

Teams of Our Lady

Magnificat

USA NEWSLETTER - SPRING 2025



also inside

**2024-2029
Key Focus Areas**

2024 Financial Report

What's in a Name?

**Endeavor Encouragement
Corner - Retreats**

Pilgrims of Hope

A letter from Fr. Eli Lopez



The Jubilee Prayer

*Father in heaven,
may the faith you have given us
in your son, Jesus Christ, our brother,
and the flame of charity enkindled
in our hearts by the Holy Spirit,
reawaken in us the blessed hope
for the coming of your Kingdom.*

*May your grace transform us
into tireless cultivators
of the seeds of the Gospel.
May those seeds transform from within
both humanity and the whole cosmos
in the sure expectation
of a new heaven and a new earth,
when, with the powers of Evil vanquished,
your glory will shine eternally.*

*May the grace of the Jubilee
reawaken in us, Pilgrims of Hope,
a yearning for the treasures of heaven.*

*May that same grace spread
the joy and peace of our Redeemer
throughout the earth.*

*To you our God, eternally blessed,
be glory and praise for ever.*

Amen

Franciscus

Greetings from the Gehrts

As we enter into the last few days/week of this 2025 Jubilee Year Lenten season, we hope and pray you are having a reflective and hope-filled season. This is one of our favorite seasons in the Church. Lent helps us to pause, reflect, and pray. We are called to set aside more meaningful time with the Lord and truly reflect on what is important in our lives. This Jubilee Year theme of being "pilgrims of hope" is particularly beautiful and meaningful during Lent.

As you are receiving this issue of the Magnificat, we are just returning from our annual retreat with our entire base team. Over our 20 years as a team, we have shared many wonderful experiences on retreat. As we think back to all the various retreat themes and topics, we remember fondly different ways God touched us and spoke to us on retreat. During our first team retreat, Melanie was still breastfeeding our youngest child (around 10 months old) and was "retreating" to the back bedroom to pump breast milk. Last year, we took a long, reflective walk on the beach of Galveston Island to discern this role of Super Region RC! Wow, how the years have changed our needs as we retreat. However, we know that God still calls us (and you) to come away with Him; to retreat, recharge, and refocus. We very much look forward to the blessing of planned time away to retreat with the Lord. Give God that time and He will give you so much more this Lent.

We are overjoyed to inform you that Melanie has completed her cancer treatments! All of your prayers were felt and very much appreciated. We continue to lift all of you up in prayer each day.

Greg & Melanie Gehrt

*USA Super Region Responsible Couple
Cypress TX 01*



**Scan the QR code
to view a short
testimony video from
Greg & Melanie Gehrt**
*USA Super Region
Responsible Couple*



From our USA Spiritual Counselor

As we stand on the threshold of the Jubilee Year, I extend my warmest greetings to each of you. This year is not merely a passage of time but a profound opportunity for spiritual renewal and growth. The theme of this Jubilee Year, "Pilgrims of Hope," invites us to embark on a journey that transcends the physical act of pilgrimage, calling us to a deeper understanding of our faith and commitment to God. In this letter, I wish to reflect on the significance of the Jubilee Year, the essence of being 'Pilgrims of Hope,' and the vital role that each of you plays in fostering hope within your families and communities.



Scan the QR code
to view a video
from Fr. Eli

The Meaning of the Jubilee Year

The Jubilee Year holds a rich historical and spiritual significance within the Catholic Church. Traditionally, it is a time of grace, renewal, and reconciliation, where the faithful are called to reflect on their lives and seek a deeper relationship with God. Pope Francis reminds us that "the Jubilee is a proclamation that God never abandons his people and constantly keeps open the doors to his Kingdom." This year, we are invited to experience the grace of the Jubilee, which is obtained through our willingness to set out on a journey towards God, embodying faith, hope, and love.

This sacred time encourages us to seek forgiveness, extend mercy, and embrace the transformative power of God's love. It is a moment to renew our commitment to live as witnesses of Christ's message, fostering a spirit of reconciliation and unity in our communities.

Pilgrims of Hope

As we embrace the theme of "Pilgrims of Hope," we are reminded that our journey is not one of mere tourism but a profound pilgrimage of faith. Pope Francis encourages us to "not set out as mere tourists but as true pilgrims." This distinction is crucial; while tourists may seek superficial experiences, pilgrims immerse themselves in the journey, seeking to understand the deeper meaning of their path.

Hope plays a pivotal role in our lives. It is the virtue that enables us to trust in God's promises and to believe in the possibility of renewal and transformation. By our actions, words, and daily decisions, we can sow seeds of beauty and kindness, becoming beacons of hope in a world often marked by despair. As we navigate our personal and communal journeys, let us remember that we are called to be messengers of hope, reflecting the love of Christ in all that we do.

The Role of Teams of Our Lady

The Teams of Our Lady have a unique and vital role during this Jubilee Year. As a faith community, you are called to foster hope and renewal within your families and parishes. Pope Francis emphasizes that by discovering our vocation and its place amid the different gifts bestowed by the Spirit, we can become "messengers and witnesses of Jesus' dream of a single human family."

This year presents an opportunity for each team member to engage in acts of service, deepen their spiritual lives, and support one another in their journeys. You can create an environment that nurtures faith, encourages dialogue, and inspires a collective commitment to living out the Gospel.

Invitation to Action

As we prepare for the Jubilee celebrations, I invite you to participate actively in this sacred time. Engage in acts of service that reflect the love of Christ and deepen your spiritual lives through prayer and reflection. Pope Francis notes that "a pilgrimage on foot is a great aid for rediscovering the value of silence, effort, and simplicity of life." This journey can be physical and spiritual, allowing us to reconnect with the essence of our faith.

Moreover, let us heed the call to inspire among the faithful a common effort for the Christian renewal of society. Working together can create a ripple effect of hope and transformation that extends beyond our immediate communities.

In conclusion, as we embark on this journey of hope together, let us lift our hearts to Christ and become "singers of hope in a culture marked by much despair." May this Jubilee Year be a time of profound renewal, reconciliation, and joy for you and your families.

I offer my heartfelt blessings to the Teams of Our Lady as you embrace this sacred journey. May Our Lady guide you and inspire you to live out your faith with courage and hope.

