



Equipes Notre-Dame

## Newsletter Teams of Our Lady – Irish Region

# Thank You, John and Bernadette

Issue 98

Autumn 2014



A presentation was made to John and Bernadette Blayney, who were instrumental in introducing Teams to Ireland in 1964, by the Regional Couple, Tony and Breda Preston at the Transatlantic Super-Regional Gathering in Dublin to express the thanks of Teams members for their devotion to the movement over the last fifty years.

In a video presentation entitled “Caoga bliain ag Fás in Éirinn” (Fifty Years a-growing in Ireland), which traced the story of Teams in Ireland since 1964, they described how they came to hear about Teams and how the first team was started. They shared on their journey over the fifty years, what teams meant to them and how important Teams is in their lives today.

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## From the Regional Couple

From August 15<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> this year, the Ireland Region celebrated 50 years of Teams in Ireland and for the first time, hosted the Super-Regional Gathering of Equipes Notre-Dame (Teams of Our Lady). We welcomed visitors from across the entire Super-Region, which encompasses Ireland, Great Britain, Trinidad and Tobago, English-speaking South Africa, Malawi, Zambia and also from as far away as Canada and Australia. In particular, we were delighted to welcome the International Leading Couple Tó and Zé Moura Soares from Portugal and Rene and Vee Pols from Australia. This very important and successful ‘Gathering’ was hosted by Kings Hospital School (KH) in Palmerstown in Dublin. Our sincere thanks and appreciation to the KH staff for their help and advice during the preparations and in particular during the Gathering weekend. They were always at hand to assist in every way they could and this contributed in no small way to the events resounding success.

On behalf of the Irish Region, we extend a very special thanks to Pat and Carmel Cunneen for their exceptional management skills and untiring efforts in leading the Preparations. Our sincere thanks and appreciation to everyone involved for all their hard work and for giving so generously of their time in the preparations and management of the Gathering and the Celebration of 50 years of Teams in Ireland. A very special thanks also to Rosemary and Brendan Gavin and to all involved in organising and managing the children’s programme. It was a great success and we believe that having the children present at the Gathering will create a great foundation for Teams in the future.

These were two very special events in the life of the Teams of Our Lady. The International Leading Couple Tó and Zé Moura Soares from Portugal and the Super Regional Couple, Antony and Janet Denman from Great Britain together with sixteen priests, two Bishops, some 300 members attended over the three day event to hear the many speakers and to celebrate the Eucharist each day.

The highlight was a very special celebration for John and Bernadette Blayney who also celebrated their 50 years membership of Teams in Ireland. It was John and Bernadette who introduced Teams to Ireland fifty years ago and the Gathering offered a fitting opportunity to acknowledge their great legacy to Teams of Our Lady in Ireland.

The talks centred on the theme ‘*Heart Speaks to Heart*’ (the motto taken by Blessed John Henry Cardinal Newman) and on communication in marriage, witness of married couples and children in Teams, growing old, and articulating a vision for the future.

Saturday night offered an opportunity for everybody to relax. The Dublin Sector Couple, Joe and Áine Clayton had organised a bar and refreshments and Proinnsias Ó’hAilín took over as fear an tí. We had a great night of ceol agus craic but we didn’t have it all our own way. A troupe soon appeared on stage and we had an excellent exhibition of Morris Dancing and an hilarious comedy presentation as Gaeilge from

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GB. This was followed with performances by Trinidad and Tobago and the Malawian group. The Gathering and Celebrations concluded on Sunday with the Eucharist concelebrated by Bishop Smith from Mullingar and our Teams Chaplains. We had a Super-Regional meeting on Monday and the weekend finally concluded on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> with a wonderful trip to Glendalough.

In the present climate of disharmony, persecution and horrific acts of violence in the world, we have included the Prayer below written by Therese Vanier, which we think is appropriate and ask the Lord to bring peace to our troubled world.

