

South Province

West TX/New Mexico | North TX/Oklahoma
East TX | Louisiana/Arkansas | Southeast

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 we pause long enough to look.

If you are not sure 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 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
South Province Couple*

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

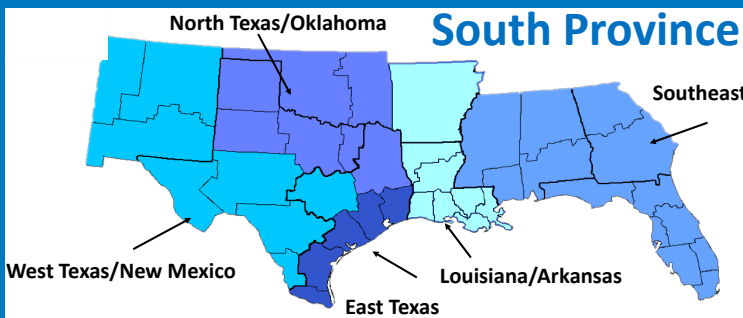
We are excited to announce a new Regional Couple and Region to the South Province! Please help us welcome Larry and Charla Macicek as the first Regional Couple for the Louisiana/Arkansas region.

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 experience 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 began 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."



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In these challenging times, let us join our Teams community in a NOVENA TO SAINT RITA, *Saint of the Impossible*

O Holy Patroness of those in need, Saint Rita,
whose pleadings before thy Divine Lord are almost irresistible,
who for thy lavishness in granting favors
hast been called the Advocate of the hopeless and even of the
Impossible.

Saint Rita,
so humble,
so pure,
so mortified,
so patient,
and of such compassionate love for thy Crucified Jesus,
that thou couldst obtain from him whatsoever thou askest,
on account of which all confidently have recourse to thee expecting,
if not always relief, at least comfort;
be propitious to our petition,
showing thy power with God on behalf of thy suppliant;
be lavish to us,
as thou hast been in so many wonderful cases,
for the greater glory of God,
for the spreading of thine own devotion,
and for the consolation of those who trust in thee.

We promise, if our petition is granted,
to glorify, thee by making known thy favor,
to bless and sing thy praises forever.

Relying then upon thy merits and power before the Sacred Heart of
Jesus,
we pray thee grant that (REQUEST)

Obtain for us our request by...
the singular merits of thy childhood,
thy perfect union with the Divine Will,
thy heroic sufferings during thy married life,
the consolation thou didst experience at the conversion of thy husband,
the sacrifice of thy children rather than see them grievously offend God,
thy miraculous entrance into the convent,
thy severe penances and thrice daily bloody scourgings,
thy suffering caused by the wound thou didst receive from the thorn of
thy Crucified Saviour,
thy divine love which consumed thy heart,
that remarkable devotion to the Blessed Sacrament on which alone
thou didst exist for four years,
the happiness with which thou didst part from thy trials to join thy
Divine Spouse,
the perfect example thou gavest to people of every state of life.

Pray for us, O holy Saint Rita, that we may be made worthy of the
promises of Christ. Amen.



St. Rita of Cascia is a very powerful intercessor, especially known for her help through difficult situations!

Her Feast Day is May 22. She is the patroness of impossible causes, difficult marriages, infertility and parenthood.

She was born in Italy and wanted to be a nun but she was encouraged to marry at a young age. The man she married was cruel and abusive, whom she prayed unceasingly for. With him, she had two difficult sons. They all eventually converted before her husband and two sons were killed in a fight.

This amazing saint led an incredibly holy life. After their deaths, she tried to become an Augustinian nun but was turned away because she was a widow. However, after some time they allowed her to join.

She was a very holy person and was very prayerful and giving. She received a partial stigmata while praying in front of the cross with a wound on her forehead as if from a thorn of Jesus' crown of thorns.

If you are wondering what to do with all your together time...

Consider a Sit Down

NAVIGATE TOGETHER. WHERE ARE YOU GOING ON YOUR PATH TO HOLINESS?

"Before you undertook to build a home together, you compared your points of view, weighed your material and spiritual resources and elaborated a set of plans. But since you have been at your task of marriage, have you overlooked the need to sit down together, to examine the work accomplished, to rediscover your ideals and consult the Master Builder?" Fr. Henri Caffarel

READ SCRIPTURE TOGETHER

"Which of you wishing to construct a tower does not first sit down and calculate the cost to see if there is enough for its completion? Otherwise, after laying the foundation and finding himself unable to finish the work the onlookers should laugh at him and say, 'This one began to build but did not have the resources to finish.'" Luke 14:28-31

PRAY TOGETHER

- Face each other and join hands
- Each of you should express a personal, spontaneous, vocal prayer
- Ask the Holy Spirit to guide your thoughts and words

INDIVIDUAL SHARING

Each of you take a turn and share your personal reflections while the other actively listens.