In Christ's love,
Fr. Elias Lopez, USA Super Region Spiritual Counselor
fr.eli.lopez@allsaintscatholic.us

2024-2029 Key Focus Areas



As the USA Super Region team embarks on our 5-year commitment to the Movement, we feel it important to stop, pray, and discern where the Holy Spirit is guiding us. It is necessary to spend time reflecting on

the needs of Teams in the USA and how this USA-SR team can help fulfill those needs. At our winter meeting in Houston, we reflected on the Mission of Teams of Our Lady, reviewed the Vision statements of the ERI, discussed core values for Teams in the USA, and developed goals as well as key focus areas for the next 5 years. The following are the key focus areas that arose after prayer, discernment, discussion and reflection.

Strengthen the Base Team

We will endeavor to apply this lens to everything we undertake. Any service role, meeting, training, material publication, etc. should be developed through the lens of how it will benefit and strengthen the base teams.

Improve Communication

Improve information dissemination and member contact through enhanced and coordinated print and digital communication. This includes a monthly letter, print materials, Magnificat, website, and social media all aimed to increase member contact and interaction.

Promote and Utilize Website

With a new technology platform, improve and increase membership interaction with website and membership portal. Provide valuable resources on website and membership portal to encourage active and fruitful participation.



Magnificat

Expand content in each edition focusing on member responsibilities and endeavors as well as history of the Movement and Fr. Caffarel. Magnificat should be an interesting and entertaining publication but also informative and educational.

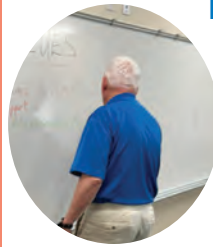
History

Disseminate information compiled by the Historian Couple to the greater membership to foster a sense of appreciation for past generations of Teams couples in the USA and how they paid it forward for our benefit. Demonstrate how the history of the Movement still applies to the base teams today.

Piloting

Publish an edition update to the Piloting Book and Piloting Training Manual based on comments and feedback received from the USA membership survey in 2024 and new piloting information provided by the ERI. Encourage and train more

couples to become Pilot Couples. Develop process for piloting new teams in remote and pre-sector areas.



Training

Improve the training procedure for all responsible couples at all service levels (i.e. Super Region, Province, Region, Sector, and Base Team). Refine training materials and methods that are both informative and engaging. Provide training videos through a new membership portal that can be accessed on demand as a refresher.

College Meetings

Continue to implement College Meetings at the Super Region, Province, and Region levels to improve communication, training, and personal touch to more membership. Encourage more couples to discern a responsible couple role beyond the base team.



Expand the Movement

Foster and encourage more married couples throughout the USA to experience conjugal spirituality through Teams membership. Encourage Sector Responsible Couples to establish a Sector Team with Information Couples and Pilot Couples to cultivate the Teams charism to other married couples.



NTWC Expansion

Continue to expand and solidify a New Teams Welcome Celebration (NTWC) as the culmination of the Piloting process to welcome and celebrate new members committing to the

Movement. Provide an NTWC to all new couples joining the Movement.

The Second Wind

Develop a weekend program using the guidance and training developed by the ERI for experienced teams to reinvigorate their excitement for the Movement. The goal of a Second Wind weekend is to improve connections, vitality, and excitement of the Movement for base teams in existence for ten years or more.



Our Mission

Teams of Our Lady is a movement of Christian Marriage Spirituality, which brings together couples united by the Sacrament of Matrimony, and who wish, together, to deepen the graces of their Sacrament. Teams offers married couples a pathway toward love, happiness and holiness. This movement's aim is to help couples live fully their Sacrament of Marriage.

"Teams of Our Lady have as their essential aim, to help couples strive after holiness—no more, no less."

Fr. Henri Caffarel

Founder of the Teams of Our Lady



Vision of ERI

To bring life and animation to the Movement

- Maintain the Movement and connection to the universal church
- Ensure faithfulness of the founding principles of the Movement
- Exercise long term discernment
- Ensure unity and internationality – in line with the cultural diversity of the countries within the Movement
- Develop Teams in new areas
- Prepare updates to fundamental documents of teaching (pedagogy), organization, and responsibilities
- Organize the International Gathering every six years

Core Values of Teams of Our Lady USA Super Region



Love

Emphasizing the central role of love in marriage, family, and community.



Sacramental Marriage

Upholding the belief that marriage is a sacred covenant; recognizing marriage as a path to holiness.



Faith and Spiritual Growth

Nurturing a deepening of faith through conjugal spirituality, prayer, and frequenting the sacraments.



Sharing the Good News

Actively sharing testimonies and experiences about marriage and family life, both within the faith community and beyond.



Support and Accountability

Fostering a supportive environment where couples can rely on one another for encouragement, mutual aid, and hospitality.



Community and Fellowship

Building strong, genuine relationships within a committed community that shares a common purpose and commitment to faith.



Universality

Acknowledging that the principles and experiences of marriage resonate across different cultures and contexts, promoting a global understanding of these values.

These values collectively aim to strengthen marriages, support families, and foster a deeper connection to faith within a community environment.

2024 Annual Report for Teams of Our Lady



Jeff and Denise Standley,
Secretariat Couple

Scan the QR code
to watch their
special testimony



Thank you for your support of the Sacrament of Matrimony through your donations to Teams of Our Lady! The culture in the United States does not always honor marriage as a sacrament. From CCC 1123, "The purpose of the sacraments is to sanctify men, to build up the Body of Christ and, finally, to give worship to God. Because they are signs they also instruct. They not only presuppose faith, but by words and objects they also nourish, strengthen and express it. That is why they are called sacraments of faith." In Teams, we are called to journey this path of faith and holiness within the Sacrament of Matrimony.

Greg and Melanie Gehrt, USA Super Region Responsible Couple, along with the USA Super Region Team are endeavoring to use these monetary resources to serve the base teams and couples in the USA Super Region to the best of their abilities. This can be challenging to focus on what will help the base teams be supported in ways that allow couples to grow closer to Christ and to more fully reflect Christ's love for the Church. The desire is for teams to grow in love and support of one another as a reflection of the early Christian community. Your contributions at any amount to the Teams Movement are greatly appreciated and vital to help Teams of Our Lady further its mission of deepening the graces of the Sacrament of Matrimony in the United States.

