



TEAMS OF OUR LADY

NORTH PROVINCE

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Why do we do what we do?



Why do we do what we do? What is the purpose of our actions? What is our motivation? There is this story about a dispatcher in the Middle Ages who wanted to find out how laborers felt about their work. So he went to a building site in France. He approached the first worker he found and asked, "What are you doing?" The worker snapped back, "What, are you blind?"

I'm cutting these impossible boulders with primitive tools and putting them together the way the boss tells me. I'm sweating under this blazing sun. It's back-breaking work, and it's boring me to death." The dispatcher quickly backed off and retreated to a second worker. He asked the same question, "What are you doing?" The worker replied, "I'm shaping these boulders into usable forms, which are then assembled according to the architect's plans. It's hard work and sometimes it gets repetitive, but I earn five francs a week and that supports the wife and kids. It's a job. Could be worse." Somewhat encouraged, the dispatcher went on to a third worker who was clearly doing the same thing as the other two workers. But again, he asked the same question, "What are you doing?" The third worker replied with excitement, "Why can't you see? I'm building a cathedral!"

So why do we do what we do? What is the purpose of our actions? What is our motivation? Our attitude and character make a real difference in how we live and experience life.

Virtue, attitude and character, these things affect our behavior and outlook on life. If we want to be good people who live in the truth, we have to be willing to serve God rather than expecting God to serve us. If we set about forming our attitudes, character and virtue in line with what Jesus has taught, that is when the purpose behind our actions becomes more dynamic and life affirming, and that is when we can truly be aware and appreciative of the blessings in our lives.

As your new chaplain for the Northern Province, I hope to serve you well as we continue with the mission of building up married life. This is important work, not only for ourselves but also for the Church and society. Now more than ever, this is what our society needs: Christian men and women in faithful and faith filled marriages who are willing to demonstrate virtue, character and a positive attitude. It is this witness that can help make our world a better place.

God Bless,

Fr. Paul Ballien

Northern Province Spiritual Counselor



Northern Province Meeting in Des Moines Iowa

March 4th we held the North Province meeting in Des Moines, Iowa. Kirk and Peggy Peterson hosted the meeting at St. Augustine's. (From Left to Right)



In attendance were; Mike & Barb Timm - North Central, John & Roz Needham - Midwest, Frank and Bev Lentine - out going Lake Michigan, Kirk and Peggy Peterson - Central and Mary Klosterman, - outgoing Central, Glynis & Steve - Province Couple.

Our Province is growing which is good news and this is keeping our regional couples very busy.

The newest region is the Lake Michigan one with a new regional couple, Steve and Julie Whitmore, who will serve Michigan, Illinois, and Indiana. Michigan continues to grow while Indiana has renewed energy.

Barb and Mike Timm serve as the North Central couple responsible for North Dakota, South Dakota, Minnesota, and Wisconsin. Areas of growth have been in Minneapolis, St. Paul, Minnesota along with Fargo, North Dakota.

Roz and John Needham are the Midwest Region couple. Roz & John reported they have a Spiritual Counselor for every team in their region. They are responsible for Ohio, Kentucky and Tennessee.

The Central Region which is now headed by Kirk and Peggy Peterson. Kansas will be splitting into three sectors giving them nine sectors to work with. Kirk and Peggy cover Iowa, Nebraska, Colorado, Kansas and Missouri. Areas of growth have been in Colorado, Kansas and Missouri.

We would ask of all of the teams in our Province to consider leadership. Be bold, be brave, and step out of the boat! We are all called to be leaders in teams and we all have gifts to share. God is with us and He sent his Holy Spirit to dwell in us. Please pray for discernment on what you are being called to do. The need for sector couples is great across the Province. With the additional growth the need is even greater for Sector Couples.

Sectors are the essential part of any Region or Province. We will train you and you do not have to work alone. Please consider what role you are being called to take on whether it is Sector Couple, Pilot Couple, Information Couple, or Newsletter/Event Couple.

