



Newsletter

Teams of Our Lady

Irish Region



Equipes Notre-Dame

From the Regional Couple



Dear Friends in Teams,

As we stand on the threshold of another Teams Year, we look back on the Summer with gratitude. It was good to slip into a lower gear and enjoy the company of family and friends at a more leisurely pace. As September beckons, we look forward to gearing up with you again!

There are 4 new couples and a chaplain eager to begin piloting in Belfast on 17th September. No doubt, the roots of this group spring from the faithful prayer of Teams couples and chaplains in Belfast over the past 40 years. Your prayerful support for all involved is much appreciated.

One of these new couples told us that she received a Teams leaflet from her mother-in-law while she lived in the UK with advice to “look these up when you get to Belfast”. This she did, almost two years ago. This little mustard seed, planted in love, has been growing gently and like the mustard seed in the gospel, it is already missionary, giving hope and shelter to other couples. Matthew (13:31–32)

As we once heard it said, it is not necessary for a new couple to remain in a Team for 40 years to receive a valuable gift. Even the experience of being piloted, learning the value of “sitting down”, of praying the scripture together, of gaining an insight into the immense grace given in marriage, these gifts are food for the journey of spouses today and will remain with them into their future, wherever that may be.

The Regional Team have some new projects planned, among them, two information evenings, one for Tandem Teams, one for Teams of Our Lady. These evening meetings will take place in September on Zoom, so every part of the country can partake. We encourage every couple and chaplain to make at least one invitation, to plant a seed in your neck of the woods. See inside for further details.

Speaking of seeds, the Study Topic for 2023-24 is called “The Eucharist, source of Mission.” Written by the Super-Region of Spain, it is easy to read

Autumn 2023

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and follows a clear structure. The content is complimented with reflections from Pope Francis and Fr Caffarel and prompts the use of symbolism during the meeting, to illustrate the text.

Clarita and Edgardo Bernal, International Responsible Couple explain...

“We take a journey through the Eucharist, starting from how we initially place ourselves before this sacrament, then taking as the main nucleus the four verbs of the institution of the Eucharist from the words of Luke's Gospel: take, bless, broke and give. Finally, we reflect on Sunday, the Lord's Day, the parts of the Mass and the fact that Jesus asked us to "Do this" in his memory, thus connecting the Eucharist with our Christian life.” We recommend his study topic to you for this coming year.

For a sneak preview <https://teams-transatlantic.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/The-Eucharist-Source-of-Mission-2023-24-GB-Version.pdf>

One of the highlights of the Summer for us was the visit to our home by a Spanish Teams couple and their 3 daughters who travelled to World Youth Day as members of Youth Teams of Our Lady. The whole family were very keen to meet other Teams families during their holiday. We shared the joys and struggles of living life as a Christian family today and bonded in a remarkable way. It was wonderful to experience how Teams translates across language and borders. Being part of Teams really makes for a worldwide family and helps us look forward to joining the International meeting, next year!

Inside this Newsletter you will find details of how you can join the Irish and Transatlantic Teams at the International Meeting of Teams of Our Lady due to be hosted in Turin, Italy. We would love to have you with us!

Until we meet again,

God Bless,

Brendan and Rosemarie

Prayer for the Canonisation of Father Caffarel

Date of death 18.09.1996.

Novena from 10th September.

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 for 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 priests 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 vocations in the Holy Spirit.

God our Father, we invoke the intercession of Father Caffarel for...

(Specify the grace to be requested)

Regional Couple Report August 2023

“Let us go with a burning heart” in the footsteps of the Emmaus disciples, Lk 24:15-35.



TORINO 2024
13° raduno
internazionale 

15-20th July 2024: International Meeting of the Teams of Our Lady, Turin, Italy

10,000 delegates are expected to travel to Turin from all over the world for this meeting which takes place every 6 years! Paul and Annette O’Beirne (Super-Regional Couple for the Transatlantic Teams - GB, Ghana, Ireland, Malawi, South Africa, Trinidad & Tobago and Zambia) have advised as follows:

“The conference will begin at noon on Monday 15th July until 20th July 2024 (5 nights). Hotel, meal, and attendance costs are included in the fee of €695pps. The balance will be due in stages and payment will be completed by 30th March 2024. The cost of travel to Turin is additional.”

