



Teams of Our Lady

Equipas de Nossa Senhora • Equipos de Nuestra Señora



Christmas Message from the Super Regional Couple:

We want, from the bottom of our hearts, wish you a joyful and holy Christmas immersed in the **Lord's love and mercy and a healthy**, joyful and full of grace New Year lived in the service of the Lord to His and our brothers and sisters, especially those lonely, poor, fearful and marginalized.

Teams of Our Lady movement is entrusted to the Mother of Jesus for it is Her who brings Him to us and takes us to Him. This continuous "encounter" with the Lord leads us to "leap for joy" for the Savior is in our "midst." This encounter and joy is supported, deepened and solidified in our team meetings where we receive encouragement, guidance, and prayers and are also challenged to continue on the journey.

We are truly blessed by this support of a Team and the movement has provided us with a method, a rule, to deepen **this "encounter" with the Lord:** The Endeavors. By faithfully persevering in the regular reading of the Word of God, meditating on its message to us individually and to us a couple, praying daily with our spouse, and family when applicable, we grow in holiness. We must remember that **"everything withers when prayer is missing, everything is reborn, ripens, when prayer is present."** (Fr. Caffarel, Rome 1970.) In taking time for the "sit-down", honestly developing a rule of life and participating in the yearly retreat we take time to evaluate plans and redouble our efforts for the journey.

If we truly have profited from Teams of Our Lady, have grown in holiness and married spirituality we must, as Mary did, **take this gift to others so that they more fully "encounter" the Lord and dance with joy.** Pope Francis address to Teams in Rome underlines this need for evangelization both within Teams and in our society:

Indeed, I would like to insist on this missionary role of the Teams of Our Lady. Every committed couple certainly receives a great deal from its Team 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. "The new evangelization calls for personal involvement on the part of each of the baptized"

(Apostolic

Exhortation [Evangelii Gaudium](#), n. 120). Christian couples and families are often best placed to proclaim Jesus

Christ to other families, to support, fortify and encourage them..."

(Rome, September 10, 2015)



**Sweet little Jesus boy,
help us to remember who you really are.
"This is how God showed his love
for us:
God sent his one and only son into
the world to give us life."
1 John 4:9**

In this New Year of 2017 let us ask Our Lady to strengthen us to follow her example of “YES” to the invitation of deepening our encounter with the Lord, in redouble our efforts in the Endeavors and Team Responsibilities and to take this gift, Teams of Our Lady, to others.

May the Lord through Our Lady bless us all richly in this Holy Season and in the New Year.

With much love and prayers,
Noélia and Jorge Sousa
US Super Regional Couple



Thank You
For Being Part of Our
Movement!
We want to sincerely thank
you for being part of the
Teams of Our Lady!
Teams of Our Lady is
completely funded by our
members, and your
generosity is greatly
appreciated. Couples from
all over the world are

affected by our example as Sacramentally married couples. You have helped make Teams of Our Lady a global movement.

Some of the emails we've received from our members this year tell some amazing stories and have truly warmed our hearts.

At this wonderful time of year, we humbly thank you and ask for your financial support if you have not done so yet. We are not funded by a foundation or donations from a large church.

An increase in your donations of \$10 or \$20 makes such a difference to our movement.

Your donation is tax deductible since we are a 501(c)3 corporation and in order to get this deduction, we need your your donations to be postmarked before DECEMBER 31st.

Won't you help us reach couples around the the country and the world? You can make your donation by mailing your check to:

Teams of Our Lady, PO Box 1485, Turlock, CA 95381

My First Christmas In Heaven



I see the countless Christmas trees
Around the world below,
With tiny lights, like heaven's stars,
Reflecting on the snow.

The sight is so spectacular,
Please wipe away that tear.
For I'm spending Christmas
With Jesus Christ this year.

I hear the many Christmas songs,
That people hold so dear,
But the sounds of music can't compare,
With the Christmas choir up here.

For I have no words to tell you,
The joy their voices bring.
For it is beyond description,
To hear an angel sing.

I can't tell you of the splendor,
Or the peace here in this place.
Can you just imagine Christmas,
With our Savior, face to face?

I'll ask Him to light your spirit,
As I tell Him of your love;
So then pray for one another,
As you lift your eyes above.

Continued

Please let your heart be joyful,
And let your spirit sing.
**For I'm spending Christmas in Heaven,
And I'm walking with the King!**

I know how much you miss me;
I see the pain inside your heart.
**But I'm not so far away,
We really aren't apart**

So be happy for me, dear ones,
You know I hold you dear,
**And be glad I'm spending Christmas
With Jesus Christ this year**

I send you each a special gift
From my heavenly home above.
I send you each a memory
Of my undying love.

After all "love" is the gift,
More precious than pure gold.
It was always most important
In the stories Jesus told

Please love and keep each other
As my Father said to do,
For I can't count the blessings
Or the love He has for you

So have a Merry Christmas and
Wipe away that tear.
**Remember I'm spending Christmas
With Jesus Christ this year!**

by Wanda Bencke-All Worship



Mary was a young girl who was pledged and chosen to be married to a man named Joseph. She had never been intimate with a man; she was a virgin.

One day the angel Gabriel, who stands in the presence of God (Luke 1:19), appears to Mary and gives her a word from God. Mary is told that she will conceive a child by the Holy Spirit—and that child will be the Messiah!

Now remember, first Mary is seeing and hearing an angel. Then, this angel tells her she will carry The Messiah for Israel and all of mankind, and she is a virgin! Mary questions how this could happen and then does an extraordinary and important thing: she accepts The Word and says, “May it be to me as you have said.”

Young Mary decided that she would believe and agree with The Word she heard, and she sealed it in faith and history by speaking that she received it! Mary had to speak by faith that she would receive The Word, carry The Word, and birth The Word given to her.

Mary lived in a culture that if an unmarried woman was found to be with child, she could be stoned to death by law. She would have to face her Jewish family and neighbors that were totally against what appeared to be—that Mary had been sexually promiscuous.

And Mary also had Joseph; what would he think of her? As a holy man, he would not want her anymore, for it looked as though Mary had been with another. Try explaining being pregnant without being sexually active! Who would believe you?

Yet with all that was against Mary, she did what God wants us to do today—receive what He has said, believe it and speak that it is happening to you! God needed Mary to believe what His messenger told her. She and Joseph were destined to be the earthly parents of Jesus.

Mary had a decision that day. She decided to not let the circumstances and conditions that surrounded her make her decision for her. Mary got pregnant with the Word of God that was told to her. And The Word (Jesus) became flesh and dwelt among them, and still is today! (John 1:14)

You and I must believe and receive The Word of God concerning us! Let it grow in us and then finally birth in the flesh, in the natural, what is spoken. Friends, receive, believe and speak what has been spoken and promised to you! Even if your body, your doctor, and everyone around you is screaming, “that is impossible!” Remember, God will even do something that has never existed before to keep his Word—even make a virgin pregnant! Always remember Mary and what she faced—the opposition, ridicule, conflict and pressure.

Think about the impossible thoughts she had to overcome that her body would even do what God said it would do! Defeat the enemy every time when he lies to you and tells you that God and His Word are not working for you.

Nothing is impossible with God. Absolutely nothing!

Say it out loud with confidence no matter what it looks like: “May it be to me as you have said.”

—by Jamie Carte

From all of us on the
United States Super
Region Team
To all of you and your
families,
**A VERY MERRY
AND
BLESSED
CHRISTMAS
SEASON!**



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