**Prayer by Therese Vanier**

May oppressed people and those who oppress them, free each other;  
May those who are handicapped and those who think they are not, help each other;  
May those who need someone to listen touch the hearts of those who are too busy;  
May the homeless bring joy to those who open their doors reluctantly;  
May the lonely heal those who think they are self-sufficient;  
May the poor melt the hearts of the rich;  
May seekers for truth give life to those who are satisfied that they have found it;  
May the dying who do not wish to die be comforted by those who find it hard to live;  
May the unloved be allowed to unlock the hearts of those who cannot love;  
May the prisoners find true freedom and liberate others from fear;  
May those who sleep on the streets share their gentleness with those who cannot understand them;  
May the hungry tear the veil from the eyes of those who do not hunger after justice;  
May those who live without hope, cleanse the hearts of their brothers and sisters who are afraid to live;  
May the weak confound the strong and save them;  
May violence be overcome by compassion;  
May violence be absorbed by men and women of peace;  
May violence succumb to those who are totally vulnerable that we may be healed;  
Amen.



John and Bernadette with their daughters Anne and Martine

## Reflection on the Gathering

## Pat and Carmel Cunneen

We are left with the abiding memory of a Gathering full of community and inclusiveness. This was a Transatlantic Gathering so including all sectors from Ireland and some non-Irish inputs resulted in a wide range of volunteers and conference participants. The liturgy was delegated to each of the sectors, Belfast, Galway and Mullingar, to share over Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Each sector reflected fully their gifts, in prayers, readings, ministries, and music. The choir led by Jacinta Quigley mustered wide support from home and abroad.

In the preparation over the period August 2012 to August 2014 we witnessed the evolution of a wide number of Teams Couples who engaged with the project generously. Dublin couples, of necessity, provided the bulk of the volunteers. The selection of theme, location, pricing components were early tasks. As there was a 50 Year celebration of Teams in Ireland there was a need to reflect that historical event... Selected in this context were the Blayneys, first 'disciples' of Teams in Ireland in 1964. They well honoured on tape and in their presence at the Gathering. The memorial book seemed to have an excellent starting point in the Gathering and over 70 names found their way into a beautifully bound record, from the work of Liam and Carmel Clare. Those deceased members were remembered in a beautiful candle ceremony in the Sunday Liturgy, in a fitting response from the community of Teams.

At an early stage we had to address the issue of a children's programme. We all believe we were encouraged by the Holy Spirit to step out in faith and 'go for it'. The decision to let children 'go free' had an inevitable cost. But how many children would attend? Dublin Sector, led by Joe and Áine raised enough money in two events to fund fully the 38 children who booked. This will, we all hope, yield fruits in the context of an ageing team's population. Witness is an important charism in Teams. There was the 'walk in faith' sharing from Charlie and Maureen McMullan to open the conference. Searching the faith of the next generation led to a request for witness from the children of Teams Couples. We had powerful 'in person', and video witness from Great Britain, Trinidad and Tobago and Ireland children to reflect on, knowing also that many other children were asked as part of the inevitable communication between parents and children.

The facilities were extensive and appropriate meeting our needs before and after the Gathering. We were graced by the presence of our leading Couple, To and Zé Moura Soares. Seven countries were represented in the 300 bookings for the Gathering, including the children.

It is also right to refer to Teams having fun. Saturday evening 'Céili' excelled in content, inclusive of performances from home and overseas. Home accommodation offered built some great friendships in the true spirit of Teams. So many contributed to the Gathering in ministries spanning transport, accommodation, bookings, programme, ushering, logistics, compering. Our prayers and thanks go to all including our regional Couple, Tony and Breda for hosting the Gathering. A post Gathering trip on Tuesday to Glendalough was a memorable event. Fifty overseas (Gathering) attendees were led by Fr Michael Rodgers on a Celtic Spirituality journey around the lakes and monastic site, finishing with the Eucharist.