- What feelings do I find easy to express to you? Which ones are difficult?
- What are my fears?
- What are my failings?
- What makes me happy?
- Am I doing what God is calling me to do?

DISCUSS YOUR MARRIAGE

- Do we allow outside activities to encroach on our marriage?
- Do we take each other for granted?
- What actions do we take to maintain the "romantic magic" we had when first married?
- What are the causes for our disagreements?
- Are we letting our concerns about work or finances interfere with our development as a couple?

DISCUSS AND PRAY FOR EACH CHILD INDIVIDUALLY

- What joys can we celebrate?
- What struggles are we facing?
- Are we letting our concerns about children interfere with our development as a couple?

WRAP UP

- Are there other items that need to be discussed?
- If none, just hold hands and enjoy some peace and silence, pray silently

CONCLUDING PRAYER

- Pray for each other
- Thank God for the gift of your love and your sacrament

You should have already received this but just in case it missed your inbox, we have included a copy here.

We will not be posting any upcoming events in this newsletter as the recommendations for COVID-19 containment continue to change. Please pay attention to your local communications for what events are happening in your area.

Remember your Teams community in prayer and reach out regularly through digital channels to reduce isolation.

USA SUPER REGION TEAMS OF OUR LADY



March 14, 2020

Dear US Super Region Teams of Our Lady Members,

Life in America, as well as throughout the world, is changing rapidly due to the widespread concerns and fears of the coronavirus (COVID-19). We have all watched the news and seen how people are in panic mode and are hoarding materials from bathroom tissue to food. We are not doctors or scientists who can give you medical or protective advice for the dreaded virus, nor what to do if you contract it. For guidelines and advice please go online at <https://www.cdc.gov>.

We do think that large gatherings of Teams members such as retreats, Sector and Regional Days should be cancelled or postponed as it has been done in our Sectors here in California's Central Valley. Teams should, and need to, follow the parish and local diocese guidelines, not only for protection but, to preserve the working relationship with those organizations and entities.

We recommend that Team meetings should only be held when all members agree that it is safe to do so and special attention needs to be given to older Teams members who could more easily be affected and who may have medical conditions that leaves them more susceptible of contracting the virus and least able to fight it.

Lastly and just as importantly, we are people of faith who trust in the Lord. He, who is the ultimate Protector and Life-giver, is watching over us. He tells us in Scripture that only He can save. Just this past Thursday the Mass reading told us that "Cursed is the man who trust in human beings, who seeks his strength in flesh...Blessed is the man who trusts in the Lord, whose hope is the Lord" (Jer 17:5-10). So often the Lord tells us "Do not be afraid."

This is the time for us to turn to the Lord, to our Patroness of Teams, Mother Mary, with intense prayer, supplication, rosaries, adoration, fasting and almsgiving that all be safe and that that Lord end this scourge. Please remember also, to say the Fr. Caffarel prayer daily.

You are all in our prayers!! God bless!!

Noélia and Jorge Sousa
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EAST TX, LA, AR REGION

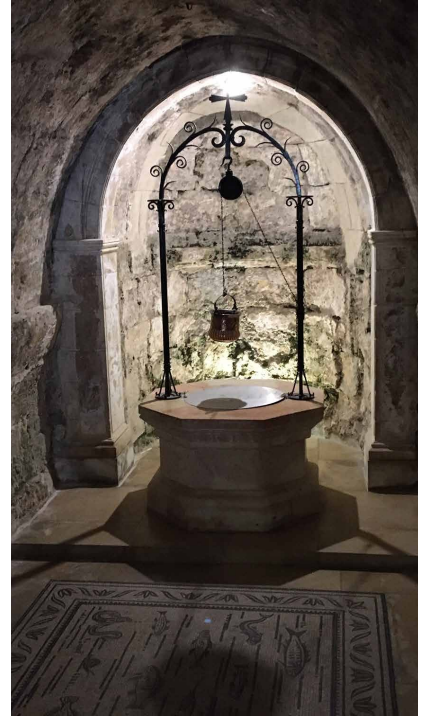
Our journey in Jerusalem to the place of the Magnificat

Father Adam McClosky (spiritual advisor for Teams East Texas Region) led an 12 day pilgrimage to the Holy Land in March 2020. He led 36 Pilgrims on this Holy journey. He was joined by Mike and Trice Towns (Regional Couple) along with Ron and Mary Ann Swardley from the Kingwood Sector.