He is risen indeed! And we are Alleluia people! As we walk these next 50 days to Pentecost, we will celebrate again the coming of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles and their followers and the beginning of their earthly Ministry to make disciples of all nations. This reminds us of that "gift" the Holy Spirit is to Team of Our Lady which is for the whole church that we must share with other couples and Priests. Pope Francis exhorted us in September 2015 in Rome, "Indeed, I would like to insist on this missionary role of Teams of Our Lady. Every committed couple certainly receives a great deal from its Teams 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."

We never walk alone as Jorge & Noelia Sousa, the US Super Regional Couple, reminded us in the spring Magnificat.

Steve & Glynis



HAS IT BEEN 51 YEARS???

Four small kids, two in diapers, a grad school essay on Dickens due, two set of English comps to grade, yard work waiting. And Fran with a question. “Would you like to go to a meeting about joining a church group?”

Would you?

But we did go. And we found something very special.

The general camaraderie was probably the initial draw. The meeting was more high spirited than I had expected—and there was something to drink.

What we found was an organization that had much going for it—spirit, discipline and a French Abbe who had found that his life's mission was guiding some searching couples in prewar Paris. They had asked:



Ed & Fran

“Just what will it take, Father, to avoid divorce and really live the Faith in today's world?”

The answer made a kind of revelation in Catholic thinking—a new theology of marriage, which has spread to more than 70 countries. Teams shows a genius of spiritual simplicity and organization.

There are three pillars of the movement. These have become a permanent parts of our lives.

The first was probably why we said yes to trying out Teams: a small Christian community, meeting just once a month over a pot-luck supper. Our daughter, Bridget, (who is in Teams in Coeur d'Alene, ID) remembers “tinkling glasses and laughter.” But the meeting has its quiet and more prayerful side, of course, and mutual support is basic. Through summer picnics, weddings and funerals, the couples of Detroit 1 have been there for one another.

The second pillar, we thought we knew—personal spirituality. We did go to church and say Catholic prayers, but the Teams material and gatherings showed us the way to a deeper and simpler way of prayer. It was more regular and much of it is couple centered.

The third pillar is couple communication. How can a partnership be build into a bond with flexibility and romance? Gender norms have changed and there are toxic elements in our clamoring culture. It is as though the original couples anticipated this, for they brought a kind of rigor into the habit and practices that Teams is designed to build. We still say evening prayers together and find that the Sit Down —with its lighted candle-- has become essential. It cuts through the clutter and reminds us of the goals of our marriage.

We are in our 55th year of marriage, and there are still times we dance in the kitchen. It is hard to think of what our lives would be like without Teams. We are very blessed and Teams reminds us constantly that God is always with us.

Ed and Fran Benz
Lake Michigan Region



Des Moines, Iowa Sector Day of Reflection



On Saturday, February 11 the Des Moines Sector of Teams of Our Lady hosted their annual Day of Reflection at Holy Trinity Parish in Des Moines, Iowa. The sector Chaplin Fr. Michael Amadeo welcomed over 40 couples for the day.



Father Wayne Gubbels was the presenter. His presentation "Tools for the Journey: Walking with Mary, Jesus, and One Another" was outstanding & inspirational. It was a wonderful opportunity to slow down and reflect on our faith journey both personally and as a couple. Everyone was appreciative of the gracious hospitality shown by the host teams at Holy Trinity Parish.

The sector welcomed Steve and Glynis Sturm the new Northern Province couple who joined us and installed our own Central Regional couple Kirk and Peggy Peterson.



Submitted by; Mark & Patty Conway, Des Moines Sector Couple



We announce that we have now been officially replaced.

We are thanking the Holy Spirit as we announce that we have now been officially replaced. Bev and I have wondered why we had to do a double term as Regional Couple.

Now we know. First we had to supervise the split of our MidWest Region. We began the split process last year when John and Roz Needham agreed to take over the Ohio, Kentucky and Tennessee states as the new MidWest Regional Couple. About one month ago the Super Regional couple, Jorge and Noelia Sousa, announced the new Lake Michigan Region covering Michigan, Indiana, and Illinois. We remained as Regional Couple of the new Region.