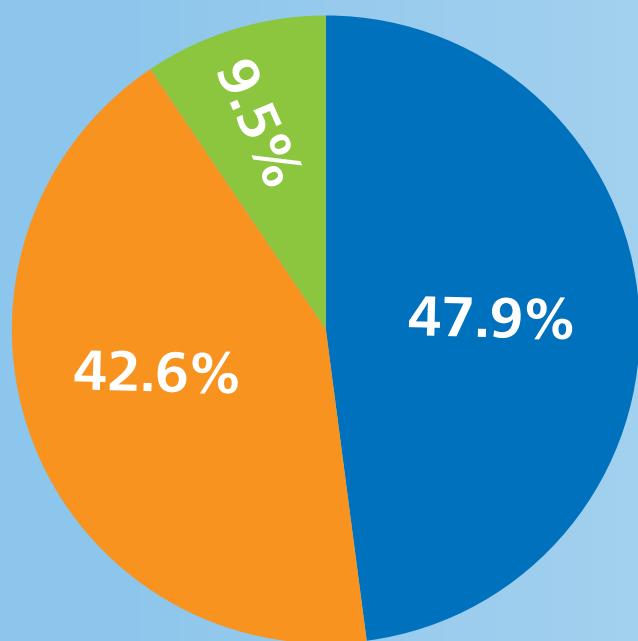
The following is our 2024 Annual Report for Teams of Our Lady in the USA Super Region. If you have any questions, please contact us at info@teamsofourlady.org



Rick and Carol Fishbune
Treasurer/Finance Couple

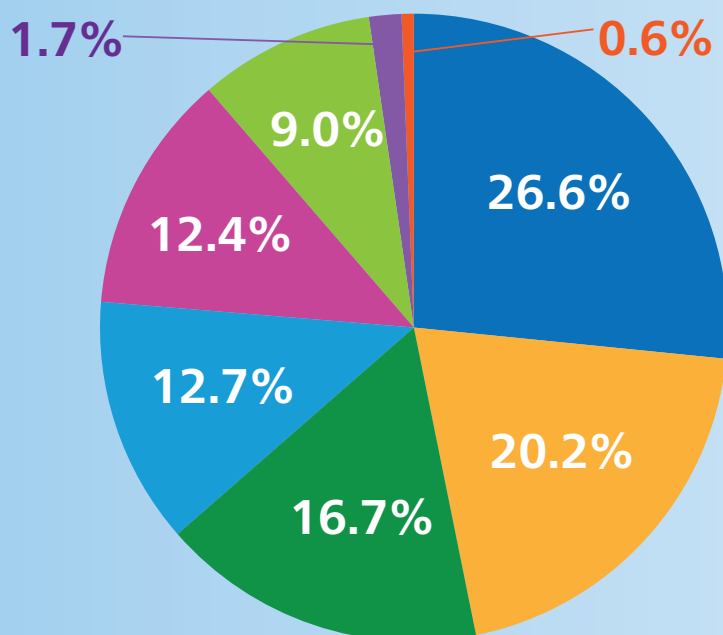


Scan the QR code
to watch their
special testimony



INCOME

Checks & Other	\$ 146,267
Credit Cards	\$ 130,100
Interest & Non-Donation	\$ 28,843
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 305,210



EXPENSES

Tithe	\$ 71,567
Website & Computer	\$ 54,456
Printing	\$ 45,061
International Gathering Expense	\$ 34,288
Transportation & Training	\$ 33,272
Postage	\$ 24,322
Bank Charges	\$ 4,490
Other	\$ 1,691
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 269,147

USA Super Region By the Numbers

Linked Region to USA (Trinidad & Tobago)	1
Sectors in USA:	103
Teams in USA.....	724
Teams Couples in USA	3538
Widows/Widowers Active in Teams	68
Spiritual Counselors (Priests)	233
Spiritual Advisors (Non-Priests).....	51
Paid Staff (100% Volunteer)	0
Teams in Piloting in 2024.....	26
Number of Donors	920
Percent Donating	24%
Average Annual Donation per Couple	\$259.38
Sector with Highest Donation Participation	Fresno CA - 86% Donate
Province w/Highest Donation Participation.....	West Province-61% Donate
Material Shipments	289
2024-2025 Study Topic Books Shipped.....	English 789
	Portuguese 97
	Spanish 83
Pilot Materials Shipped.....	English 726
	Portuguese 42
	Spanish 38

Tithe to ERI

This is the amount we pay to support the functions of the International Movement. Please see page 5 for the Vision of the ERI.

International Gathering

Gatherings occur every 6 years. The most recent was in July 2024 in Turin, Italy. The USA Super Region is reserved so many "spots" at an International Gathering and prepays the registration. The couples from the USA attending make payments to the USA Super Region to cover their costs.

Website & Computer

In March 2024, the USA Super Regional Team contracted a company to transition our website, database and member portal to a new platform. This is almost complete!

Postage

Printed materials are shipped around the country for piloting or study topics. This also includes any postage for the Magnificat publication and the donation and tax letters.

Printing

These expenses cover printing and storage of materials which includes:

- The Annual Study Topic
(*On the Road to Emmaus from the RR Liban in 2024*)
- Piloting Materials
- Promotional Trifolds
- Materials for Responsible Couple Binders
- Prayer Cards
- The Magnificat Publication (sent out twice a year)
- Donation letters and return envelopes
- Many of these materials are in multiple languages for distribution in English, Spanish, Portuguese and French

Transportation and Training

Gathering together for training and sharing of ideas is necessary for growth and stability.

The following are areas where funds have been allocated.

- Province and Regional Colleges
- New Teams Welcome Celebrations
- Sector Couple Experience Training
- USA Super Region Team Meeting



Teams couples provide local hospitality to defray the costs associated with in person meetings and trainings.

North Province

Central | Lake Michigan
Midwest | North Central

Mark & Patty Conway
*Responsible Couple
for the North Province*



Scan the QR code
to watch their
special testimony



October 13, 2024

The Omaha NE Sector along with Sector RC Mike Thompson & Nicole Florez held their annual sector picnic. A fun icebreaker included introducing yourself to someone you did not know and finding something in common with them. Then, you introduced your new friend to the entire group.

