



Newsletter

Teams of Our Lady

Irish Region



From the Regional Couple

Summer 2021

Issue 125

Dear Friends in Teams,

It is amazing how quickly the last four years have gone by as we find ourselves coming to the end of our term as Regional Couple. When we first took up the role in October 2017, inspired by the Holy Spirit and said our 'yes' as Our Blessed Mother encourages us to do, we can honestly say that you get so much more than you give and would highly recommend any role of responsibility. We have been truly blessed more than we could have imagined and we thank God and his Mother for the experiences along the way.

When we began, our main priority was trying to increase the declining number of Teams in Ireland as we realised the importance of having supports for Marriage and the Family. We started an expansion process and would like to thank our Expansion Team for taking on this role with such enthusiasm and commitment. Spearheaded by Ingrid and Pádraig, the Masterclass was born during a Pandemic and is reaching out to Team members all over the world. Due to the Pandemic, we were restricted in visiting the different Sectors around the country as we would like to have done, but we have learned new ways of communication as experienced through Zoom, WhatsApp etc. Keeping our connections with our Teams members is very important and supporting them through the trials and tribulations of life.

We would also like to thank our wonderful Regional Team that we have had the honour to work with over the four years and indeed to everyone for your love, support and prayers. Our thanks and appreciation to Fr. Sexton for his guidance and input to our movement through his term as Regional Chaplain as he too will be stepping down in October.

We are delighted to announce that our successors, Brendan and Rosemarie Gavin (Dublin Sector Couple) have agreed to take over our role and we thank them for their commitment and ask you to keep them in your prayers.

We repeat Pope Francis' words from the beginning of our term:

'Every committed couple certainly receives a great deal from its Team experience and its conjugal life is deepened by refining itself through

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the spirituality of the movement and under the gaze of Christ the Good Shepherd and the birth of baby Jesus'.

God Bless you all.

Jim and Elaine Keogh

Prayer Intentions

For those who have died:

Peter Conlon, father of Eamonn Conlon, Team 39, Dublin

Siubhan McGill, sister of Maura Duggan, Galway

Tom Newman, brother of Mary Cummins, Mullingar

Imelda Murphy, sister of Dermot Leavy, Mullingar

Brother Camillus McHugh, St. Camillus, Mullingar

For those who are ill or are recovering:

Eddie Lloyd, Galway

Michael Flanagan, Belfast

Charlie McMullan, Belfast



From the Regional Chaplain Fr. Peter Sexton SJ

A reflection on being grateful

Once in a church in Toronto in the 1970s, where I was studying theology, the guest speaker was Dom Helder Camara, bishop of Recife in Brazil, who was known as the voice of the voiceless because of his championing the poor and oppressed peoples of the Third World, one of the great figures of Vatican II. The 70s was a time of tension between the wealthy First World and the poor Third World, which Camara represented. Canada was firmly in the First World and we expected at this huge gathering a harangue from Dom Helder against the greed and insensitivity of the Third World. Instead of this, this little man of God climbed into the pulpit and started to pray out loud to the Trinity, thanking God for all the good that was happening in the First World, a growing awareness and sensitivity to the huge gaps in the standards of living – and we in the congregation were drawn most marvellously into his prayer. So instead of plunging us all into a paralysing and self-concerned guilt, he released energy in those present to desire to do something to improve the world's situation, and we left the church, not depressed, but energised, even elated. It was a mighty lesson.

St Ignatius Loyola used to consider that the ungrateful person was half-dead, whereas ‘the glory of God’, as St Irenaeus said, ‘is the human being fully alive’ – gratitude and thanksgiving are a constant refrain in the psalms and in the letters of St Paul to the early Christian churches – always be thankful!