The second reason is the time was needed to allow the new Regional Couple, Steve and Julie Whitmore, to obtain experience as Sector Couple for the Detroit Sector to so that we could nominate them to replace us. This also allowed them time to discern and to accept. At the Detroit and North Detroit sectors Sector Day on March 25 our Province Couple, Steve and Glynis Sturm, attended the event in order to install our new regional couple.



Until a new sector couple is in place for the Detroit Sector, we will continue to be the working regional couple while Steve and Julie will be the official Regional Couple. This means that all requests for Pilot 1 books must be sent to them. Everything else should be sent to us with a CC to the Whitmores, whitmoresj@msn.com,

Another blessing is the installation of Rick and Andrea Rader as the new Sector Couple for the new Indianapolis Sector. This sector combines the pre-sectors of Burlington and Brownsburg, Indiana.



One other major change. After many years as Teams Secretariat, Janet Windus has retired. Robin Quinn has stepped up to the position. The contact remains at toolsecretariat@gmail.com.

When we began as Regional couple in November, 2008, the region had 4 Sectors and 5 Pre-Sectors. There were 52 teams with 267 couples. As we transfer the new region to the Whitmores, we have 4 Sectors and 4 Pre-Sectors. We now have 52 teams with 316 couples. We owe this record to the wonderful sector couples that we have had the honor to have work with us over the many years. We take this opportunity to publicly thank them for their support and efforts. The following couples should be regarded as the cream of the crop and we hope that all of our team couples appreciate the service these wonderful couples have provided.

Our first set of couples:

Mike and Karen Allison. John and Roz Needham, Norm and Kathy Bennett, and Bob and Barb Doren.

Our second set of couples:

Gary and Mary Straffon. John and Martha Pale, Tom and Carol Gietzen, Marty and Sue Charney, and Tom and Janet Schmittgen.

Our final set of couples:

Steve and Julie Whitmore, John and Karen Wilson, Fred and Pat Hoffman, Gerald and Linda Michael.

Yours in Christ,

Bev and Frank Lentine

Out going Regional couple for Lake Michigan



Report from Fargo Moorhead Sector by John & Jan Klocke

Fargo-Moorhead Sector held its annual sector day with approximately 30 couples in attendance. Speakers included Regional Couple Mike and Barb Timm presenting on Endeavors and Sector and Provincial updates. Msgr. Joseph Goering presented Faith and Technology and Father James Ermer gave a presentation on the Magnificat, breaking it open to its meanings. The half day meeting was rich with good ideas for enhancing marriage and family life. Activity Team #3 put together a delicious breakfast and organized childcare for between 70- and 80 kids. The day was helped at Holy Spirit Catholic Church in Fargo.

FM Sector will also hold a spring information session on joining Teams on Monday May 8th at St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Moorhead. John and Jan Klocke, Team Sector couple were also interviewed on Real Presence Radio about Tool and the podcast is available by going to <https://yourcatholicradiostation.com/real-presence-live-podcasts#rplrecent> and the Teams interview is about 26 minutes into the podcast. Our thanks to Steve Sponskowski (Team 3) and Brandon Clark (Team 8) for opening the door to this extra promotion of Tool!



Father James Ermer giving Presentation on the Magnificat



Msgr Joseph Goering Presenting Faith & Technology



Mike & Barb Timm North Central Regional Couple giving presentation on the Endeavors.



John Klocke sharing his enthusiasm for Teams



Telling Our Stories Sector Day, Detroit 2017



Group
Picture of
Past
Sector
Couples
from
Midwest
now Lake
Michigan
Region

The Detroit and Detroit North Sectors gathered on Saturday, March 25, 2017 for their annual Sector Day at The National Shrine of the Little Flower Basilica in Royal Oak, Michigan. 59 people attended a morning session which began with Mass at the church followed by a continental breakfast in the conference center. A highlight of the morning was the installation by Steve and Glynis Sturm of Steve and Julie Whitmore as the new Lake Michigan Regional Couple taking over for Frank and Bev Lentine who served well over their term as Midwest Regional Couple for eight years. Appreciation was expressed to Frank and Bev for their ongoing service.