A new deadline of 1st October 2023 has been set for registrations so that arrangements can be made to offer unallocated places to other countries who have waiting lists. The good news is that there are still just a couple of places available in the Transatlantic Super-Region, so please consider joining. These places will be allocated on a first come- first served basis! If you would like to travel, please make your application asap.”

At time of writing there are 8 couples and 2 spiritual counsellors booked to travel from Ireland. For some it will be a first International Meeting!

If you cannot attend yourself, maybe you can support a couple from your Team or from the wider Movement, at home or abroad, to attend.

See here for more details <https://torino2024.equipes-notre-dame.com/en/>

Responsible Couples' Day 2023

The RC Day will be held at Avila, Morehampton Road, Dublin 4 on the **7th of October 2023**.

The new Responsible Couple in each Team should attend, or if unavailable, should designate a replacement couple. In addition, all Teams members are welcome to attend. Couples who have recently joined Teams are especially welcome! Further details by email from your Sector Couple closer to the date.

Youth 2000 Festival

This year's Youth 2000 Festival took place from Thursday 10th – Sunday 13th August at Clongowes Wood College, Clane, Co Kildare. The Movement took a Stand to offer the spirituality of Teams of Our Lady to the youth, clergy and speakers who attended. Thanks to PJ and Marie Finn, Mark and Anne O'Leary, Ilaria Furlan, Fr Richard Sheehy, Brendan and Rosemarie Gavin who made a joyful Team for the weekend.

Diary of a Regional Couple. June-August 2023

Mission within the Movement - Super-Region:

Collaboration with Super-Regional Couple and Irish Treasurers in arrangements for Turin Conference.

Mission within the Region:

Regional Team meeting, 27th May 2023.

Support for the Intercessor Team.

Mission within the Sectors:

Liaison with Sector Couples to share information on events and news.

Promotion of upcoming information evenings for Tandem and Teams

Mission towards the Church:

Contact with Archbishop Eamon Martin, Armagh to update on the opening of a new Team in the Archdiocese.

Maintenance of links with representatives of other Marriage Movements.

From the Treasurer Couple

Annual Contributions

Annual Contributions may be made in the following ways:

Electronic transfer or Standing Order to Teams bank account

Teams of Our Lady (IBAN IE94AIBK93345710241180, BIC AIBKIE2D)

NB: Please indicate your **Team Number** in the reference section (e.g., Dublin 45)

By post (please, contact us at treasurer.tol.ie@gmail.com)

Paola and Paolo Batori



A Word from the Regional Chaplain Fr. Richard Sheehy

The 30th August marks the 20th wedding anniversary of friends of mine who were married in Dingle, Kerry. It's easy for me to remember this anniversary, as the very next day I took a flight to Los Angeles to begin the first part of a wonderful sabbatical year. Another set of friends reminded me this week that their 25th wedding anniversary is coming up in early September. I celebrated their marriage in Wicklow and am now godfather to their eldest son, who is beginning his second year at university.

Wedding anniversaries don't merely mark the passage of time; they celebrate a journey shared, with all its joys and challenges, its sorrows but also fruits; above all the deepening of love and commitment and the acquiring of wisdom. Anniversaries should be marked! Of course the real development in the life of most couples is the arrival of children, where family becomes the main focus, and children teach their parents the demands as well as the blessings of love.

Last weekend marked the 5th anniversary of the visit of Pope Francis to Ireland for the World Meeting of Families. In his homily at Mass in the Pro-Cathedral to mark the anniversary on Sunday 27th August, Archbishop Dermot Farrell noted that '*Pope Francis encourages people of faith to look at families as they are, and not as projections of some idealised world. Every family is a real family. No family is a perfect reality*'. He recalled too that Pope Francis met with three couples in the Pro-Cathedral who were at different points in their journey of marriage. Affirming the fidelity of one couple who were celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary, Pope Francis observed that '*inevitable hurts and misunderstandings often arise from human frailty and thoughtlessness, as well as the scars left by life's losses and regrets*'.

