

Mark and I were lucky to belong to a parish in Beaverton, OR, with an active Young Adult Ministry. That's how we met – playing weekly volleyball with the young adult group. We also volunteered together in Youth Ministry, sharing our faith with High School teens in Confirmation Prep and later Middle School Ministry. We were very active in our parish life, but after getting married, we started looking for another option of sharing our faith with a focus on married life. Our beloved Young Adult Group was mostly single friends with different needs and goals, so we asked other couples at our parish what they did to nourish their marriages. Thankfully, several pointed us to this international, but just growing locally in Oregon, “well-kept secret” called Teams of Our Lady.



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

**~ Julie & Mark Wagner, Team Portland 05**