2014 Gathering was memorable in so many ways. We were led and blessed by the Holy Spirit .

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## Glendalough Post-Gathering visit August 2014

Fr Michael drew us into a quiet corner of Glendalough. Words, wisdom and verse flowed easily. Fr Michael introduced Glendalough as a sacred place, and noted the arrival of Christianity and St. Kevin in the sixth century. He reminded us of the sacredness of space; ‘the sacred ground of my life is who I am and where I am’. He drew our attention to the beauty of nature around us, God’s wonderful creation. We moved towards the labyrinth, a bed of small stones. He reminded us the ground we traverse is holy, inviting us to take off our shoes

My bare feet walk the earth reverently

For everything keeps crying

Take off your shoes

The ground you stand on is holy

The ground of your being is holy

(Child of Wonder)

Michael urged us to walk in the labyrinth in silence. He asked us to reflect on our own unique story, our joys and sorrows, the people we met on the journey of life, the passages of growth; the unexpected twists and turns. There were over 50 of us in the labyrinth together. It did not matter who was first or last, we all, following one another’s footsteps reached the centre,

We quietly moved on in reflective mood. Michael reminded us of the importance of the Anam Cara (soul friend) in Celtic Spirituality. We too echo that in our charism in Teams; our spouse, our team, our wider community are ‘soul friends’ to listen to our heartbeat.

We stopped under a large beech tree. We were invited to somehow embrace the majesty of the tree, its shelter from sun and rain, its part in animal kingdom, its living and dying. The Angelus beckoned and we all joined in as Michael reminded us of the beauty of the Incarnation story and the significance of Mary’s ‘Yes’

Echoes of monks chanting matins

In the early morning birdsong      Noonday prayer

In the waters tumbling down the mountainside

And the gentle whisper of the dying breeze

For vespers

(Pauline Corcoran)

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We then traversed towards the Upper Lake. Michael told the story of Kevin meeting a monster and making friends with it. Michael linked this to how important it is for us to deal with negative feelings within ourselves. They are little monsters consuming our good energy. If we can admit to those negative feelings and tendencies and talk to someone else about them, we take control of them and, in that we gain/regain our freedom (We can be reminded of Cassian, an early Father of the Church who espoused the same thought but more direct in stating that the ‘devil has to run away’ when faced with such opposition). Fr Michael reminded us that The Redeeming Christ can lead us through the dark shadows of our life if we have faith in His saving grace.

After a picnic lunch by the lake we made our way to the monastic settlement, where hundreds lived from the seventh century up to the Reformation time. We paused in the shadow of the Round Tower now standing for over one thousand years. The tower evokes many symbols: safety, strength, treasure to guard, link between earth and heaven. What values link us with that Christian past? What ‘faith’ are we prepared to ‘treasure’. Michael asked what relevance that early Christian model of Church can teach us today

We moved through the settlement reflecting on the seven churches, each serving a need in its time. We arrived at St. Kevin’s cross. Fr Michael reminded us of the significance of the Cross, the Redemption journey. Sometimes the cross in our lives is heavy and we need prayers (of our fellow team members). We, in turn, embraced the cross of St. Kevin, in the tradition of Glendalough, witnessing our need for Christ the Redeemer.

We turned to a small village chapel where Fr Michael and Fr John Udris concelebrated the Mass.

Fr Michael summarised our day: the beauty of creation, the sacred ground, our sacredness, our ‘shadows’, the Redeeming Christ, and the search for the ‘deeper ground’ where we will find Christ

‘No need to ask where other roads might have led

Since they led elsewhere

For nowhere but this here and now

Is my true destination

The river is gentle in the soft evening and

All the steps of my life have brought me home’ (Ruth Bidgood)

Pat Cunneen



Fr. Michael Rodgers leads group



Fr. John Udris with Trinidad and Tobago couples

## Youth Programme at the Teams Gathering, August 2014

“Let the little children come to me and do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of heaven belongs” Mt 19: 13-15.