We think especially of the latter as, for the fourth time this summer, families are left mourning the tragic loss of teenage children through a road accident. It is every parent's worst nightmare, and our hearts instinctively go out to the grieving families and friends of those who died. However, it is also in these heartbreaking situations, when people reach out in small but meaningful acts of thoughtfulness, solidarity and compassion, that community becomes real and Christ's gospel of love is proclaimed.

In response to the question of a newly married couple about sharing their faith with any children they might have, Pope Francis stressed the '*irreplaceable role of parents and the home in the shaping of values and in handing on the faith*', and he added: '*the bedrock of all is the relationship between the parents themselves, their tenderness, affection, and generosity*'.

When I asked a couple recently why they wished to celebrate their marriage in a church setting, they were very clear that they wished to create space for a third transforming presence in their relationship. They were humble enough to acknowledge that they couldn't hope to rely on their own goodness or good will to sustain a faithful and mutually life-giving relationship but needed also the grace and presence of God.

The grace that Teams of Our Lady offers is to encourage couples to explore and deepen their relationship with God in Christ through the practice of the endeavours and the monthly meeting with the Team, so that it can transform their relationship as a couple and their life as a family. Thinking of the upcoming information Zoom meetings on both Teams (for married couples) on Sunday 24th and Tandem (for engaged couples) on Saturday 16th September, as well as the annual picnic in Malahide castle on Sunday 17th September, we pray that other couples may discover the grace of Teams.



Tribute: Fr. Gerry Cassidy CSsR

Gerry Cassidy was a priest of the Redemptorist Order and a Team, Sector and Regional Chaplain on a number of occasions. In the North he was particularly known for his quiet work in the area of ecumenism. What follows are some reflections on a life well lived.

Margaret Lambe

It must be about forty-three years ago that Fr Gerry first came into our life. It was at an Information Night for Teams and we went on to form Belfast 1. We were eleven people. Then, just over twenty-five years ago, Fr Gerry also became our parish priest in St. Gerard's Parish, Antrim Road. He was now literally on our doorstep and throughout the following years, always on the edge of our family life. It is in this capacity I want to remember him.

He baptised three of our five children, was celebrant at our four family weddings, my mother-in-law's funeral and John's funeral. He is in our First Communion and Confirmation photographs. He was with us when John died. Boxing Day evenings always included a visit from Fr Gerry.

With gentle encouragement from him, our children, at various times, became involved with helping at the parish youth club, altar serving, reading at Mass and the church choir. He was a firm believer in 'planting the seeds of faith' in young people and trusted implicitly that, in God's good time, these seeds would grow and bear fruit.

He was an excellent listener, thoughtful and sensitive and somehow intuitively attuned to what family members needed. After John died, he made a point several times of taking our fourteen year old and her friend, Johnny, for a strenuous clamber to the top of the Cavehill. When another daughter was working in London and he happened to be visiting there - he contacted her and took her out for 'a proper meal'. He allowed our adored cat to nestle on his lap - despite the fur left clinging to his clerical trousers! He would frequently pop in of an evening, usually on his way back to the parish house. His favourite late supper snack with us was oatmeal biscuits with pesto or hummus, olives and ideally a peach or plum. He liked good food and had some little idiosyncrasies - bread had to be white, coffee was black with sugar, he would never eat anything that was red in colour, ice cream made his skin itchy (but he didn't always resist it). He loved apple tart, poached plums, fish and a glass of red wine.

He always had a jigsaw on the go and a book, and was a committed walker which would culminate in a Camino trek every summer. On his return, he would regale us with stories of all the hilarious things that had gone wrong - the soles coming off his shoes, running out of change in a Paris train station and having to beg for what he needed, the night he couldn't find his accommodation, surveying the distance between the sacristy and the altar in his own church the day after he got home and wondering if his legs could manage it - fatigue and post-Camino stiffness were now taking their toll. He had a good singing voice and enjoyed the music-making in our house. He was practical and handy and had his head under our car bonnet on more than one occasion.

I could go on I'm also aware that Fr Gerry would have had similarly close relationships with many, many families in our parish, in Belfast and beyond. He always had an invite somewhere for Christmas Dinner or for a birthday a family celebration or just an evening in or out. He was a people person and people loved him.