Central Region

October 13, 2024

Both St. Louis MO Sectors A and B held a reception after Mass at Holy Infant Catholic Church. Wedding cake was shared while reflecting on the significance of the cake at a wedding. They also offered a blessing for married couples and families.



August 25, 2024

Des Moines IA Sector hosted a breakfast after Mass at St. Pius X Catholic Church in Urbandale, IA. More than 130 people were in attendance. Monsignor Orr, North Province Spiritual Counselor, presided at Mass.



Midwest Region

September 14, 2024

The Midwest Region hosted a Regional College Meeting at Our Lady of Lourdes in Toledo, OH. Couples from Toledo, OH, Steubenville OH, and Louisville, KY attended. Everyone enjoyed the interactions, the presentations, and the sharing of highs and lows.



North Central Region



Fargo ND Sector organized a Family Picnic Day in August

Lake Michigan Region



October 19, 2024

The Detroit MI Sectors A and B held a combined Sector Day at St. Scholastica Catholic Church. The day started with an exclusive Teams Mass celebrated by Fr. Jim Lowe, a Companion of the Cross priest, followed by his testimony from the National Congress and why it matters for

marriage. Also, two couples gave testimonies on their experience attending the International Gathering in Turin.

Mark & Therese Jirik were installed as the new Sector Responsible Couple for Kansas Sector B (Atchison & Hiawatha).

Pictured from left to right:
Dr. Jamie Blosser (outgoing Sector RC, Therese & Mark, and Patty & Mark Conway (North Province RC)

NTWC News and Planning

Josh & Christina Loeffler
USA Super Region NTWC
Responsible Couple



Scan the QR code
to read their
special testimony

We are excited to announce that planning is underway for New Teams Welcome Celebrations (NTWC) across the United States, arriving in your province by Spring 2026. These energetic, full-day events are held to recognize and celebrate new teams that have completed piloting within the last 1-5 years and have recommitted to the Movement. An NTWC is a free event and consists of prayer, presentations, large and small group discussions, team building activities, couple time, and celebration with fellow Teams couples from around a Region! If one of these events is coming to your Region, be on the look-out for an invitation to register to attend.

Fargo, ND (North Province)

Jacksonville, FL (South Province)

Turlock, CA (West Province)

Greenville, SC; Berryville, VA; Raleigh, NC
(East Province)

**Please welcome our New Teams
Welcome Celebration Province
Responsible Couples:**

John & Jan Klocke, North Province
North-ntwc@teamsofourlady.org

Jim & Sarah Martinec, East Province
East-ntwc@teamsofourlady.org

Juanjo & Claudia Mascorro, South Province
South-ntwc@teamsofourlady.org

Matt & Lisa Lawrence, West Province
West-ntwc@teamsofourlady.org

South Province

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

Fabio & Camila Cristino
*Responsible Couple
for the South Province*



Scan the QR code
to watch their
special testimony



November 24, 2024

Gainesville GA 01S is the first team in the state of Georgia. They received piloting from Pedro Jaramillo and Gloria Rojas, who traveled every month from South Carolina to serve the Movement. The team held their commitment ceremony on November 24, 2024. Their first Responsible Couple is Deacon Jaime Agudelo and his wife, Ana.

Southeast Region



September 7, 2024

The Southeast Region College Meeting was held at Saint Lawrence Parish in Tampa, FL. The day included exchanging ideas, informative talks, sharing meals, engaging in a beautiful group activity, installing the new Region Responsible Couple, Pablo and Doris Ramos, receiving an inspiring talk from Father Muhr, and praying together at the parish Mass.



November 24, 2024

The Orlando Pre-Sector held a wine and cheese event to promote social integration among the teams. Both English and Portuguese speaking teams participated. Congratulations to Anthony and Allie, the liaison couple, for the initiative!



North Texas/Oklahoma Region



November 9, 2024

The North Texas/Oklahoma Region College Meeting was held at Holy Cross Parish in The Colony, TX. Participants shared information, reflected on the experience of the International Gathering in Turin, received inspiring content on The Passion to Serve, engaged in group dynamics, shared a meal together, and attended Mass. The new Dallas Sector Responsible Couple, Kevin and Gillian Albuquerque, was installed.



December 20, 2024

The traditional Posada hosted by the Dallas Spanish Sector at St. Ann's Catholic Church in Coppell, TX had traditional food, drinks, Christmas music, prizes, goodie bags for children and a piñata. Both the Dallas Spanish and Dallas English Sectors came together to sing and pray, celebrating the arrival of Baby Jesus. It was a beautiful way to foster fellowship, build community, and experience cherished cultural traditions united by the same faith.



Whitehouse TX 01 held their team retreat at Wellsprings Retreat Center. The retreat was led by Fr. Gus and centered on the theme, "Who do you say I am?", drawing inspiration from the recent Sunday Gospel readings.



Lafayette LA 02 gathered for their annual retreat at the Grand Coteau Retreat Center for a two-day prayerful retreat. Topics included marriage as a vocation, Christ in our marriage, God's love as a model, and Ignatian prayer. It was a spirit-filled experience for all the couples.

Louisiana/Arkansas Region



On January 5th 2025 with the Feast of the Epiphany, all Plaquemine LA Teams couples and their children (four teams and one piloting) gathered for an annual Sector recommitment ceremony. The gathering included

Mass, couple's recommitment, lunch, personal testimonies, and fellowship. Thanks to Karen and Mark Gremillion, Plaquemine Sector Responsible Couple, for coordinating this beautiful ceremony, and the blessed support of Fr. Martin Laird.

West Texas/NM Region

Both San Antonio Sector Responsible Couples, Sector A (Chris and Pam Ohlenforst) and Sector B (Dave and Patricia Matteson), organized and led a sector-wide event in early December 2024 at Holy Trinity Catholic Church in San Antonio, TX. The primary objective was to provide training and to deepen participants' understanding of the spirit and mission of Teams of Our Lady, ensuring its vitality within the Movement. The gathering emphasized that teams consist of freely committed and dedicated Christian couples who strive to reflect Christ's love for His spouse—the Church—by fostering a "domestic Church" within their marriages and families. Furthermore, the event highlighted the sacrament of marriage as a source of grace, enabling couples to grow closer to God.