The day continued with a moving presentation by Kelly Nieto, a mother of five who wrote, produced and directed the Broadway-style musical, *The Cross and the Light*, which was performed at the Basilica later that afternoon. She gave an inspiring talk about her conversion, God's mercy and listening to God's call in her life. Kelly said that the story of Jesus is the greatest love story of all time and that we should make sure we pass down our God stories to our children. After Kelly's presentation, the couples shared their faith stories at their tables during lunch. The day wrapped up with a discussion and activity around the "Rule of Life" given by John & Martha Pale.



Many TOOL members stayed for *The Cross and The Light* production which was a perfect afternoon enhancing their Lenten journey.

Overall, it was a beautiful, relaxing time of spiritual challenge and fellowship. Well done, Detroit and Detroit North Sectors!

Steve & Julie Whitmore

Lake Michigan Region



Newly formed Lake Michigan Region

Steve and Julie Whitmore married on May 11, 1996. They have three beautiful children, Brandon, age 18, Jacob, age 16 and Alyssa, age 13. Two children currently attend their mother's Alma mater, Shrine Catholic Schools. Their eldest son attends the University of Michigan. They reside in Royal Oak, Michigan and are members of The National Shrine of the Little Flower Basilica parish. Steve is very involved in the parish Vacation Bible School program where he gets to share the Gospel with many children. He is employed by Oakland Schools and works full-time as a school social work consultant, as well as being a board member and webmaster for the Michigan Association of School Social Workers. Julie is employed part-time as an office assistant for a neuropsychologist and utilizes her L.M.S.W. by working with engaged couples through the parish.



Steve and Julie have been involved in Teams of Our Lady (Detroit 8) since 2001 with the original 7 couples and chaplain. They have piloted two new groups and have facilitated several Informational Meetings. They are encouraged by the interest in their own parish with T.O.O.L. and the involvement of the parish priests. They began servicing the Detroit Sector as the Sector Couple 1 ½ years ago. Although feeling overwhelmed at times by day-to-day commitments, they look forward to working as a "team" in servicing the Lake Michigan Region of T.O.O.L. They enjoy working on projects together and welcome the new challenge of this ministry.

And We Said...YES!

By Kirk and Peggy Peterson Central Region Couple:

CO, IA, KS, MO, NE

It was a beautiful August evening, still sunny even though it was getting late. Kirk, listening to the voice messages with a shocked expression turns to his wife Peggy and says "You have to listen to this message". He then proceeds to play the message on speaker phone. "Steve Sturm here with Teams of Our Lady. George and May Klostermann have given us names that they believe would be great as the next Central Region Couple. We ask that you prayerfully consider this position."

Oh that was not the last call or email asking for our prayerful consideration. We sat in adoration, we talked to each other, we prayed together and separately, we asked others to pray for us and we tried to take our





(And We Said Yes! con;t)

ego out of the equation asking each other do you feel called? Is this our time? Are we worthy of stepping into this position? We are grandparents now.

We are not really novice. We have been in Teams of Our Lady for 16 years, we have been responsible couple for our team a few times, we received the Pilot Couple training from Ted and Eileen Kosniks, we piloted a few teams through the process and we were the Des Moines Sector B Sector Couple from 2009-2012, which we attended Sector Couple training in Texas in August (good times). We know the benefit to leadership and the call to service that we were being asked to fill. Oh the fury of prayerful consideration. We said we'll give it one month, but in that time we needed to visit with George and Mary. Due to conflicting schedules we were not able to meet with George and Mary until the end of September. We promised each other to be open and listen with our hearts.

And in October 2016 we said...YES! We were installed as the Central Region Couple at the Des Moines Sector Day of Reflection February 11, 2017 three days after Peggy's step-dad passed away. Peggy's step-dad, Dave, was very devout and prayed the Divine Chaplet of Mercy everyday asking for a peaceful death. Dave believed Mother Mary would be with him at the time of death. The first topic for the Day of Reflection was walking with Mary. At that moment we knew we were in the right place and this was our time.