We are blessed to have had him in our lives.

Deirdre Kennedy

Fr Gerry Cassidy was a very special family friend and confidante to our children. He responded quickly and with great presence to every request for support. We celebrated special occasions with what the children called a 'Mass Party'.

Gerry would say Mass and we would all eat together afterwards. He was completely at ease in the family setting even once saying Mass with a toddler on his knee! I really appreciated Gerry's spirituality and believe that at its depth was the fact that he knew in a heartfelt manner that God Loved Him. His spirituality was real concrete love of humanity.

Comment

Over the years Gerry accompanied the members of his Team: John Lambe (RIP), Declan Kennedy (RIP), Tommy and Jean Brady (RIP), Jimmy and Patsy Muldoon (RIP), Tony McGahan (RIP), and the surviving members: Margaret Lambe, Deirdre Kennedy, Christiane Dopwell (née McGahan) and Brendan and Moyra Bunting. We were also graced by the presence of Fr Bob McGoran CSsR (RIP) and Fr Seamus Enright CSsR who stood in for Gerry during periods when he was away from Belfast.

Thanks to those who journeyed with us.

Brendan and Moyra Bunting

Tribute: Liam O'Connell



Liam and I met at Belvedere Rugby Club dance, held every Sunday night, in 1971. He asked me to marry him on December 8th of that year. We decided not to tell anyone until 1st January 1972 as it was my birthday.

We married on 30th March 1973.

Liam was very kind and loved all his family. He was a great reader. He was quiet but his presence was always felt.

After leaving the Irish Independent he worked as a taxi man which he thoroughly enjoyed. In the latter years his health disimproved and the Parkinson's really frustrated him. Unfortunately, he fell in our kitchen, would you believe, on 8th December, a few hours before he spoke about asking me to marry him on 8th December, 1971.

A few years ago, he insisted on giving me a kiss every morning and every night, which is a lovely memory to hold. He is sadly missed by all.

Liam enjoyed the Teams, its meetings and retreats.

Patricia O'Connell

Team 25.

Liam and Patricia joined Team 25, over 20 years ago when we had ten years or more on the Team 25 clock. They settled in our Team fully reflecting the charism of 'acceptance'. Liam was quiet at the meeting but when he spoke the truth in his words, we listened attentively. He was inspirational to us all in the way he lived his life. His prayer life, personal and conjugal, shone through. He will be greatly missed by his Team 25. We are consoled that Patricia will continue with us on the Journey.

Barbara and Cormac McHenry, Paddy and Jacinta Quigley, Fr Gerard Young, Pat and Carmel Cunneen (Team 25)



Tribute: Paddy Donaghy

From Bernadette Blayney.

Ce n'est qu'un "Au Revoir"

Dear Paddy, we truly believe we will meet again, not fishing, or playing bridge or barbecuing (you with apron and fork) but in total happiness as your faith tells us.

Thank you Paddy and Martine for your friendship, your faithfulness to the Teams, our last meeting 20th May with all seven of us in St. John's. You win "the prize". Continue to guide for courage, patience and good humour until we meet again in the glory of God.

You are in our hearts and souls with your smile.

Fondly, Bernadette.

It was with a deep sense of sadness and loss that our team (24) learned of the death of Paddy.

Paddy and Martine had joined the Teams Movement (team 4) in the early 1970s and were active in Piloting and encouraging new teams. About 1986 the then depleted Team 4 (Donaghys and Clintons with their Chaplain Fr. Hubert Delaney (decd)) joined the depleted Team 2 (Blayneys, Longs and Orrs) to become Team 24.

Paddy came to the Teams with a sense of purpose, an enquiring mind and many thought-provoking questions.

Seventeen years ago Paddy was diagnosed with Parkinson's Disease. He faced it head-on and pressed on with living his life to the full – he had always been an active participant in various sports.. As the years passed and life physically became more difficult for him with periodic and prolonged treatments in hospital he demonstrated an enormous degree of fortitude. He never complained. In his latter years he still maintained an interest in so many things. He got great enjoyment from family occasions, fishing expeditions in the west of Ireland and his garden – to mention but a few. Throughout his illness he was supported by Martine with absolute unstinting dedication and loving care and to whom we offer our deepest Sympathy.