East Province

Coastal | Lake Erie
Mid-Atlantic
New England

Joe & Michelle Lawler
*Responsible Couple
for the East Province*



Scan the QR code
to watch their
special testimony



January 18, 2025

Joe & Michelle Lawler, East Province RC, with their host couple, Carol and Deacon Steve Moses, conversing after dinner at the USA-SR Team Installation Meeting in Houston, TX.



Joe & Michelle Lawler, East Province RC, (back center) with the newly installed USA-SR Team. Pictured with Greg & Melanie Gehrt, USA-SR RC, (front left) and TJ & Ellen Holt, ERI Liaison Couple for Transoceanic Zone, (front right).

Coastal Region



November 9, 2024

Oscar & Alicia Cruz, Coastal Region RC, hosted a Coastal Region College Meeting at St. John the Apostle Catholic Church in Leesburg, VA. Numerous Sector RCs and base team Responsible Couples were in attendance for a day full of prayer, presentations, and fellowship. The highlights included a discussion on the new Teams Study Topic, On The Road to Emmaus, and a recap of the 2024 International Gathering in Turin Italy.



Pictured L-R: Oscar & Alicia Cruz (Coastal Region RC), Greg Gehrt (USA-SR RC), and Michelle & Joe Lawler (East Province RC) at the Coastal Region College Meeting at St. John the Apostle Catholic Church in Leesburg, VA.

Past East Province Responsible Couple, Deacon Dave and Carol McCaffrey, presenting the Icon to incoming East Province Responsible Couple, Michelle and Joe Lawler, at the Coastal Region College Meeting. Our heartfelt thanks and appreciation for the many years the McCaffreys have dedicated to our Movement. Their continued guidance and participation is always welcomed!





Sector Responsible Couple Installation

The Simpsonville SC Spanish Sector is excited to welcome Jimmy and Aura Martinez as the next Sector Responsible Couple.

Become An Intercessor

Jack and Mary Pulick, *Intercessor Liaison Couple*

Over 60 years ago, Fr. Caffarel called Teams of Our Lady couples to become intercessors. Intercessors are people of prayer. We are poor, but Jesus and Mary answer our prayers and come to the aid of those we entrust to them. We commit to giving some of our time and ourselves to pray for the Teams Movement to be authentic, and to continue its mission of spreading the good news of Catholic Marriage throughout the world.

Consider signing up to become an intercessor. We would love nothing more than to have more couples from our Super Region sign-up to become intercessors. The time commitment is just one hour each month. Can you and your spouse spend one hour each month devoted to prayer for the Teams of Our Lady Movement? Please sign-up!



Scan the QR code to sign-up on the website

Please email your prayer requests to prayer@teamsfourlady.org. When submitting a prayer request, please include your name and first initial of last name. These petitions will be distributed to our subscribed prayer warriors across the USA Super Region.

If you would like to sign-up to join our prayer warriors from across our USA Super Region who are offering up prayer for the intentions and petitions received, please email us at and we will add you to the distribution list. We send out prayer petitions on a weekly or as needed basis. We would love to add more prayer warriors!

Prayer Petitions & Intentions

Art and Cathy Beccard, *Prayer Couple for USA Super Region*

Are you in need of additional prayer warriors?
Do you have intentions or petitions that you would like to share?

Email us! prayer@teamsfourlady.org

Northwest Region



Spokane WA 01 enjoyed a summer picnic and lots of games for all ages. God blessed them with a beautiful day and great fellowship. The Spokane WA Pre-Sector is adding two additional teams to officially become a full Sector in the near future. Praise God!



Luie & Ana Nunes
*Responsible Couple
for the West Province*



Scan the QR code
to watch their
special testimony



Turlock CA 43 and their families at their Christmas Gathering. This new team just finished piloting in Fall 2024. They were piloted by the late Daniel & Jennifer Lourenco (Grant them eternal rest oh Lord.)



**Turlock CA
Sector 01
Portuguese**
took a summer
bus trip to Pacific
Grove. Fr. Larry
celebrated Mass
at the Carmel
Mission.



Western Region

November 2, 2024

The Western Region held its Regional Day in Turlock, CA. The day was filled with Mass, adoration, talks, and fellowship.



The Western Region Responsible Couple (center) along with the Sector RCs organized the Regional Day events



Jesus & Astrid Galindo (on right) were installed as the new Whittier Sector Responsible Couple at the Regional Day. Pictured with Camille & Mike Popp, Western Region RC (on left) and Fr. Manuel Sousa.



Phoenix AR 05

Camping Trip 2024. In lieu of a normal December meeting, a full family event was held including a hayride to view Christmas lights.

September 9, 2024

The Fresno CA Sector hosted a summer social event for a fellow Teams family visiting from France. A Teams couple from Visalia CA provided hospitality to them and their children for several days.



Canute & Natasha Hudson
*Responsible Couple
for Trinidad and Tobago Region*



Uniting In Our Internationality Through Almsgiving

In July 2024, the ERI linked the Trinidad and Tobago Region to the USA Super Region. As this relationship formed, the Trinidad and Tobago Regional Couple, Canute and Natasha, heard about the tragic news of the Kasongo family, a fellow Teams family from Malawi. This news came from the Malawi Regional Couple, Esther and Mathias. The Trinidad and Tobago Region then made the USA Super Region aware of the Kasongo family who lost the roof from their home during a cyclone in December 2024. Through mutual help crossing international borders, the Transatlantic Super Region, the Malawian Region, Trinidad and Tobago Region, and the USA Super Region raised funds to help the Kasongo family rebuild their home.

Esther and Mathias conducted a site visit to assess the damage and manage expectations. Pictures, videos, and cost estimates for the repairs were sent. Canute and Natasha coordinated with the Transatlantic Super Region RC to transfer the funds. Despite challenges posed by international fraud control measures, funds were successfully transferred to the Kasongo family in time for Christmas. The Kasongo family expressed gratitude and hope upon receiving the visit and knowing international Teams couples were assisting them.



The Kasongo family's house after the funds received from Teams couples. They have managed to do much more maintenance and asked that this picture be shared with their Teams friends. They now live in less fear of heavy rains and winds.



The Kasongo family home after the cyclone damage



The Kasongo family standing in front of their home with a new roof



Mr. and Mrs. Kasongo are grateful to receive the funds and trees for planting in order to reduce possible home damage during future cyclones



Do You Know?

What is a College?