Our first Sector Event happened to be in Frankfort, KS the following Saturday. The love for Teams of Our Lady was so visible. While we were Sector Couple we had gotten to know other Sector Couples in our region during regional meetings. One of those couples was Jim and Moogie Roeder. When we seen them at the church praying the Rosary before mass we had this overwhelming sense of peace. We were with friends.

The Sector Event was hugely successful with wonderful food, a band, dancing, laughing and a celebration of marriage. We danced for the couples dance where the youngest couple sits out first and the longest married gets to finish the song...the couple still dancing had been married 62 years and going strong. We were introduced to the Kansas Sector Couple Ed and Sally

Henry, were they a sight. Ed was in a walking boot with an injured toe and Sally had fallen, her arm was in a sling and the side of her face was bruised. What a lovely couple. The Sector Event was hosted by three couples. The couples were very nervous when Ed told them he had invited the new "Central Region Couple" and they said...YES!

Why would anyone be nervous if we attended, we're not coming to evaluate or criticize?

What we realized is we honored their Sector Event by representing the Central Region for all of Teams of Our Lady. They were nervous because they wanted to make sure they measured up to their peers and the Teams of Our Lady movement. We promise all couples in the Central Region we will honor each of you. We want to



(And We Said Yes! con't)

help you receive all that you can from Teams of Our Lady and your marriage. We are open to your needs. This Movement is to help all of us help our spouses become saints.

The next weekend we attended George and Mary's Pilot Couple training again in Kansas. We met four, wonderful and young, couples in person and one couple attended over the phone (everyone in their family was ill - what dedication to Teams of Our Lady). We listened to George and Mary as they went through the powerpoint and listened as the couples shared their thoughts as to what could improve their service.

And the third Saturday after installation was the North Province or Regional Couple meeting in Des Moines. We hosted (Agh). Wouldn't you know it, the Lord our God is good. The Des Moines Sector Couple and Information Couple stepped up and provided hospitality to three northern couples and a new couple in Teams of Our Lady transported those couples from the airport to the meeting and back to the airport. I wish I had been thinking and gotten a picture of our "Transportation Couple" waiting at the airport with Teams of Our Lady emblem as a sign for the couples getting off the plane. After the full day meeting and Mass together we hosted a dinner where the hospitality couples and transportation couple join our North Province Service Team for a Teams of Our Lady dinner. We followed the Teams format for a meeting and ended the evening feeling like we had just been renewed by a retreat instead of attending a ten hour meeting.

You get so much more than you give. We again found instant friends. Our word of the night was "abundance". We believe our four years as Central Region Couple will bless us more than we can imagine. So when you get the call to provide service back to Teams of Our Lady, pray, pray, pray and do not be afraid to say...YES! You will be rewarded with abundance.



*Loving
Hearts*



**JIM &
MOOGIE
ROEDER
DOING THE
TWO STEP**



This is a followup on the article in the December 2016 newsletter. Andy & Ally Drees. (Rochester Mn Sector.) Arabella Dellarose Drees was a welcomed Christmas present.



February 2017 Super Regional meeting with Province Couples, Secretariat Couple, and Webmaster for Teams website. (starting left bottom circling clockwise) Ed Cadieux, Jorge & Noelia Sousa, TJ & Ellen Holt, Janie & Bob Mericksko, Rob & Sharla Walsh, Robin & Colette Quinn, Glynis Sturm. (missing is Steve taking picture)

Mark your calendar:
 First New Teams Celebration (NTC) for the North Province will be in Fargo, North Dakota on October 21-22, 2017.

 On a personal note, my father, Glen Hyland, died on April 8th at 92 years old. Our chaplain, Father John Evans, reminded me that as we mark the Easter season it is even more real and meaningful as what the Lord promises us in Baptism is now fulfilled in eternal life for my father. Glynis

Holy Mary Mother of God Pray for us sinners now and at the hour of our death. Amen