David and Mary Orr, Frank and Patti Clinton



The Tandem Teams

Living a joyful life as a couple



Are you a young couple wishing to reflect on the different aspects of your life together?

Do you have different ways of enjoying your free time, your interests, your friends?

What are your views on career, personal life, faith?

What are your priorities?

Let's talk about these and many other aspects of couple life during our journey in Tandem!

Teams of Our Lady Ireland

Invites you to **join an information night** about **TANDEM**, a journey of 14 meetings for and with young couples who want to enrich their relationship and grow together

September 16th 2023 at 8:30 pm on ZOOM

Zoom Meeting ID: 824 5542 0054

Passcode: tandem

Website: tandemteams.ie

For more info, please contact Ilaria at 089 2431725 or write to tandemireland@gmail.com



Equipes Notre - Dame

Teams of Our Lady



WALKING IN FAITH AS A COUPLE

A CHRISTIAN MOVEMENT FOR MARRIED COUPLES

Committed to strengthening their relationship with each other and with God

Teams of Our Lady Ireland

Invites you to **join an information night** to discuss an opportunity to strengthen:

Your marriage

Your couple relationship

Your relationship with God

September 24th 2023 at 8:30 pm on ZOOM

Zoom Meeting ID: 885 7137 4468

Passcode: 240923

For more info, please contact Paola at batori@btinternet.com



During the summer, Brendan and Rosemarie hosted a gathering at their home, of members of the Regional Team, the Communications Team, the Registration Couple and the Intercessors Couple.

Picture shows Brendan, Rosemarie, Fr. Richard Sheehy, Pauline and Richard Sheridan, Anne and Mark O'Leary, Laura and Leon Keuck (Communications), Anne Dooley (Intercessors), Marie and PJ Finn (Registration couple) , Sean Dooley (Intercessors), Paddy Quigley.

Prayer Intentions

For those who have died:

Jack Sheehy, brother of Anne O'Leary, Team 37

Elizabeth McCarthy, sister of Andy Donohue, Mullingar

Phil Gartland, sister of Betty McGovern, Mullingar

Germaine Clayton, niece of Joe and Áine Clayton, Team 32

Joan Green, mother of Deirdre Duff, Team 19

Jerry Clifford, husband of Maeve, Mullingar

Yvonne Little, wife of Leonard, Team 21

Eileen Boland, widow of Jim, Mullingar

For the living, for whom prayers were requested:

Eddie Lloyd, Galway

Around the Region

Dublin

The next event organised by the Dublin Sector Team is the 2023 Annual Outing. This will be held, like last year, in the grounds of Malahide Castle in north County Dublin, on Sunday, September 17th, from 2pm – meeting on the green in front of the castle. We are looking forward to seeing you there. As before, all are welcome to attend, including non-Teams couples!

Annual Sector Outing

Annual Sector Outing: Sunday, 17th September 2023, from 2pm, in the grounds of Malahide Castle, Co Dublin.

(Don't forget your sunglasses, sun lotion and a picnic lunch!)

“Geppetto” course – John Paul II Institute

The final sessions of the “Geppetto” course took place from Friday, 30th June to Monday, 3rd July 2023. Meeting in Rome (outside the Institute and beside the Lateran Basilica) on Thursday 29th, a coach had been arranged to bring everyone on the four-hour journey across Italy. The venue was the Sanctuary of Loreto, which is located on the opposite side of Italy to Rome, close to the Adriatic Sea. It was a wonderful place to visit – being the location of the Holy House of Mary.

The weekend was well structured with each day beginning with morning prayer, Mass at mid-day, a number of sessions during the day, free time and lovely food!

Morning prayer was prepared by one of the three Movements each day. On Day 1, *Teams of Our Lady* led the prayer. Sadly, we were not present for most of the first day, arriving in the evening having made our own way across Italy by train – owing to the illness and death of Anne's brother. So, we missed the Teams prayer – but had contributed to the planning of it beforehand! Prayer on Day 2 was wonderfully and joyfully led by *Amour et Verite* – with the focus being on praising God. On Day 3, prayer was led by *Worldwide Marriage Encounter* – a meditative and reflective period of prayer, with the focus being very much on the couple.