We often see puzzled looks on people's faces when we talk about a College in Teams? Does Teams of Our Lady operate a college? What do we study at this college? What is this college all about?

A "college" in Teams represents 3 levels of leadership meeting together to share news, training, information, ideas, and prayer. For example, Greg and Melanie, the current USA Super Region Responsible Couple, represent the USA Super Region at the ERI College each summer. Additionally, they host the USA Super Region College meeting each summer. Below illustrates the various colleges in our Super Region, who is involved, and how and when they meet. There are "college" opportunities down to the base teams.

ERI College -

ATTENDEES: ERI Responsible Couple and ERI Team, Super Region and Region Responsible Couples from around the world.

WHEN: This college meeting occurs every summer (typically in June or July) for one week in person at a site designated by the ERI Team.

USA Super Region College -

ATTENDEES: USA Super Region Team, Province Responsible Couples, Region Responsible Couples.

WHEN: This college meeting occurs every summer (typically in June or July) for approximately 2-3 days in person. This meeting rotates to a different Province location each year.

Province College -

ATTENDEES: Province Responsible Couple, Region Responsible Couples and Sector Responsible Couples.

WHEN: This college meeting typically occurs yearly at the discretion of the Province Responsible Couple. This meeting can be in person or virtual and will typically be one day in length.

Region College -

ATTENDEES: Region Responsible Couple, Sector Responsible Couples and Responsible Couples from all the base teams in the Region.

WHEN: This college meeting typically occurs every two years at the discretion of the Region Responsible Couple. This meeting should be in person and be one day in length.

Please take advantage of the Region College meeting in your area. These meetings are extremely helpful in connecting with others in the Movement, sharing additional ideas from those on your own base team, and learning more about Teams nationally and internationally. These meetings are a blessing for each team! If your Responsible Couple is not available to attend a Region College Meeting, send a substitute so your Team will not miss out!

THE ENDEAVORS

Regular Reading Of The Word Of God

Daily Meditation Or Personal Prayer

Daily Conjugal And Family Prayer

Monthly Sit Down

Rule Of Life

Annual Retreat

Annual Retreat

As couples committed to Teams of Our Lady, we mustn't forget about our need to focus on the six endeavors of the movement. As Teams of Our Lady tells us, **"The endeavors are attitudes to awaken within us and not merely tasks to be accomplished."** Let's have an attitude of awakening and focus on the Annual Retreat for this issue. "And he said to them, **'Come away to some quiet place by yourselves and rest for a while.'**" Mark 6:31

The Annual Retreat is one of the favorite experiences for many in Teams of Our Lady. Retreats of any type offer an opportunity to recharge – mentally, physically, and spiritually. As the Gospel tells us in Mark 6:31, a retreat renews us as parents, spouses, caregivers and as a people of God. Teams asks us to retreat either as a couple or as an individual. Retreating together as a Team is ideal. A 48-hour retreat is best practice as it provides time to leave behind computers, cell phones and schedules to welcome God into our lives and ask for His guidance and direction in our lives and in our marriages.

"Come away to some quiet place by yourselves and rest for a while."

However, planning a retreat can seem overwhelming and daunting. The responsibility for organizing the retreat does not fall on the Responsible Couple alone. It should be a team effort to plan all of the components of the retreat itself. The

What's in a Name?

Juliet debated this very question with Romeo in William Shakespeare's famous play.

One could use the argument that names inform the line of succession of a dynasty, speak of integrity and honor among a people, or are just a name as Juliet proclaimed and not really inform who a person is at the core of their being.

In Teams of Our Lady, your specific team name is very important. The name speaks to where you reside and how you were formed as a people. Were you the first in your area to have a team or were you 31st with lots of wisdom proceeding you? Many teams hold their name with great pride which speaks to the culture of the team itself and Teams within the worldwide Movement. If you don't know your specific Team Name, please check out the website and sign into the portal to see your name. Own it and love it!





desire of the USA Super Region is to provide resources to help teams with materials, outlines, and ideas. If you are interested in sharing your favorite Teams Retreat Experience with the wider Movement, please complete a form using the QR code below. These resources will be compiled and made available on our new website. Just like at a team meeting, we all grow and benefit from each other when we share our experiences with each other.

Endeavor to take the time to retreat with your spouse this year! Even better yet, endeavor to retreat with your entire base team this year!!! You deserve the opportunity to retreat and recharge - mentally, physically, and spiritually.

COMING SOON

**More Team
Retreat Ideas!
Directly from YOU!**



SCAN THE CODE

SAMPLE RETREAT AGENDA

FRIDAY
6:00
7:30

Gather/Social
Dinner
Welcome/Intro/Housekeeping
Evening Prayer/Activities**
Silence Begins

11:00
SATURDAY
7:00
8:00
8:45
9:00

Silence Ends
Breakfast
Morning Prayer
SESSION 1
Reflection and Discussion
Break

10:30
11:00

SESSION 2
Reflection and Discussion
Lunch

12:30
1:00
3:30

Free Time
SESSION 3
Reflection and Discussion
Dinner

6:30
8:00
9:00

Evening Prayer
Campfire and Evening Activities
Silence Begins

11:00
SUNDAY
7:00
8:00
8:15
9:00

Silence Ends
Morning Prayer
Breakfast:
Session 4 (Or Stations of the Cross or other activity)
Reflection/Discussion (Sharing on retreat experience)
Pack and clean up
Closing prayer:
Depart

10:15
11:30
Noon

**If Mass is available, this is ideal to work into the schedule for Sunday

Do you know?

- Team Names are assigned by the USA Super Region with input from the Sector and Region Responsible Couples.
- The Team Name has a consistent format. For example, Kingwood TX 17, Omaha NE 07, or Fresno CA 01. The word at the beginning is the local city or town of your team followed by the two letter abbreviation of the state. The Team number is always two digits, even if you need a 0 in front of 1-9 to make it 2 digits. The numbers are assigned sequentially.
- A Team Name is never repeated. If a specific team is inactivated for whatever reason, that Team Name will never be used again. The name will be "retired", so to speak.
- If couples from different teams join forces to maintain 5-7 couples on one base team, the Team Name will typically be the older of the two team names.
- The languages used in Teams in the USA Super Region include English, Spanish, French and Portuguese.

