



Teams of Our Lady

Equipas de Nossa Senhora • Equipos de Nuestra Señora



## Teams of Our Lady in the Media



### **Growing in Marriage Spirituality**

Marriages, even good marriages face many challenges as they encounter day to day life. Teams of Our Lady join Fr. Joseph to share how through the support of other married couples and the Church, husbands and wives can grow deeper in holiness and their love for each other enriching their married life.



***Scheduled to air on October 23rd***

For times check out: <http://www.ewtn.com/churchuniversal/>

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## The Teams of our Lady honored by the Pontifical Council for the Laity

The Newsletter of Pontifical Council for the Family has given extensive coverage to the Teams of Our Lady on its homepage. This is a great honor for us and constitutes an additional sign of the importance that Pope Francis accords our Movement. After the private audience granted in September 2015 to the International Leading Team and the College of Regional Responsible Couples, the Pope has chosen, once more, to highlight the Teams of Our Lady, via the newly created Dicastery for the Laity, the Family and Life. We are delighted because this coverage is exceptional and contributes to the knowledge of the Movement throughout the whole world.

*To read more, click on the caption below*



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## ***An Election Prayer to Mary***

*O Most Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of Mercy, at this most critical time, we entrust the United States of America to your loving care.*

*Most Holy Mother, we beg you to reclaim this land for the glory of your Son. Overwhelmed with the burden of the sins of our nation, we cry to you from the depths of our hearts and seek refuge in your motherly protection.*

*Look down with mercy upon us and touch the hearts of our people. Open our minds to the great worth of human life and to the responsibilities that accompany human freedom.*

*Free us from the falsehoods that lead to the evil of abortion and threaten the sanctity of family life. Grant our country the wisdom to proclaim that God's law is the foundation on which this nation was founded, and that He alone is the True Source of our cherished rights to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.*

*O Merciful Mother, give us the courage to reject the culture of death and the strength to build a new Culture of Life*

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INTERNATIONAL GATHERING  
July 16 - 21, 2018 - Fatima Portugal





### ***From To and Zé Moura Soares***

***As the International Leading Couple for the Teams of Our Lady, you announced at the most recent International College at Swanwick that the 12<sup>th</sup> International Gathering of Team members would be held in Fatima, Portugal, from July 16<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup>, 2018.***

***Can you give us the reasons for choosing this place?***

Fatima was chosen by the Regional Responsible Couples who took part in the International Regional Responsible Couples' Gathering in Rome in 2015. The International Leading Team consulted all the responsible couples present and the Sanctuary of Fatima was chosen with a majority of over 60%.

***What role do the International Gatherings play in the life of the Movement?***

They are important moments when the international aspect of the Movement can be experienced as a whole and when the new orientations of the Movement as defined by the ERI (International Leading Team) every six years can be announced.

These orientations are proposals that aim to help the Teams of Our Lady to truly journey together in unity.

***Father Henri Caffarel associated big gatherings with pilgrimages.***

***What do you think of that?***

We completely agree with his vision.

To be able to participate in a big Gathering is an opportunity that enables us to nurture and develop the deepest sense of what a pilgrimage is, primarily for couples and then afterwards within the Movement, because it is terribly important to take care of the person who walks at our side.

***Will this next Gathering have a theme and if so, what is it? Can you give us some key words that summarize it?***

There will, of course, be a theme. The ERI (International Leading Team) always uses the Gospel as its starting point and from there tries to respond to the current concerns of the Church and the world.

Pope Francis reminded us that Teams couples are called, more than ever, to the mission; but according to our particular charisma and our vocation of love.

Therefore, our great concern will be to figure out the role of a true Mission of Love, full of mercy and joy, just like the one we are in particular need of today.

[Don't forget to check the video clip in the article "Everyone to Fatima from July 16th to 21st, 2018!". To view video, click on the icon below.](#)



Teams of Our Lady  
2019 National Conference  
July 16 -19, 2019  
Camp Allen, Navasota, Texas





# Memories from the 2016 National Conference in Charlotte, NC



*To view more pictures from the 2016 National Conference, click on the picture above.*



## Connections made POST-CONFERENCE



*Pictured left to right: Ed & Anne Franco, Rob & Sharla, Ed & Fran Benz, Peter and Cindy Warner*

### **Heart of the Movement-***submitted by Rob and Sharla Walsh, Western Provincial Couple*

We were on our way home from the National Conference for the Teams of Our Lady, in Charlotte, NC. We had planned a short visit with a young couple that moved from Portland, OR to Washington, MI.

Sharla and I had Piloted a team in Coeur d' Alene, Idaho and the parents of one of the new Idaho couples was Ed and Fran Benz. We knew that they were about to celebrate their 50th year in Teams. They are on Detroit-01. When the Benz' heard that we were coming to Michigan, they asked us if we could come by to say hello and meet them. We really wanted to do this, but the young couple we were visiting was about 1 hour away from the Benz' and they have 8 children and we could not really leave them as they had made plans for us for each day that we were visiting. We called Ed and Fran to tell them the situation and Fran immediately asked us to bring the whole crew of children and she would make spaghetti or something for everyone.

The Benz' also invited two other couples from their team: Ed and Anne Franco and Peter and Cindy Warner to come to the dinner. We arrived at the Benz' home and they had hamburgers and hot dogs ready to BBQ and vegetables!! We had a marvelous evening. We spent the evening talking Teams "stuff" and they were all SO delighted to hear that the position of Liaison Couple was coming back to the US Super Region. That evening it was like being in a little bit of heaven, being around these three couples, who took the "responsibility" of Teams (hospitality to fellow Teams members), to a new level. We witnessed a commitment to the movement that we pray for all Teams couples. These couples had been on Teams for 50 years, over half of their lives!

