

One year ago, my husband and I had been talking about craving more support for Catholic couples during various stages of life (particularly the married-with-young-children phase we were in that often felt fairly isolating!) Shortly after offering up prayers about this void, we got an answer in the form of a Facebook invitation from Jake Ineck, a youth ministry friend I hadn't seen in over a decade. The invitation was for a no-pressure meeting to talk about joining a monthly small faith community for Catholic couples. Although we felt like we'd be the awkward newbies who hardly knew anyone, and definitely knew we didn't have room for one more thing in our schedule – we were unquestionably moved to attend.



At our first formal Teams of Our Lady meeting, we were welcomed wholeheartedly for dinner at the Ineck's home. Our Team of six couples was a random blend of strangers and old friends, but we blended together from the very first night like a tribe that was meant to connect. We laughed about the roller coaster of raising young children and prayed for the special intentions that filled each other's lives. There's something special about praying as a group that interlaces your hearts – and that's exactly what we've found. Over the past year, we've been continually reminded of how blessed we are to have found this community, and our faith has been renewed and challenged in all the ways we prayed that it would. We've welcomed and showered three new babies within our Team with plenty of love, helped each



other move, offered prayer during challenging events, and continued to meet and build our faith over a simple meal each month. For our annual retreat endeavor, we enjoyed a weekend in the mountains this summer where we were able to dive deeper into our relationships with each other, and with God. Our prayer for Catholic marital support was answered in the form of this incredibly unique group, The Teams of Our Lady, and we plan to continue our journey for years to come.

***~ Anna & Nate Gamel, Teams of Our Lady, Boise Team #1***