



TEAMS OF OUR LADY

NORTH PROVINCE Regions: Central, North Central, Lake Michigan, Midwest

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Who is Jesus in my life?

In the Gospels of Matthew and Mark, Jesus asks his disciples a very important and compelling question: “Who do you say that I am?” This question, “Who do you say that I am?” is an essential one for us to ask ourselves. And hopefully we will respond to it just as Peter did because to confess that Jesus is the Christ, is a fundamental basic truth of our faith. If we don’t reflect on that question, we can easily lose sight of what the Gospel is and what it is supposed to be all about.

Not too long ago I ran across an insightful commentary on this scripture passage by Archbishop Jose Gomez of San Antonio, Texas. In this commentary, he describes a Bible study for Latinos that the archdiocese was developing. And in the introduction to the Bible study, it asks these questions: “Who is Jesus in my life?” And, “Who is Jesus for us as a community of disciples?” The text is then accompanied by pictures of Jesus as Anglo, black, Chinese, and a Native American medicine man. The archbishop then said this:

“I came to the conclusion that it’s hard to picture Jesus. Nobody knows what he looked like. Then I thought: Not one of these pictures even attempted to portray the Jesus we find described in the Gospels. The real Jesus. The Jesus who was a Jew. A son of David and a son of man. The Jesus who at the same time was also the son of God and the man of heaven. The Jesus who took flesh and blood in the womb of Mary and who rose from the tomb by the power of the Holy Spirit. That’s the real Jesus. The Jesus who dwelt among us at a concrete time in history and at a concrete place. A Jesus who is with us today in Word and sacrament. All these other Jesuses are just abstractions. In Matthew’s (and in Mark’s) Gospel, Jesus asks his disciples: ‘Who do you say that I am?’ Notice, that’s a very different question than, ‘Who is Jesus in my life and for my community?’ To ask who Jesus is *in my life* has the danger of turning the question inside out.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 2)



FR. BALLIEN (CONT)

Suddenly we're not talking about Jesus anymore. We're talking about ourselves, about our expectations, our grievances, our needs."

He then goes on to say that "Our people do not want or need a Jesus who looks like them. We need the true Jesus who calls each one of us to become like him...The fashions of pastoral ministry come and go. But Jesus Christ remains the same - yesterday and today and forever. Let us make the Gospel our only paradigm. Let us make 'repent and believe in the Gospel' our only mission statement and our daily task."

God Bless,

Fr. Paul Ballien
Northern Province Chaplain



*Our Lady Queen of Teams
Pray for Us.*



USA Super Region Lead the Morning Prayer Service in Fatima

Our wish for each of you is that you could have been in Fatima for the international gathering. There are photos and blogs you can see and read but the reality is so much more impactful.

The daily program always included morning prayer, Mass, and mixed team meetings in our hotels. Special events included the night procession praying the rosary, Adoration and night Vigil.

Along with these liturgical events were group activities including a live musical "On The Way", Sister Angela's Fatima presentation, the path to Valinhos (Way of the Cross), booths organized by each super region in an exhibition hall, and the "Fiesta" (party) in the park.

A very well-planned and varied schedule that kept us active and involved. The Path of the Valinhos was especially memorable. It is the path where the little shepherds took their sheep to graze. It was in these fields that the Angel first appeared to the shepherds as well as Our Lady on August 19, 1917. This walk was done as couples on a very warm afternoon in silence while reflecting on the journey in our married lives. The path was dusty, long, and difficult at times but also we saw great beauty on the walk, the determination of the walkers, and found spiritual assistance in the stations along the way. We can identify with the shepherds as we walk with the same assurance they had, God is with us on the journey. Also there are couples all over the world on the same journey with Teams of Our Lady as our guide and aid in growing in love of God, our spouse and our neighbor.

Steve & Glynis Sturm



Ask Our Lady for the Grace to be Faithful to our Charism & Our Mission

As members of Teams of Our Lady, our mission consists of proclaiming that this ideal of Christian marriage, as a path to holiness, is not the exclusive property of Catholics. We have no entitlement. We are sent, as Pope Francis asked, to bear witness to the fact that the Christian manner of living marriage corresponds to what all people desire in the depths of their hearts, and that consequently, it is a path of joy and happiness for people today.