The Youth Programme accompanied the adult programme on Saturday and Sunday. We welcomed 30 boys and girls from 4 yrs to 22 yrs, from across the country and across the world! Together we enjoyed each other's company with indoor games, T-shirt design, singing, ball games and a movie. Billy and Anne Hyland provided coaching in the skills of hurling, to visitors and locals alike. This was a big hit, indeed the highlight of the weekend for some!

The theme of *Heart speaks to heart* came alive in another way on Saturday morning, as we welcomed Antoinette Moynihan and her youth team from “Children of the Eucharist”. They shared their personal experience of the blessings of Eucharistic Adoration. This witness prepared our group for our own period of adoration, which followed in the chapel. After their adoration, each young person made a private note of their own prayer to Jesus or His word to them. These notes were collected and placed in heart shaped baskets fashioned by the youth and were subsequently presented at the offertory of the mass on Sunday. This symbolised the conversation between the Heart of Jesus and the heart of each young person in that special moment of prayer. The young people proclaimed the Creed in song and actions, during the mass on Sunday and wore their personally designed t-shirts, many of which echoed the *Heart speaks to Heart* theme.

They left the weekend with their prayer note, paper heart, t-shirt and a medal gifted by Pat and Carmel. From the feedback we received, they also left with the joy of knowing they now have new friends across the country and indeed across the world. Hopefully many of them will continue to enjoy their own personal moments of Eucharistic adoration in their home parishes.

Our special appreciation goes to four of the youths, Hannah, Chloe, Rebecca and Ben who played a vital role over the weekend in leading the younger children for particular activities. Special thanks to Paula and Gregoire for their assistance before and during the programme. Generous help also came from Máire, Moyra and the two Brendans! We had a laugh! For their assistance throughout the planning process we appreciated the Gathering Planning Team, especially Pat, Carmel, Patti, Áine and Joe for their cool heads and practical assistance throughout.

As helpers, we were struck by how well the young people responded to the programme activities. Their enthusiasm and co-operation contributed hugely to its success. If we had a regret it was that the richness of the Youth contribution to the Conference was not, for the most part, shared by the Adult participants. Finding ways of welcoming the young (in terms of age) at particular Teams events may be a challenge for the future?

From our own point of view, it was great working together, we marvelled at each ones talents and generosity! We definitely experienced the multiplication of our meagre resources by the grace and goodness of our Father and most wonderfully, we were deeply moved and humbled to see the Saturday evening gospel reading of Mt 19:13-15 take flesh before our very eyes!

Pat and Maureen, Paul and Jennifer, Patrick and Thérèse, Rónan, Brendan and Rosemarie.

Teams D38 and D39. (Navan and Dunshaughlin, Co Meath.)

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## From the Spiritual Counsellor



My very dear Friends,

I greet you in the hope that my message finds you well, busy as you are with your various activities, in which you seek to accomplish God's will both as a couple and as a family. This way of looking at faith, which teaches us that the thinking and love of God precedes us, is truly comforting for us.

Today, it is very problematical to talk about *love*, a word that has been emptied of its original meaning. But we wish to have the boldness to continue to concentrate on this subject, notably within the context of your common spousal and conjugal nuptial vocation. Benedict XVI reminded us that we are redeemed, not by science, but by love (*Spe Salvi*, 26). Love that precedes us and finds its most sublime expression in the Heart of Jesus (*Spe Salvi*, 27).

Poetic literature and the mystic tradition speak of the wound of love, meaning that there is a profound and mysterious relationship between suffering and love. Indeed, suffering without love leads to frustration and despair, but love without suffering is merely the exploitation of the other person by reducing them to an object of pleasure. The love that redeems us, and that we learn at the school of the wounded love of the Sacred Heart, is an oblation love, which is apparent in the fidelity and availability to give oneself to the other person to the point of being able to give one's life for them.

We ought to ask ourselves what pushes us to love or to want somebody else's good: are we good or are we attracted by the goodness that emanates from others?