When I worked in schools, I used to take some students aged 18 or so on the Dublin Diocesan Pilgrimage to help work with the sick in Lourdes, the famous shrine of Our Lady in southern France. They were all healthy, energetic young men with their lives before them. Their job in Lourdes was to stay with the sick pilgrims, to wheel them in the ‘voitures’ to the ceremonies of the pilgrimage, to help them get ready in the morning, to take them to the toilet, to spend time talking to them during the day. The boys were invariably immensely impressed and awestruck by the patience and appreciation of the sick in dealing with the confined reality of their lives, in putting up with their illness and disability with such grace. The eyes of these young men were opened and they began to look at their own lives in a very different way. We are all, in a manner of speaking, just like adolescents, blinded by the affluence of our lives from our own gifts and giftedness.

In a programme for the BBC some years ago, the reporter Ronald Eyre did a huge exploratory trip around the world in an effort to find a genuinely happy community of people. He found that it was not those who were wealthy and had plenty, nor was it those on the other hand who had nothing and were destitute, but he did find a tribe of people who had enough to live on, but no more – and he found them to be content and happy – and of course, by definition, grateful.

One of the biggest blocks to living gratefully is, I think, resentment – a resentment that always compares ourselves unfavourably to others, sees ourself on a lower rung of the ladder looking up – and obsessively sees and complains about the glass being half-empty. I remember hearing a story about an air hostess serving a meal on a plane – in a time when we flew on planes! She handed a meal to the child sitting beside her mother. The child said nothing, and the hostess said: ‘And what do we say?’ The child turned to her mother and said: ‘Do I have to say thank you?’ The mother looked up and said: ‘No, she comes with the ticket!’ A more charming story of Tony de Mello's is of the young father coming in to the maternity ward to see his new-born child. The nurse greeted him saying: ‘I know you will be disappointed as you wanted a boy, but it is a girl.’ ‘On the contrary,’ the father replied with a big smile, ‘I was hoping that if it was not a boy that it would be a girl!’

Seamus Heaney talks about energy givers and energy drainers. The attractiveness of the people we call saints is their capacity to release energy and creativity in others, their sense of joy at what is,

at what they already have, at what is possible – and so surely the call to each one of us, members of the Teams of Our Lady, is to be saints in our unique capacity, unlike any other, to recognise with joy what is, at what we have, and in our turn to be energy givers and not energy drainers – hence Bernanos’ famous phrase : ‘the only sadness is not to be a saint.’

Christ came to reveal our giftedness to us – we are God's work of art, as St Paul writes, – and as we know there is an infinite variety in works of art- some more unusual than others! In the words of Hopkins: ‘There lives the dearest freshness deep down things’. Perhaps this summer after more than a year unlike any other in our lifetime we might rediscover the centrally Christian gift of gratitude – not in some ideal setting, but in the reality of our lives today, given our family history and personal temperament and cultural formation – in the Ireland of today, in the Church of today, with all its limitations and sinfulness, with all its ups and downs, problems and struggles, successes and failures.

‘Always be thankful. Let the message of Christ, in all its richness, find a home with you.’

Carlo Volpini

On the 17th April 2021 we lost a very good friend and Équipes Notre-Dame lost one of its most committed servants. Sadly Carlo Volpini passed away after some years of ill-health which became more acute in recent months. We wish Maria Carla and their family our deepest sympathy at their sad loss.

In 2001 we joined the International Leading Team and Carlo and Maria Carla joined on that same day. For this reason we remained very close to them as we learned our responsibilities together and struggled with our knowledge of French. They represented the Italian and we the English-speaking world. While our responsibility was for 6 years, Carlo and Maria Carla became the Leading Couple of the Movement in 2006, going on to serve END for a further 6 years.

Their commitment and contribution was enormous and in 2015 we worked with them again and with other previous Leading Couples of the Movement to co-author: *Conjugal Love, A Path to God*. This book, first published in French in 2019 was published in Italian and English in 2020.

We have so many beautiful memories of Carlo that will remain with us. His sense of fun and ability to inject light-heartedness into even the most serious meetings will always stay with us. We also owe a special thank you for inviting us to their son’s wedding which was held in the Armenian Church within the confines of the Vatican walls. This was something very special and reflected very clearly the esteem that he and Maria Carla and their family were held in by Pope Benedict and all who knew him.