We all recognize that “the constant fulfillment of the duties (of marriage) demands notable virtue” (GS 49), indeed a high degree of heroism. And yet, far be it from us to have any ambition to present ourselves as heroes. The disciples statement applies also to us, “If that is how things are between husband and wife, it is better not to marry.” (Mt 19:10) But Jesus’ answer is equally valid, “With men this is impossible, but for God all things are possible.” (Mt 19:26) In order for this impossibility to become possible, our Movement offers us the means to help us obtain it, the *Endeavors*, and I would insist particularly on the *importance of couple prayer and the Sit-Down*.



Throughout this year Post Fatima, let us ask Our Lady for the grace to be faithful to our charism and our mission, and that she intercedes for us, now and at the hour of our death, the two great decisive moments in our life. She always shows us the right path to follow, what we ought to do, like with the servants at the Marriage at Cana, “Do whatever he tells you.” (Jn 2:5) And then we will savor the new wine of the goodness and holiness of marriage as a source of happiness and hope for the Church and for today’s world.

I invoke God’s most abundant graces and blessings for you and your families,

Father José Jacinto Ferreira de Farias,
SCJ Spiritual Counselor
International Leading Team





Beccard's in Fatima

I'm sending a picture of the two of us in our favorite spot in Fatima, walking the way of the cross. We prayed this in the early morning when there were very few people around. There was a Teams group from Columbia at this spot, where the Blessed



Virgin appeared to the children one month and near where the Angel of Portugal taught the children, so we took their picture and they took ours. Walking this in the quiet of the morning with the birds singing, surrounded by rugged terrain and

rock walls, we could imagine how it was 101 years ago. It was a holy spot for us. We also were awestruck by celebrating Mass and the Rosary with 9000



people all speaking different languages who truly wanted to be there, hungering for the Eucharist! It reminded me of Jesus feeding the 5000

only this time it was 9000.

In case you were interested, I'm including a picture of those of us from the Central Region that were there. The Conways are holding the flag and the Henrys and us are behind it. I'm also including a picture from one of the meetings with new friends from California and John & Roz Needham and us. I loved that it was in front of the flags representing Teams of our Lady around the world. If you don't use them, no problem. I just thought I'd share them with you!

God bless you,
Art & Cathy Beccard



Paulette & Stuart Gardner from Des Moines, IA Sector utilizing the headsets for english translation.



Jan Klocke from Fargo, ND Sector meeting Sr. Lucia's (one of the shepherds) niece in Fatima. Jan commented "We think we just meet an Angel"



Waving handkerchiefs saying goodbye to Fatima on the last day of the gathering



The Spouse as Spiritual Director

Each one of us is patterned after God and we should focus on each other when we love someone. When that happens, there is a total outpouring of the Holy Spirit to the other, and the Trinity is there with you. The key is to recognize God can do anything through anyone. God makes good our defects.

Here are some practical guidelines, in beginning the process of being a spiritual director for your spouse:

1- Make decisions together- Mutually decide on important items and to be a spiritual director for each other.

2- Trust your spouse to be your spiritual guide, to accept their help and share your most intimate thoughts and on the deepest spiritual matters.

3- Decide to address issues that you are not facing. The enemy in your relationship is to ignore these issues, which is a form of apathy; go deeper into your relationship together.

4- Note struggles and strengths- Write them down in order to see the pattern of woundedness, which drives behavior- be brutally honest with yourselves, so that you can share your thoughts and concerns. That which isn't healed, is communicated and transmitted to our spouse and family members thus weakens the relationships.

Focusing out makes us want to be compassionate. It helps others thrive. Get serious about pursuing virtue. Guide your spouse- after all, you want the best for them. Try to see how much we desire to do that, so they can obtain heaven.

Fr. Tim Furlow ~ The Spouse as Spiritual Director

Learn to be docile, in order to become a saint. Start small when beginning together with daily prayer.

Pray every day, like you're in an elevator in which the cable just broke.

Care more about your spouse's salvation than your own.