Love implies a leaning towards the other person, who attracts us by their goodness. Therefore, we ought to be attentive to recognising the goodness in the other and in trying to respect it. It is in this respect that love becomes apparent, and through which we desire the other person's good because of the good that they have in and of themselves.

Pope Francis dedicated two sections of *Lumen fidei* to couples and the family. He explained that the conjugal relationship was very similar to the dynamic of faith. "...a man and a woman can promise each other mutual love in a gesture which engages their entire lives and mirrors many features of faith. Promising love for ever is possible when we perceive a plan bigger than our own ideas and undertakings, a plan which sustains us and enables us to surrender our future entirely to the one we love." (*Lumen fidei*, 52)

We live in an era when it seems that these words make little sense because today it is difficult to become involved in and commit to a relationship *for our whole life*, until death. Today, we are afraid or we feel incapable of 'giving our whole future to the loved one.' But Jesus tells us that what is impossible for man is possible for God and it is this *divine possibility*, which is the grace of the sacrament of marriage, that Christian couples are asked to bear witness to (cf. Mt 19, 26). Bear witness to the joy of giving our future to the loved one, a gift that truly redeems. Being a witness to this joy is the mission and charism of our Movement.

May the Lord give you his blessing and the abundance of his grace,

Father José Jacinto Ferreira de Farias, scj  
Spiritual Counsellor for the International Leading Team

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## From the International Leading Team

Dear Friends,

Our names are Françoise and Rémi Gausse and we are members of the International Leading Team, in charge of communication and liaising with young couples. We completed our previous mission as Responsible Couple of the Responsible Team for France-Luxembourg-Switzerland in August 2013. We have been married for the past forty-six years and have two children and seven grandchildren.

The international nature of our movement is a source of great richness, as the last gathering in Brasilia demonstrated once again. It is therefore important that team members throughout the world can be in communion. In order for that to happen, we need to know more about the everyday realities of our lives, our cultures and our ways of being members of the Teams. Communication plays a very important role here. As Pope Francis said, *“Good communication helps us grow closer, to know one another better...”* Our access to modern media makes this easy. The Movement’s Internet site is, in this respect, a useful tool that must be constantly improved, updated and made more attractive. An editorial committee will be put in place to oversee its renovation and a watchdog will also be organized so that the different sections are regularly brought up to date and enriched. Correspondents in different zones will be asked to keep us informed of events that ought to be brought to the attention of all. The part dedicated to Father Caffarel and his work will be reviewed, extended and illustrated. Furthermore, in an effort to evangelise and remain faithful to the founding charism of the Movement, meditative and reflective texts on marriage and couples will be posted. Gradually, the international site will become a site of reference.

Since Christian marriage and the family, society’s basic cell, are currently going through a serious crisis throughout the world, it is very important that Teams of Our Lady think seriously about how to make itself better known. The founding charism and precepts of our Movement can be a source of help to a great number of young couples who are worried about such an evolution and who wish to make their union last and be entrenched in Faith. Indeed Pope Francis, in his last apostolic exhortation, invited us *“to go forth from our own comfort zone in order to reach all the “peripheries” in need of the light of the Gospel.”*

Moreover, the mission of our Movement, which is based on spiritual conjugality and the sacrament of marriage, is to evangelise intensely those young couples, who are already team members. We must therefore bear witness to marriage, look with faith on this noble institution and demonstrate that to last is not utopic, but that with the help of the Lord and a firm will, it is not only possible, but also thrilling! More than ever, helping couples experience strong conjugal spirituality in order to discern is essential, especially when they are faced with a society that disseminates a certain number of counter-truths and advocates superficiality. It is important to reconcile introductory and in-depth knowledge, a gradual and a demanding approach, all of which requires a certain amount of imagination and creativity. Since the daily realities are not the same in each country of the world, it is important to think about the evolution of the Movement and how it adapts according to place and circumstance. It is the International Leading Team’s responsibility to outline a united approach and to open up new ways to allow couples’ unions to be lasting. The first act of fraternal love is to facilitate these young people’s encounter with the Love of God by bearing witness to the Good News that Jesus came to tell us. *“The Gospel,”* said Pope Francis at the World Youth Day 2013 in Rio, *“is for everyone... it is not only for those who seem to be closest, most receptive, most welcoming of it, it is for everyone.”* The Teams of Our Lady, with the help of the Spirit, must assume this wonderful challenge.