Friends of Father Caffarel



Paul and Monique Harris

Liaison Couple for Friends of Fr. Caffarel

It has been almost three years since the Positio, (the cause for canonization of Father Henri Caffarel,) was deposited in Rome for the Dicastery for the Causes of Saints to examine. Every day we are getting closer to when Fr. Caffarel may be pronounced venerable as that process normally takes about three years. We continue to need help to promote his Cause:

- **Pray for Fr. Caffarel's Intercession for a Miracle -** The prayer for his canonization is in every Teams study topic book and on the Teams of Our Lady website. Prayer cards are also available; inquire with your Sector or Region Responsible Couple. If any couple feels they have experienced a miracle through the intercession of Father Caffarel, please document the miracle as thoroughly as you can and inform your Province and Super Region Responsible Couples. Then, communicate any blessings you may have received to the Roman Postulator, Fr. Zdzislaw Józef Kijas, by email to: association-amis@henri-caffarel.org or write to: Le Postulateur, Association « Les Amis du Père Caffarel », 49 rue de la Glacière – F 75013 PARIS.
- **Read the Works of Fr. Caffarel -** Share his message and spread the word about his vision. Each of us has a vocation, a path to holiness, and there is a thoughtful, meditative process to that path, different for each of us. For those in Teams, we have the endeavors he gave us to help us on the path to holiness. Fr. Caffarel's message is not only for Teams and the other movements he founded, but for all.
- **Support the Association of Friends of Father Caffarel** (<https://www.henri-caffarel.org/en>) Consider an annual membership of \$20 per couple. You can donate more if you so desire. We are striving to increase the number of Teams members who support the Association to promote the canonization of Father Caffarel. Please note that we must "renew" our memberships each year. One of the many blessings are the newsletters and bulletins published by the Friends of Father Caffarel. We are always amazed at the insight these articles give us of this holy man. Here are a couple of examples of Fr. Caffarel's writings in this latest January Bulletin, No 35:

"In the midst of couples gathered together in a room of a house, there is the intense presence of the Resurrected One, alive, attentive to each person, loving each one as they are, with their bad and good sides, and in a hurry to help them become what He would want, a new being through the Holy Spirit."

"It is the Bible that will help us to see clearly. Throughout the Old Testament, God both speaks and acts. He speaks to make known his thoughts, his wishes, his love... Jesus Christ, likewise, speaks and acts. He speaks to reveal the Father's love and his will. He also speaks to comment on his own gestures and actions..."

We are now coming upon a special anniversary, February 25, 1939, now 86 years after the first meeting of couples with Fr Caffarel. It is fascinating to read his words spoken in Rome at the pilgrimage in 1959 of the beginnings and development of Teams. Here are Fr. Caffarel's words:

"Little by little, the eminent place of marriage in God's great design unfolded. It seemed to us to be totally ordained to the glory of the Lord. Its ends are the multiplication of sons and daughters of God and the mutual help of the spouses in the pursuit of holiness. There is no need to look elsewhere in order to progress towards the Lord: marriage is a sacred way and the Christian family is a living cell of the Church."



Litany for Priests

(Adapted from the Prayer for Priests by the Discalced Carmelite Nuns, New Caney, Texas)

Let Us Pray For:

The Holy Father

– Fill him with your grace, Lord.

Cardinals, archbishops, and bishops

– Give them your gifts, Lord.

Priests who are pastors

– Give them prudence, Lord.

Priests in parish ministry

– Give them your wisdom, Lord.

Diocesan priests

– Never leave them, Lord.

Religious priests

– Help them persevere, Lord.

Priests who are ill

– Heal them, Lord.

Priests in danger

– Deliver them, Lord.

Priests who are weak

– Strengthen them, Lord.

Priests who are poor

– Relieve them, Lord.

Priests who are zealous

– Help them, Lord.

Priests who want to love you

– Enkindle their hearts, Lord.

Priests who are sad

– Console them, Lord.

Priests who are burdened

– Give them hope, Lord.

Priests who are worried

– Give them peace, Lord.

Priests who struggle with addictions

– Free them, Lord

Priests who are old

– Sustain them, Lord.

Priests who are young

– Impel them for your glory, Lord.

Priests who are alone

– Accompany them, Lord.

Priests who feel inadequate

– Love them, Lord.

Missionary priests

– Protect them, Lord.

Priests who are far from home

– Grant them fellowship, Lord.

Priests who are preachers

– Enlighten them, Lord.

Priests who direct souls

– Instruct them, Lord.

Priests and religious who have died

– Bring them to glory, Lord.

For all priests

– Give them your wisdom, Lord.

– Give them virtues.

– Give them patience and charity.

– Give them obedience and kindness.

– Give them a burning zeal for souls.

– Give them an intense love for the Eucharist.

– Give them loyalty to the Holy See and to their bishops.

– Give them respect for their dignity.

– Give them a great love for Mary.

– Give them rectitude and justice.

– Give them the gift of counsel.

– Give them strength in their labors.

– Give them peace in their sufferings.

– Give them humility and generosity.

– Let them be the light of the souls.

– Let them be the salt of the earth.

– Let them practice sacrifice and self-denial.

– Let them enkindle hearts with the love of Mary.

– Let them be other Christs.

– Let them be holy in body and soul.

– May they be men of prayer.

– May they take time to rest.

– May faith shine forth in them.

– May they be concerned only for the salvation of souls.

– May they be faithful to their priestly vocation.

– May their hands know only how to bless.

– May they burn with love for you and for Mary.

– May all their steps be for the glory of God.

– May the Holy Spirit possess them and give them his gifts and fruits in abundance.

Let us pray,

O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, you are the soul and the life of the Church. Hear the prayers we offer for priests. We ask this through the Immaculate Heart of Mary, their protector and guide. Amen.

From the Archives: Maintaining Good Communications



Bob and Janie Mericks
Historian Couple

In our previous article, we wrote about the history of Piloting in the USA and highlighted the evolving communications with new teams—from typed letters to booklets to today's spiral-bound document. We now want to highlight the wonderful written communications of Teams leadership—from the early monthly letters from France to today's national and local newsletters.

The earliest routine communications that we found are monthly letters from the International Leading Team (the ERI in France) to the established teams in this country (dated December 1963-September 1970).