There is a certain joy when you love somebody and you help them become who they actually are.

Get serious about pursuing virtue

Fr. Tim Furlow

Midwest Regional Couple

Roz and I have many wonderful memories of our international gathering at Fatima. We especially thought that the underlying theme of the Prodigal Son from the Gospel of Luke was thoroughly covered and lead to many insights on our part.

We also were very impressed with the talk on Human Ecology by Cardinal Peter Turkson. It was very powerful in its simplicity and historical perspective.



Additionally we loved our international mixed Team meetings. We realized personally how the Team couples around the world share so much in common in spite of the language issues.

The gathering of thousands of Team of Our Lady couples from over 80 countries in addition of 400 clergy made for unforgettable experiences.

Blessings,

John & Roz Needham
Midwest Regional Couple

Fr. Tim Furlow article taken from Northwestern Regional newsletter.



Andy & Alley
Drees,
Rochester, Mn
Sector



Super Region USA



John & Jan Klocke Fargo, ND Sector



Rick & Carol Fishbune
Barb & Mike Timm
Rochester, MN Sector



Jacinta, Francisco & Lucia



Here we are in Fatima having our sit down with about 8 thousand others under the gaze of Our Lady of Fatima. What a profound feeling of unity to be with other couples in sacramental marriages from our universal church doing this Teams endeavor.

We were profoundly struck at mass each day when couples from 93 countries said the Lord's Prayer in their own language. We saw & heard and prayed together with our universal church. We imagined it was much like the feeling at that first Pentecost. Acts2 1-11

Most important were the faithful Teams couples and priests we met with personally as a team from around the world including France, Belgium, Brazil, Columbia, Lithuania, Poland, Jordan, Syria, England, Togo, Trinidad & Tobago, Lebanon, Hungary, Philippines, India, Canada,

We now have personal prayer partners from around the world. We are grateful to have had the opportunity to participate in this International Teams gathering which is only held every six years.

Patty & Mark Conway
Our Fatima Sit down

Dinner with all 4 Province couples and Spiritual Director from USA at follow up training.
Our Team during the conference from Belgium, France, Brazil, Columbia & us USA



New Study Material
for 2018-19 online.

Intercessor Prayer

RECONCILIATION, SIGN OF LOVE



2018 STUDY THEME



Teams of Our Lady

God, our Father,
You planted deep in the heart of your servant, Henri Caffarel, a fountain of love which bound him totally to your Son and inspired him with a wonderful capacity to speak of Him.

A prophet of our time, he revealed the dignity and beauty of the vocation of every person in the words Jesus addresses to each of us, "Come follow me."

He made couples enthusiastic about the greatness of the sacrament of marriage, the sign of Christ's fruitful love for the Church and of His union with her. He showed that priest and couples are called to live a vocation of love. He was a guide to widows: love is stronger than death. Prompted by the Holy Spirit, he accompanied many Christians on the path of prayer. Seized by a devouring fire, he was a dwelling place for you, Lord God, our Father, through the intercession of Our Lady, we ask you to hasten the day when the Church will proclaim the holiness of his life, so that people everywhere will discover the joy of following your Son, in accordance with their particular vocation in the Holy Spirit.

God our Father, we invoke the intercession of Father Caffarel for all Teams couples in the USA Region, to support them in all that they do and for all their prayer intentions.
Fr. Henri Caffarel

"In order to hear, perhaps we need to start by listening." Fr Henri Caffarel

(Prayer is from Northwestern Regional Couple Monique & Paul Harris)



The Way of St. James



Mark & Patty Conway from Des Moines, Iowa starting their walk on the Camino De Compostela, Santiago, Spain.



Mark & Patty ending their spiritual walk at the cathedral of St. James the Great.

Prayer Request; prayer@teamsofourlady.org

Please remember annual Contributions. The same format as last year will be followed. (Sector Couples will manage the annual contribution process)

Contribution letter is online. Mailing will follow.

Dates to keep in Prayer:

USA Region College meeting January 17-20, 2019

North Province meeting with Regional Couples

February 15-17, 2019

College Meeting with Sector Couples Midwest & Lake

Michigan Regions March 15-17, 2019