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**From the Regional Chaplain**

**Fr. Gerry Cassidy**



October

John 2:1-12

What does Mary's role in the life of Jesus teach me about compassion?

When do I pray to Mary? What is significant for me about approaching the Mother of Jesus?

November

Romans 8:31-39

What helps me to be open to the mystery of suffering worldwide without succumbing to despair or inertia?

How do I give expression to my compassion for the suffering people of the world.?

December

Matthew 25: 37-45. Matthew 5:1-12

Have I acted on my beliefs? How can I be an agent for change?

How can I use various forms of communication and technology to voice my support for opposition to important issues of justice and human rights?

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**Prayer Intentions**

For the deceased:

Maureen Mulvenna, Belfast, wife of Owen.

For those who are ill:

Paddy and Anne Scott's grand-daughter, Caoimhe, who has leukaemia. The family are hoping for a suitable donor, so that she can receive a bone marrow transplant. Fr. John Humphries, chaplain Team 3, Galway.

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## News from around the Region

### Dublin

**50<sup>th</sup> Celebrations** : As we reflect on the ‘Big Event’ of the year, it is difficult to put into words what this weekend has meant for the Dublin Sector. In 1964, John & Bernadette Blayney and their first team planted the seeds of our Teams Movement in Ireland. What a joy to be there as Regional Couple Tony and Breda Preston made a presentation to them amid the applause, warmth and happy atmosphere of the assembled gathering. We owe a huge debt of gratitude to them and the first team for their great generosity over the decades. The celebration of the Eucharist on three occasions, beginning on the Friday evening set the scene for the entire weekend. Beautiful liturgies and music were prepared by the Belfast, Galway and Mullingar Sectors. We were indeed uplifted.

Geographically speaking, Dublin members were in the thick of things, and in very practical ways, many were involved in preparing for the weekend. All members of Team 32 in Navan embraced the Children’s programme, giving of their talents in planning and preparing 2 days of activities - what commitment! Members of other sectors rallied round too - ever willing to help in taking on responsibilities in King’s Hospital.

God’s many gifts to all were abundant over the last two years: from the vision, leadership and energy of Pat and Carmel Cunneen, to the countless unseen efforts and acts of kindness by so many. We thank God for the streams and rivers of generosity poured out in the preparations, the weekend and beyond.

**Liaison:** The Sector Team are very happy that Liaison is part of our responsibilities. As one of our couples has said: ‘*Liaison is the cherry on the cake.*’ In supporting the teams in our care, Liaison brings a richness and a depth to us as we respond to invitations to attend team meetings in the Sector. We are privileged to be part of the intimate setting of their team life, as we pray and eat and share with them. In the third year of this term of office, each couple has visited our 3 or 4 Liaison teams on two occasions, and look forward very much to another visit in the next months.

### Other Events:

Please mark the following dates for your Diary:

**Fr. Caffarel’s Mass:** We celebrate this wonderful occasion with a **Mass on 18<sup>th</sup> October.**

**Feast of the Immaculate Conception:** The Mass being held on Saturday last year was a great success, so this year **Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> December** will be our Mass of celebration.

**Annual Retreat:** Avila Retreat Centre has already been booked for **Sat & Sun 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> March.**

**See notices elsewhere in the Newsletter.**

Joe & Áine Clayton

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## **Belfast**

The Transatlantic Super-Regional Gathering and 50th Anniversary of Teams in Ireland was a great success and enjoyed, we are sure, by all who attended. The number of attendees (over 300) exceeded all expectations. It was wonderful to meet old friends in Teams and to make new friends, some even from as far away as Australia. We would like to thank everyone who worked hard to organise the event over the past two years, especially Carmel and Pat Cunneen.