In 1967 two couples from the Washington DC area were invited to attend an international leadership meeting in Varese Italy. At that meeting, the United States became a Region, with Andy and Loretta Favret as our first resident Regional Couple. Upon their return home, the Favrets and the first US Secretariat, John and Barbara Green, sent a letter to the US Responsible and Liaison Couples. Among their sage comments were:

"The question we have been asked by many of our Team friends is, 'Just what was the most significant aspect of the [Teams International] meeting...what really struck you?' We all feel that the chance to meet and, most especially, communicate with Team couples from twelve countries and share with them joys and hopes and concerns for the Teams of our Lady was 'it'. This was a truly enriching experience and really cemented for us the fact that the Teams is a 'supra-national' movement—not French or American or Spanish, but a movement that can speak to all couples that want to grow in the knowledge and love of God in their marriage....We came home with a conviction of the need for personal contact outside our own Team in order to retain the dynamism of the movement."

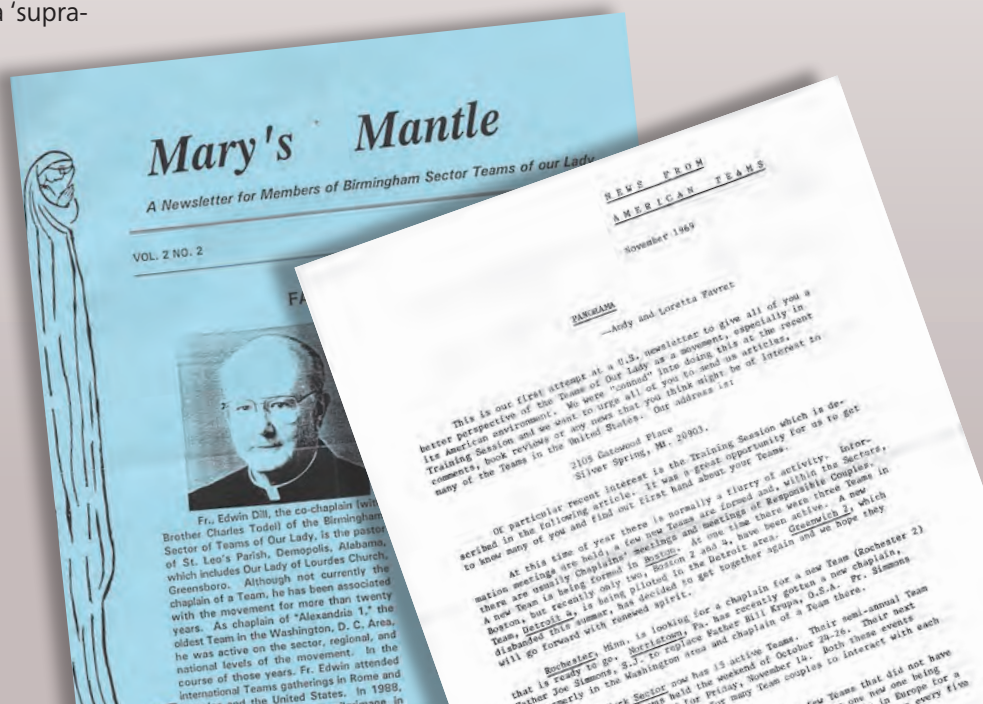
Early leadership discovered, like St. Paul, that written communications and physical presence provides a perfect balance in good communication.

In November 1969 the first US Teams newsletter, *News from American Teams*, was mailed out. The Favrets' last issue was August 1970; responsibility for the newsletter was then transferred to others under the name, *Teams of Our Lady Newsletter*. In Fall 1981 the name of the national newsletter was changed to the *Magnificat*.

Finally, we constantly find important Teams history in local newsletters. Our priests as Spiritual Counselors are very important to the Movement. They have provided both articles and reflections to our newsletters at all levels, keeping us grounded in Gospel values and challenging us to grow. One example is the November 1995 issue of the Birmingham Sector newsletter, *Mary's Mantle*. Let us close with a quote from Fr. Edwin Dill, S.T.:

"The movement which I have come to love over many years has a potential to enrich marriages that can never be fully realized because it draws its strength from the unfathomable love of God. It also can enrich the priestly and religious lives of chaplains who join with the married couples in their common search for a deeper understanding and living of that love in their lives."

Please save the history of your own base team, sector, and region. If you have materials that we should add to the history of the USA Super Region, please contact us at historian@teamsofourlady.org.





NOW OPEN

Teams Online Store*

Check it out to find some classic must-haves, like the Teams embroidered polos, and some new favorites like fun caps and totes in all the province colors. There are also Sector Couple Experience shirts and totes available for those interested in purchasing before the Experience this June.



Explore all the new
Teams swag here:
<https://bit.ly/teamsmerch>
or scan the QR code.



**Your order will begin production as soon as you checkout; no more waiting for the store to close.*



With a new USA Super Region team comes a new mailing address. Please update your records for all correspondence, including donations,

with the new mailing address for Teams of Our Lady in the USA. You could say this is our new "office" for Teams, a small mailbox inside our local UPS store.

Thank you for your cooperation!

**Teams of our Lady
#109**

**12620 FM 1960 W Ste A-4
Houston, TX 77065**

Website updates

coming soon!



Each couple will need to log in and verify their personal information and update any donation information when the changes go live.

Look for these new features!



Note

Our webmaster@teamsfourlady.org email address has changed to technology@teamsfourlady.org. Please direct all website and technology questions to this new email address.



Teams of Our Lady

#109
12620 FM 1960 W Ste. A-4
Houston, TX 77065

Non Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Houston, TX
Permit #542



Sector Couple Experience

June 26-29, 2025
for new & incoming Sector Couples
at St. Anthony Retreat Center in Three Rivers, CA
Located on twenty five acres at the foothills of the Sierra Nevada Mountains
near Sequoia National Park

On the road to Emmaus

Study Topic 2024-2025



Teams of Our lady
International Leading Team

We are excited to announce the new 2024-2025 study topic published by the ERI, "On the Road to Emmaus".

The new study topic is printed and available for distribution. Copies are available in English, Spanish, and Portuguese. There are printed copies still available at materials@teamsofourlady.org.

When placing an order, please order for your entire team, not individually. Order your print copies now!

The study topic is also available in PDF version on the website for those who just prefer an electronic version. Reviews have been very high for this study topic.

We encourage all teams to utilize this material.