May his gentle soul rest in peace.

John and Elaine Cogavin



Pope Benedict with Fr. Angelo Epis, Spiritual Counsellor to the Leading Team (ERI), Carlo and Maria Carla Volpini.

Around the Region

Dublin

Sector Outing. (Covid Restrictions permitting)

Date: 5th September 2021

Location: Farmleigh House, Phoenix Park, Dublin.

Time: 1pm.

Tour of Farmleigh House and Estate, enjoy a picnic or food at the café or restaurant or simply walk and talk! See website <https://farmleigh.ie>

Further details by email in August. In the unlikely event that a physical outing is not possible due to Covid restrictions, we will organise a virtual outing by Zoom, instead!

Annual Mass - provisionally Saturday 4th/11th December 2021

Further details in October.

Regional RC Training Day 2 October 2021

The RC Day will be hosted on behalf of the Region by the Dublin Sector this year and will be presented on Zoom, with (we hope!) a physical meeting alongside. Venue/s to be advised in September.

Incoming Responsible Couples are warmly invited to attend. (Each team should be represented by a designated couple if the RC is unavailable to attend.)

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Marriage Masterclass with Teams of Our Lady

THIRD EDITION

December 1-8, 2021

CALL FOR VIDEOS

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: 30th of September 2021

Dear members of Teams of Our Lady,

After the two successful editions of the Marriage Masterclass held in August and December 2020, the Regional Expansion Committee of Teams of Our Lady Ireland is organising a third edition to be held from the 1st until the 8th of December 2021. This free event consisting of pre-recorded videos will be open for eight days to members of Teams and beyond. The event will take place on the **private Facebook group** called: **Marriage Masterclass with Teams of Our Lady** (which is currently hosting the **Teams EXPERIENCE** project).

The scope of this Masterclass is to promote the spirituality of Teams, sharing the beauty and richness that this movement brings to our lives. It is a great opportunity to give testimony about Teams, to share our experiences and to create a stronger connection between couples and chaplains involved in the movement.

Please support this amazing project by sending a video or by encouraging other fellow Teams' members to deliver one. Please share this CALL widely. All videos should meet the guidelines below and should fit under one of the 27 broad categories listed here. We look forward to receiving your videos at marriagemasterclass.TOL@gmail.com by the 30th of September 2021.

Huge thanks for your support!

Categories and Guidelines for video-presentations:

Each video presentation should fit under one of the 27 broad categories below:

Teams, A Gift for Our Marriage

Service in the Leadership of Teams

Living the 'Magnificat' in Daily Life

Individual Prayer: A Personal Calling

Couple Prayer: Togetherness and Spirituality

Reading Scripture: Meeting God in the Word

The Rule of Life: Intentionality in Married Life

The 'Sit-down': A Powerful Encounter in Dialogue and Silence

Doing Retreats: A Time to Recharge Batteries in Marriage

The Endeavours as Building Blocks for Our Relationship

Called to be Saints: Practicing Fr. Caffarel's Teachings in Daily Life

Recipes of Success for Happy Marriages

Communication Skills and Teamwork in Married Life

The Joys and Challenges of Multicultural Couples

First Years of Marriage: A Toolkit for Success

Couple Intimacy: Bonding for Life

A Sense of Belonging: Being Part of a Community

The Cross of Bereavement: Surviving the Loss of a Spouse

Marriage, in Good Times and in Bad Times

Fertility, Welcoming the Gift of Life

Infertility, Adoption and Beyond

Raising Children in Faith

The Pandemic as an Opportunity to Discover New Gifts

Teams Tandem: Building Healthy Relationships and Holy Marriages

Growing Up in Faith: Youth Teams of Our Lady

Being a Chaplain in Teams

Living the Endeavours as Chaplains

- Each presentation should contain **practical advice** based on your own married experience. These videos should consist of testimonies of married life and 'words of wisdom' rather than theories about any of these topics. Consider having 3-5 key points for your talk.
 - **Title:** While you should try to fit your topic in one of the categories above, please bear in mind that these are not your video titles. You should aim to have a personal title for your video. If unsure, we are happy to provide, after submission, a title that captures the key ideas of your talk.
 - Presentations should begin with a short introduction of each couple – first names of both spouses (you are kindly asked not to mention surnames/family names), country of origin of each one of the spouses, country in which the spouses are members of Teams (if different than the country of origin), years of marriage, years in Teams, number of children (optional), profession (optional, to be mentioned only if relevant to your presentation or if you are working in marriage ministry/ counselling etc).
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- **Required length:** a minimum of 10 minutes and a maximum of 20 minutes.
- **Required format:** High video resolution. Medium shot (approximately from the waist up). Landscape/horizontal orientation. Pleasant background.
- **Further tips:** try to place the recording device (camera, phone or laptop) at eye level, not too high or too low. Make sure your location has plenty of natural light. Don't forget to smile! We communicate through words, but also through our body language.
- Please DO NOT send collages of videos from all members of a Team. The videos submitted should be made either by a couple or a chaplain. Collective work is accepted only on behalf of Youth Teams of Our Lady.
- Please DO NOT add any images/introductory stills/titles at the beginning of your video. For an adequate display on Facebook, the start of the video should display the image of the couple or chaplain presenting.
- We welcome **non-English language videos**, provided that they display embedded subtitles in English language. Unfortunately, we cannot assist with the subtitles.
- All video-presentations should be sent to marriagemasterclass.TOL@gmail.com (via Dropbox, One Drive, We Transfer or any other similar devices). Along with the video, please send: the first names of the contributor(s), their country of membership in Teams, and the title of their presentation.

We look forward to receiving your videos no later than the 30th of September 2021.

God bless,

Ingrid & Padraig

Regional Expansion Committee
Teams of Our Lady Ireland



Teams of Our Lady

ANNUAL CONTRIBUTIONS

As you know we are encouraged to give, where possible, one day's pay or whatever you can afford.

Contributions this year may be sent to us at:

19 Rockhill Avenue, Salthill, Galway. (091 528409)

If you wish to pay directly to the Teams Bank Account, the details are:

IBAN: IE94 AIBK 9334 5710 2411 80

BIC: AIBKIE2D

BRANCH ADDRESS: 9 Terenure Rd., Rathgar, Dublin 6.

Please include narrative identifying yourself and your team.

Please do not send cash in the post.

God bless,
Billy and Ann Hyland

Contd. from p.5

The joys of Zoom will make the day available to every couple who wishes to participate. We encourage all who can to link in, as we have an interactive and novel programme planned!

We wish you all a blessed and restful Summer and look forward to September!

Brendan and Rosemarie Gavin

Update your Contact Details.

Please ask your RC to check and update, if necessary, the contact details of your Team members, for the Teams year ahead.

Have you ceased your landline? Do you have a new mobile phone number? Have you changed your email address? Have you moved home? Have you moved Teams? Can you include your Eircode?

Please send details of any changes to Joe and Aine Clayton.

Email to fanadclayton@yahoo.co.uk

Post to "Fanad", 43 Beech Grove, Lucan, Co. Dublin K78 XR44

Belfast

Teams, as this euphemistic title implies, is a group of people. Well, life is often full of surprises, and COVID has been another. Conversations can still be held via the miracle of modern communications, which thankfully don't pass on biological viruses. Our teams have used this type of communication to keep in contact. Some have used Skype, while across the wider teams Zoom or teams (is this a trademark problem) have come into their own.