These couples' hearts, faith and their commitment to holiness represent the grace and heart of our movement. Fr. Caffarel is surely looking down on this Team with a big smile.

We would like to note that two of the couples on this team have lost a spouse :-)

**Charlotte and Jim Westbrook:** Jim has gone to be with our Lord, leaving Charlotte as a widow, who still attends the team meetings and National Conferences.

**Jon and Claudette Konzen:** Claudette has gone to be with our Lord, leaving Jon a widower, who still attends the team meetings.



Dear Team Family,

We want to give a big **THANK YOU!!** to all the Teams' couples who have so generously supported the Movement, in the United and States and internationally with your volunteer work, prayers and monetary contributions.

**The Teams of Our Lady Charter states:**

*"To give annually, by way of the equivalent of one day's wage to pay for the material needs and the expansion of the movement to which the couples are particularly indebted for their deeper spiritual life."*

Although many people give their time freely and unassisted weekly, there is always a monetary need for printing materials, postage, travel, and the training of leadership plus other expenses associated with any volunteer organization. It is not just a question of providing for the material needs of Teams of Our Lady here in the USA, but also for the growth and development of Teams in the World. The USA is assessed a tithe which is sent to the international movement in order to help pay the expenses of the movement in underdeveloped nations, especially in Africa and Eastern Europe as asked by our Holy Father Pope Francis.

**The challenge for couples will be to turn the contribution attitude into:**

a) faith response and an opening to the Word of God which will bring us out of ourselves to place us completely in the hands of God.

b) an opportunity to cooperate in the welcome of so many couples who through Teams of Our Lady try to find a path to holiness in their married life.

On a personal level, we have had the opportunity to pilot and oversee the piloting of new teams and the enthusiasm and the commitment is a witness to the need to support and spread the "good news of Teams of Our Lady".

Teams of Our Lady has no source of income other than the financial support of its members. When Teams of Our Lady came into existence, it was decided to ask each couple in Teams throughout the world to contribute annually the equivalent of one days wages thus being equitable to all couples no matter their economic status.

Your continued support will help USA Super Region to grow and continue the "Mission" of Teams of Our Lady. We are asking that all Teams couples contribute. This way all shoulder the continued life of the movement since we all receive of its Life and Gifts.

You can still contribute by "check" or "bill pay". (With bill pay you can spread your contribution throughout the year and when the contribution envelope is given to the Responsible Couple you simply place a note in the envelope that you are giving by "bill pay".) Please remember to note on your check or bill pay your Sector and Team number (if additional space allows put Region). (It is our goal that online contributions will be available in the future).

The bill pay or mailing address is:

**Teams of Our Lady, P.O. Box 1485, Turlock, CA 95381-1485**

You are always in our prayers,

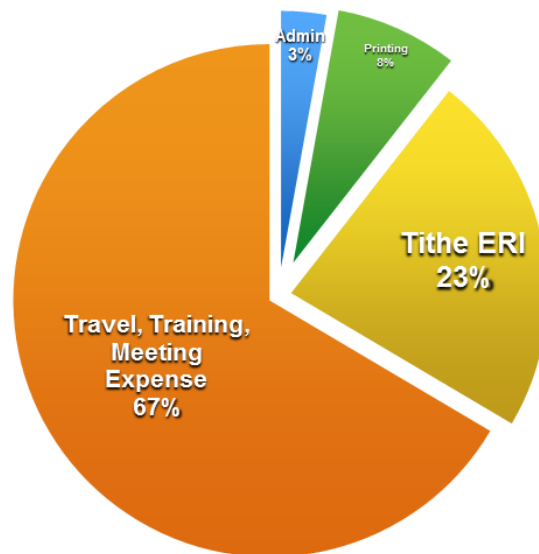
Steve & Glynis Sturm  
Finance Couple  
USA Super Region

Jorge & Noélia Sousa  
Responsible Couple  
USA Super Region

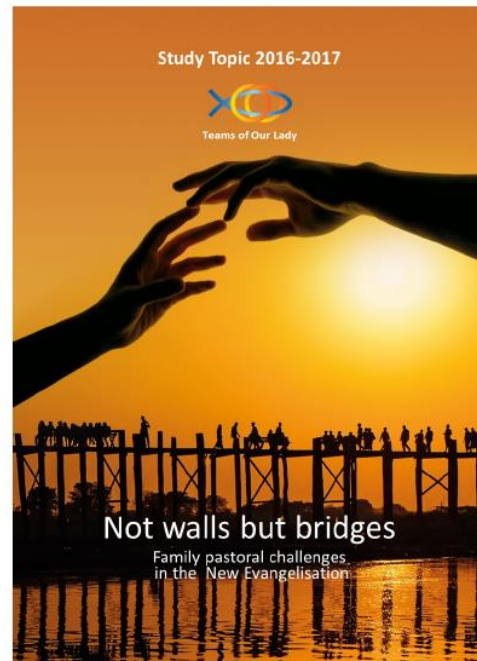


## See below of distribution of expenses:

■ Admin ■ Printing ■ Tithe ERI ■ Travel, Training, Meeting Expense



*The new study is now available in PDF format in English, Spanish and Portuguese. Click on the picture to the right to access the link for download ⇒*



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