We visited The Mount of Beautitudes, Cana, Nazareth, Mount of Olives, and Jerusalem. Father Adam renewed the marriage vows of the married couples in Cana.

We visited the Church of the Visitation where the blessed Mother Mary proclaimed the Magnificat. Father Adam, Ron, Mary Ellen, and Mike and Trice said the Magnificat together inside the church in honor of all of our Teams.

1) Church of the Visitation 2) Ron, Mary Ellen, Father Adam, Trice and Mike 3) Well where Mary and Elizabeth Visited



On Saturday February 1st at St Rose of Lima Catholic Church in Houston (after the 5PM Mass), Mike & Trice Towns - Regional Couple, TJ & Ellen Holt - Province Couple, along with Father Adam McClosky, installed two new Houston Sector couples, Greg & Lisa Getty Houston A and Steve & Mary Gangelhoff Houston B. The Sector has grown so much in recent years that it was necessary to divide.

We want to thank our outgoing Houston Sector couple Larry and Charla Macicek for their dedication and hard work for the past 3 years.

This was a great family event. After the ceremony, we celebrated at a local restaurant for dinner.



Mike and Trice Towns hosted a preplanning meeting for seven young recent graduates of the University of St Thomas.

Diane and John Thornton kindly volunteered to be the Pilot Couple for this young exceptional group!

The atmosphere was festive, Diane and John did a great job leading the meeting, and the young couples were reluctant to leave.

SOUTHEAST REGION

The Marriage Ministry at Resurrection Parish in Jacksonville, FL put on "A Day for Couples" and some Teams Of Our Lady couples from both Jacksonville, FL and Palm Coast, FL Sectors attended. Teams nurtures lasting friendships, pictured here are couples from left to right - Mary and Jack Pulick, Jo-Ann and Karl Grunewald, Pat and Doc Rankel. These three couples have been friends since their Teams days in the 1970's on Long Island, NY! Pat and Doc still live in NY and came to visit the other two couples in Palm Coast, FL. So in the spirit of Teams, what could be better than spending the afternoon at a "A Day for Couples" being reminded of the importance of couple prayer, sharing Mass together and a great dinner!!



On January 11, 2020, the Southeast Regional Couple took a little trip to Orlando, FL to meet Eduardo and Wanderleia Freire who have been in Teams Of Our Lady in Brazil since 2003. They belong to "Equipe de Nossa Senhora da Luz" – Sao Paulo state, Sao Jose dos Campos city. We ate Brazilian food at Amor em Pedacos Bakery, and shared lots of information about Teams! It was so much fun and now we have new friends!! In photo from left to right – Larry and Mary Kay Kuchta (Southeast Regional Couple) and Leia and Eduardo from Brazil. It was Eduardo's 50th birthday also!!!

Birmingham, AL 15 met on February 8th for a beautiful retreat. It was a time of prayer, reflection, sharing, fellowship, and worship. We were able to start our day in Eucharistic adoration as couples, followed by a time of reflection led by our Spiritual Counselor, Fr. Balta. Our focus was on how to be more present in daily life (as couples and as parents) and how can we be more fully present in our prayer life, as individuals, couples, and families. We prayed the rosary together asking for Our Lady to intercede for us, our team, our families, and Teams Of Our Lady. We also celebrated Mass together and concluded the day with fellowship and a delicious meal.



On January 18th, 2020, Father Jose Panthaplamthottiyil, CMI, was installed as the new pastor at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church in Palm Coast, FL at a beautiful Mass. He is also the Spiritual Counselor for Palm Coast, FL 01 Teams Of Our Lady. Many from his team were able to come and support him. He was previously pastor in Jacksonville, FL, and Palm Coast, FL 01 was blessed to have him, and now our Palm Coast Community is also blessed. Welcome Fr. Jose!!

Team 15 may be the only active Teams Of Our Lady Team in Birmingham, AL, they are not alone! They are an amazing group of 6 Couples, 1 SC, and 20 children all together!! They had a very fun Christmas party!!!



Southeast Regional Couple, Larry and Mary Kay Kuchta, traveled to Alabama on February 1, 2020 to meet Birmingham, AL Team 15 for the first time! It was a quick trip, but well worth having dinner with these great folks. They do hospitality right!!!



Fort Myers, FL 13, FL Sector's newest team which is half St. John's XXIII and half Our Lady of Light members. Our spiritual adviser, Father Saji took the picture.

Our annual sector Retreat is scheduled for September 26, 2020 at St. John XXIII in Fort Myers, FL where David and Joyce Mraz will be installed as the new Fort Myers, FL Sector Couple replacing Linda and John Stankiewicz.