One of the things that we miss most is the interaction with other people from other Teams. I was reminded the other evening, during a Skype call, that we used to go to England for regional meetings. Fr. Gerry Cassidy CSsR recalled one such meeting in Newcastle (Co. Durham). One of the great things about successful meetings with others is that one is given a new feeling of invigoration or insight that points often in a new direction. This is an echo of some 40 years, which like many things in life has reverberated through the years. Christianity is constantly echoing down the years and centuries, and re-surfaces in often unusual ways. Do keep those who have journeyed with us, for whatever period of time, in your prayers.

Please pray for Michael Flanagan who is recovering from illness and Charlie McMullan who has an operation in the near future.

Brendan and Moyra Bunting

Mullingar

Mullingar Team Meetings:

Mullingar Teams are still meeting regularly via Zoom and keeping in touch by phone, WhatsApp groups, in addition to emails circulating all the news from the Teams Movement.

Team 9

We are all looking forward to meeting up again now that we are vaccinated and restrictions are lifting. Our condolence to Mary Cummins on the death of her brother, Tom Newman. May Tom rest in peace.

Team 4

Team 4 continue to meet on Zoom each month. We are looking forward to meeting in reality very soon (when the sun shines). Most of us are fully vaccinated, Thank God.

Sincere Sympathy to Dermot Leavy on the death of his dear sister, Imelda Murphy. May she Rest in Peace.

Team 3

Team 3 were blessed to be able to have our meeting in the chapel with Fr Frank at St. Camillus nursing centre on Friday the 28th May. While it is fantastic to have Zoom it was just wonderful to be in together.

Regional Couple:

We would like to thank Elaine and Jim for guiding Teams so brilliantly through the last four years. We wish Rosemarie and Brendan every blessing going forward when they take up the responsibility of Regional Couple.

Rest in Peace

Tom Newman (brother of Mary Cummins, Team 9)
Imelda Murphy (sister of Dermot Leavy, Team 4)
Brother Camillus McHugh, St. Camillus, Killucan, on the eve of his 97th birthday.

The Mullingar Teams wish every blessing to all the members of Teams of our Lady for the summer. Stay safe.

Mullingar Sector

Galway

Greetings from Galway in this the most beautiful time of the year.

Our Teams are working well under the current Covid restrictions. We are becoming more expert at 'zoom', which is a handy skill to have. The quality of the Team meetings is as good as ever. However, we do hope to be back to the normal team meeting soon.

Our Teams in Galway are progressing well with our 'vaccine injections' which means that we are in the more senior age brackets. Therefore, the study topic for Team B which is the Thomas Moore book 'Ageless Soul' is appropriate. This book is full of insights and wisdom relevant to our stage in the life cycle. It is beneficial to learn what other Teams are reading as study topics. So, this is Team B's contribution and the book is recommended.

Galway Teams are intrigued and interested in Breda O'Brien's article in the Irish Times, Saturday 15 May 2021. The title is 'As Churches reopen it cannot be a return to service as usual'. Change is obviously happening in the country due to the Covid experience. We are reminded of one of the core values of the Team movement 'Be attentive to the Signs of the Times'. This was articulated in the Teams' famous Blue Book which was compulsory reading for teams starting out. Breda noted an explosion of Prayer groups being created on-line during the current lockdown. We know that team members are actively part of some of these worthwhile groups. Breda also commented on the lack of religious education and formation generally. However, it must be said that formation for adults is available if we know where to look. Perhaps there are challenges here for Teams. In particular the decrease in the number of chaplains, due to decline in numbers, is resulting in a loss of spiritual expertise at our meeting.

Our sympathy goes to Maura and Manus Duggan on the death of Maura's sister, Siubhan McGill. May she rest in peace.

Eddie Lloyd is in a Nursing Home and we continue to ask for prayers for him.

Anne and Jack Hutchinson



Picture taken at the last Summer Outing of Dublin Sector at Ardgillan Castle in 2019.
This year's is planned for 5th September at Farmleigh House.

Newsletter Editors: Paddy and Jacinta Quigley
paddyandjacinta@gmail.com

We would like to receive contributions for the Autumn Newsletter by Sunday 29th August.