There were three sessions on Day 1 – all of which we missed! The first session presented the mystery of Loreto, including the two different possible explanations for the presence of Our Lady's House in Loreto, a long way from where it was located when she lived in it! One explanation is that the house was transferred in its entirety by the angels; the second that it was transferred, stone by stone, from the Middle East. There is no dogma around this – you are free to believe whichever appeals most to you! Either way, it was soon housed within a separate stone structure. Years later, it was incorporated as the centrepiece of a large and impressive basilica.

The second session focused on key points of learning (from the whole course) for the couples' commitment in their Movements and the importance of witnessing, for the renewal of mission. The third session focused on accompanying others in their fragility (drawing from Chapter 8 of *Amoris Laetitia*). While not present for these sessions, one interesting point made was that just as the red sanctuary lamp in every Catholic church is a sign that the Lord is really present in that place, we are all called to be like a sanctuary lamp in the world.

The sessions on Day 2 looked at concrete missionary initiatives in our own Movement (first session) and between our Movements (second session). Some points which came from these sessions included, from a Teams' perspective:

- the importance of discipleship within the team, but being missionary outside;
- the charism of Teams is not ours – it's a gift to be shared;
- Teams is a great place for support and growth, but a link with others is often missing;
- the need to recognise that we belong first to the Church and only after that to our Movement;
- being in the Movement is only a start – it's not the end;
- listening to other Movements can help strengthen the individual Movements;
- suggestion that parishes would connect / work with the Movements.

Each of these sessions started with a short input from one of the two course tutors, followed by mixed-movement breakout groups.

The methodology followed in the breakout groups consisted firstly of listening to each other, then echoing the most impactful points of what we had each heard, and finally an exercise in discernment – collecting the key points of what had emerged for presentation to the larger group.

Saturday ended with a torchlight procession in the evening, starting in the basilica and then moving to the square outside.

The breakout groups for the session on Sunday morning were Movement-based with all the couples from each Movement being in a single group. So, the seven Teams couples met as one group. As a group, we were asked to write a short summary statement of what we thought was the challenge facing our Movement (Teams) and this summary was to be passed on the ERI. The statement read as follows:

Our Movement has a specific charism – conjugal spirituality. Based on this, Teams of Our Lady has the challenge to wake couples up to feel the need for formation and deepening their knowledge of the teachings of the Church.

Formed and motivated couples, members of Teams, will be encouraged to go outside and work in their local churches in conjunction with other family movements.

Finally, we (the seven Teams couples) agreed to meet online every few months for a catch-up and a mixed-Teams meeting!

The closing Mass of the course ended with the local bishop offering each couple a blessing and then presenting both spouses with certificates of completion!

The final session after Sunday lunch was devoted to providing feedback and an evaluation of the course.

A trip to the beach followed the evaluation session – with a swim in the Adriatic! This ensured that we had worked up an appetite for a meal in a local fish restaurant, which was also attended by the bishop. The return bus trip to Rome took place the following morning – departing at 9am, with most of the “good-byes” happening four hours later!

Visit of Teams Couple from Poland

We were delighted to welcome Kuba and Gosia Glombiowski (Teams of Our Lady – Gdansk), and their daughter and youngest child, 12-year old Ania, to our home for the evening on Saturday, 15th July 2023. Gosia, a teacher, had been attending a summer course in Dublin for two weeks and Kuba and Ania came at the end of the course to join her for a short holiday. We met them again on Wednesday, 19th July, when we brought them to the airport for their flight home.

Anne and Mark O'Leary



Anne and Mark O’Leary receiving their certificates for the Gepetto Course.

Mullingar

As the new Teams year begins we would like to thank the outgoing responsible couples/person and welcome to those who have accepted the role for the coming year.

Please remember to invite couples to the Zoom Tandem/Information evenings taking place on the 16th & 24th September @ 8.30pm and also that the RC Day will be held at Avila, Morehampton Road, Dublin 4 on the 7th October 2023.

Thanks Rosemarie and Brendan for the wonderful welcome, lovely meal and the great company we enjoyed while visiting your home in July.

