countries of the whole world to feel the need to make an effort to truly participate in this exceptional event which only happens every 6 years.

The Movement's Internationality will have the face of thousands of Teams couples coming from all corners of the earth, who have set out to meet around the banquet table and at the feast to which the Lord himself calls us. We would like to stress that the whole International Leading Team and ourselves, we are personally convinced that this International Gathering in Portugal will give us an answer and a possible reading of the signs of our times.

Living still in the spirit of the Mercy Jubilee, we are sure that Fatima will be the Movement's Gathering place, for both the couple and the team, so that we may all together celebrate the FEAST.

May God's mercy, a renewed Spirit and the need of a strong conversion return us to the roots of our faith, where Mary chose to meet with three little shepherds. We are sure that many of these thoughts are shared by many of you and that each member, each team, each sector, each region and each super-region, all will do their utmost so that the next International Gathering experiences the greatest participation of teams members.

The XII International Gathering in Fátima, in July 2018, starts today, from the moment the Gathering becomes a call to participate. The waiting time also starts today, a time that if lived in-depth and with faith will be a time of renewal and richness for all the Movement. But this International Gathering concerns all Teams members of the world and not just those who will be physically present. As a matter of fact, only through a community marching with all the Teams members from each country on earth can the final Gathering in Fátima become a strong moment of faith and encounter with God.

In Portugal 8 service teams, coordinated by Joana and Samuel Sanches have been working for months so that this great event turns out in the best possible way. Our special thanks to Joana and Samuel and to all the other couples who with a lot of love have been devoting themselves to this service.

Your Region and Super-Regional Responsible Couples will have all the information in due time. Please check the site created for this event where you will be able to find all the updates.

*Good Journey, Courage and may God bless you all!
By the International Leading Team,
Tó and Zé Moura Soares*



The "logo" for the Teams of Our Lady's International Gathering is a symbol that identifies us in time and space and conveys the spirit of our Movement.

The colours immediately reveal the identification of the Zones where the Movement exists, that are united in a Love, symbolized by a heart in these colours that surrounds the Virgin and Christ...

After analysing the different propositions, the International Leading Team chose this particular logo, not just because of its pretty design, but because the lines clearly reflect the place where the Gathering will take place, and also because it combines the Team of Our Lady's mystic with that of Fatima, where Peace is a strong and essential sign in families' lives.

Thus, we share Our Lady of Fatima's Love with Christ for Peace in the family and in the world, and so that this peace reaches the heart of humanity.

Pope Francis's words in his recent exhortation "*Amoris Laetitia*" say the same thing, when they refer to the fact that the miracle of Christ's Love is realised in the sacrament of marriage, that pushes us to never give up and claims that the family is not an abstract ideal, but an "*artisanal task*" (cf. AL 16), that is expressed with tenderness (cf. AL 28). Then, "*the word of God is not a series of abstract ideas but rather a source of comfort and companionship for every family that experiences difficulties or suffering. For it shows them the goal of their journey...*" (AL 22).

These are the logo symbols:

The Cross of Christ from the Holy Trinity Basilica;

The Image of Our Lady of Fatima welcoming in the Immaculate Heart with the rosary in hand;

The White Doves in the Heavens showing us Peace;

The Miracle of the Sun from the story of the Fatima Apparitions.

To see a video on the Fatima International Gathering click on the link: <http://www.endfatima2018.pt/en/>

Lent 2017

In Pope Francis' message for Lent this year, there are two aspects that seem particularly important to for us today. The first is to see the other person as a gift and the second is that in order to properly experience the present, we must look at it with a view to eternity. Couples particularly must not lose sight of the fact that their spouse is the person that God thought of as a gift for all of eternity. Before God we are not numbers, but people with a name. And the name by which God wants to call us is the one our parents gave us when we were baptized. Therefore, we all are divine gifts for one another and for our God, because it seems that he needs us in order to be even more divinely happy! Furthermore, we must see the small things of daily life with the eyes of eternity. Reality possesses another value when it is seen from the end. It is obvious that eschatological propositions are presented like good hermeneutics of the present.

Lent, with its penitential exercises (prayer, fasting and alms-giving) is a precious time that invites us to discover what is essential and to leave behind the rest, precisely in the midst of a materialistic and worldly mentality of the superfluous and unbridled consumption. It must be rediscovered and lived courageously!

Let us intensely live this holy time during which the Church, our Mother, nourishes us so abundantly.

P. José Jacinto Ferreira de Farias, scj



I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. Galatians 2:20

A Blessed and Holy Week from the entire US-Super Region Team!



For inspirational Easter video...click here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=khtsTub70BU>

***Do you know someone who did not receive this email?
Please print this for them and have them notify the secretariat of their email
address so they can be added to the database....***

A BLESSED EASTER SEASON

***Joe and Inez Varao
Newsletter Editor***