WEST TX & NM REGION

Patron Saint Mass Celebration

At St. Martin de Porres Parish in Dripping Springs, TX, each Ministry gets to showcase who they are and solicit new members by celebrating their Patron Saint's Feast Day with a special Mass. The Dripping Springs TEAMS Sector chose the Feast of the Betrothal of Our Lady to Joseph on Jan. 23. (Our Patroness Saint, Mary, was already taken). Pastor, Fr. Justin Nguyen's homily included a wonderful description of Teams of Our Lady and the importance of married couples growing in their relationship with God and each other. Mass ended with a special blessing for our TEAMS' couples. Sector Couple Myron & Chery Lutz along with the West TX/NM Regional Couple, Paul & Chris Sanchez talked to interested couples after Mass about joining TEAMS.



Fredericksburg Team One held their annual retreat the weekend of February 29-March 1, 2020! It was held in Comfort, TX and included confession and Mass at Sacred Heart Parish. Their topic was "The communion of man and woman" as presented by Steve Bowman of the That Man is You ministry.

It is not just Chip and Joanna Gaines who make Waco a special place. It is the newest Teams of Our Lady team to have completed 12 months of Piloting. Pictured is Waco Team One where six very special couples participated in a candle lighting and commitment ceremony. All six couples will continue with their team. James and Stephanie Baily were selected as the first responsible couple for Waco Team One. Tim and Wende Pope from Waco Team One will be the first sector couple for the Waco pre-sector. Waco Team two is not far behind and will complete their 12 months of Piloting this month under the care of the Pilot Couple, Bob and Arlane Sponaugle. The Waco area has a lot of potential for growth and you can expect to see news of them in the future!



Teams is on FIRE in Hutto, TX! Hutto is a growing community Northeast of Austin, TX. To date, we have had 3 Information Meetings with 36 couples ready to start on their new Teams of Our Lady journey. This is thanks to the efforts of Father Brian Eilers who approached us about getting Teams started at St. Patrick's Catholic Church in Hutto. Of course, Father Brian is not unfamiliar with Teams of Our Lady. His parents are the Sector Couple in Fredericksburg, TX, and his twin Brother, Bradley and his wife, Susanna are members of Teams of Our Lady at St. Catherine's Catholic Church in Austin. With 6 new teams beginning in Hutto (2 of which will be Spanish Speaking Teams), we anticipate starting a new Sector to be known as the "North Austin Sector". This new sector will include the surrounding communities of Georgetown, Taylor, Pflugerville, Round Rock, and, of course, North Austin. Please join us in welcoming all of our new Teams couples who want to strengthen their marriages and grow in their faith.

NORTH TX & OK REGION

New Teams Welcome Celebration

On February 8th, 2020, the North Texas/Oklahoma Region hosted a New Teams Welcome Celebration. Our event was held at Mary Immaculate Catholic Church in Farmers Branch, Texas which graciously allowed us to use their parish hall. Approximately 80 people attended the celebration and came from sectors in Frisco, Dallas, Fort Worth, Tyler and Amarillo.

The day was filled with great presentations from the New Teams Welcome Celebration core team that provided a lot of information about what Teams is and how it can bless our marriages.

In addition, there was a video presentation by Bishop Strickland of the Tyler Diocese about marriage and Teams of Our Lady and activities for the couples. There were opportunities throughout the day for couples from different sectors to meet and talk and it was amazing to see new relationships being formed. The commitment to marriage and Teams was very much on display in those attending and all those that volunteered to help make the celebration such a great event.

It was truly a blessing to see so many couples enjoy the celebration and express their desire to strengthen their marriage through their love for God, each other and the Teams movement. Celebrating Mass and breaking bread together was a perfect way to end the day.



Dallas English Sector Held a RC couple meeting on Sunday 1/5/2020 to get to know all the RCs in the sector, and to share what's new in Teams. A lovely brunch and fellowship was enjoyed by all.

L to R: Tom & Chusi Gehrlein (Sector Couple), Christina & Jorge Fernandez (team 3), Angela & Davin Bernstein (team 1), Willy Massoth (team 2), Alex Johannigman (team 16) Brandon & Jen Keklar (team 12)



Hearts of Service

The teens (HSM) of St. Ann in Coppell, TX depend on the success of 6 Friday nights during Lent to assist with raising the capital they need each summer to help the people in Laredo, TX.

We took advantage of this great opportunity to serve, help, have fun, and promote Teams. The Dallas English and Spanish sectors got together to serve our community.