Bishop Paul Connell:

We congratulate Bishop Paul Connell (chaplain to Team 11) on his ordination as Bishop of Ardagh and Clonmacnois on Sunday June 18th, in St Mel’s Cathedral, Longford. We wish Bishop Paul every blessing in his new ministry.

Summer Outing:

Our summer outing took place on Saturday June 10th. Fore Benedictine Abbey, Castlepollard was our destination. The rain held off and we all enjoyed the walks and our picnic. It was really wonderful to have the company of small children and we thank Joe and Assumpta also Paul and Catie and their little ones who joined us on the day. Please God we can make this an annual event.

Fleadh Cheoil:

Mullingar was host again this year to the very successful Fleadh Cheoil.

Team 3:

Eileen Boland RIP

Team 3 are sad to announce Eileen Boland has died. Eileen was in her 97th year and died in the loving care of Fr Frank, Bro John and the amazing staff of St Camillus Nursing Centre Killucan which was her home for the past seven years.

Eileen and her late husband Jim joined our team in 1992 when they retired and decided to make their home in Mullingar having spent many years in Teams in England. They were a wonderful couple and an example to us all, inspirational in their love and care for each other. Eileen remained interested in Teams of our Lady enjoying the newsletter and continually prayed for us all in Team 3 and the wider movement. May Eileen's gentle soul rest in peace.

Our heartfelt Condolences to:

The Boland family on the death of Eileen.

Andy Donohoe on the death of his sister Elizabeth McCarthy.

Betty McGovern on the death of her sister Phil Gartland.

Anne O'Leary on the death of her brother John Sheehy.

Pauline and Richard Sheridan



Summer Outing to Fore Benedictine Abbey



Team 11 celebrating with Bishop Paul Connell following his installation as Bishop of Ardagh and Clonmacnoise.

Galway

With the summer months coming Team 2 (Galway) had its last meeting on 4th June. The months of June, July and August are different. Children are off school. Family life takes a different appearance with “Sports Days”, summer camps, holidays. It is also a fine time for grandparents to connect with grandchildren. However, a lot still happens in our lives during these summer months. We still must take care of our married relationships, our family life and extended family, neighbours, and friends.

Team 2 had an interesting discussion at our last Team meeting. This was based on the Irish Times Saturday reflection 20th May 2023 by Michael Commane. The subject was “The mystery we call God.” This subject tied in nicely with the Team’s current study topic, Joan Chittister’s book “In search of Belief.” The author talks about a transcendent God, a God out there and an imminent God, or a God among us. She states that before the Second Vatican Council (1962-1965) our emphasis was on a “God out there”. The Vatican Council places more emphasis on “a God in our midst.” Given that God is beyond our understanding, it seems that Teams are very much in the “God in our midst” emphasis. In our Team prayer to the Holy Spirit” we emphasise the sacrament of marriage. In our marriage it is not so much as the couple seeking God as is God connecting with us couples when we are open to listen to each other in our relationship.

As we settle into a new Team Year (from September 2023) we are facing the challenge of not having a Team chaplain in Galway. We appreciate that there is a real value in the interaction between priest (or religious) and the married couple. This interaction will now be missing. However, we will be optimistic.

Let us remember the words of Leonard Cohen:

“Forget the bells that cannot ring,
Forget the perfect offering
There is a crack in everything,
That is how the Light gets in”

Please remember in your prayers, Eddie Lloyd who is in a Nursing Home.

Anne and Jack Hutchinson



YOUTH 2000: Rosemarie, Brendan, Anne and Mark with 3 of Austin and Anna Mann's children, Adam, Stephen and Maria.
Brendan, Sr. Rosa CFR, Rosemarie, Tanya and Ilaria.



Team 42 Summer Outing: Sean and Grainne Misteil gave us a very warm welcome to their summer home near Blackwater, Co. Wexford. This photo was taken in the grounds of Castle Talbot nearby. All our team were present, namely the Wades, Crowleys, Flynns, Misteils, O'Keeffes and Fr. Frank. Donal was cameraman.

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We would like to receive contributions for the Winter Newsletter by Sunday, 3rd December.