All the talks were excellent, but we were particularly proud of our own Charlie and Maureen McMullan giving their talk on "Our Faith Journey" after a year in which Maureen's health has not been good. We also want to thank Aoibheann Lamb ( daughter of Margaret and the late John Lamb) for her beautiful singing and playing of the cello at the opening Mass, which was led by Belfast Sector with Fr Gerry Cassidy CSsR as the main celebrant. Many thanks also to our organist, Jacinta Quigley, and the choir.

A wonderful job was done on "The story of Teams in Ireland" by Paddy Quigley and Tom and Maureen Hoban; and it was great to be at the presentation to John and Bernadette Blayney, and to have the chance to show our appreciation for the gift they have given us all in Teams. One can never forget those who have journeyed with us and are now in a better place, so the candle ceremony for deceased members was very meaningful at Saturday night's Mass. And later, in the evening, the entertainment was first class.

We would like to ask all members to pray for Caoimhe Wills, a granddaughter of Paddy and Anne Scott (Belfast 2), who is very ill at the moment.

It is with sadness we pass on the news that Maureen Mulvenna (wife of Owen) died on Thursday 25th September. Maureen and Owen belonged to the former Greenisland team. Fr Gerry Cassidy concelebrated Maureen's funeral Mass with Fr Samuel Kerr. Maureen's husband Owen spoke at the Mass, and thanked God for the gift of 55 years with Maureen.

May she rest in peace.

Moyra and Brendan Bunting

## **Galway**

Galway enjoyed the best weather ever this summer and summer has extended to even now, into October. We have enjoyed endless warm days, with blue skies and the sun shining down its blessings on us. The sea was calm, people made the most of it and it was a joy to see everyone so happy.

Our annual outing to Coole Park was most enjoyable. Coole Park is a lovely venue. We had blue skies and the sun shone and we were especially happy that Emmie was with us and of course Eddie had us all singing during the Mass which was celebrated by Fr. Michael Screen M.S.C. . We spent the afternoon chatting in the lovely walled garden enjoying our picnic and sharing scrumptious treats. We then adjourned to the restaurant for more tea and more chat. It was one of those idyllic days.

The Galway contingent enjoyed The Gathering very much and were truly appreciative of the hard work put in by the Dublin Teams. We felt that the organisation was superb and the atmosphere was warm and welcoming. There was a very positive response from all the Galway Team members. The Programme for the young people was brilliant. Well done to those responsible. It was a real opportunity to get a better view of the wider movement and to realise that we are all having similar experiences in our life journey. The Gathering encouraged us to make a greater effort with our Teams this year. Larry and Mary Hynes met up with their 'pen pals' from Malawi, a Team Couple they had contacted, together with their chaplain and another couple. They had time to sit and talk with them - this would not have been

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possible but for the Gathering.

Stephen, son of Peter and Anne Costello, Team 2 Galway, married Catherine White on the 23rd August 2014. The marriage was in St. Theresa's Church Mount Merrion, Dublin, where Peter and Anne were married 38 years previously. This is the second family wedding for Peter and Anne this year.

Please keep Fr. John Humphries, S.J., Chaplain to Team 3 in Galway in your prayers. He is very much missed by Teams in Galway. Also, please keep Emmie Lloyd in your prayer.

And again, míle buíochas from all in Galway for The Gathering.

Brendan and Máire Kelly

### **Mullingar**

The Gathering celebrating fifty years of Teams of Our Lady in our little country, went extremely well according to well planned arrangements put together by efficient, dedicated and hard-working Team members. From our arrival at King's Hospital, warmly welcomed by Dublin members, until our fond farewells to our new-found friends in Teams of Our Lady, our visit was nothing less than memorable for many reasons. It is difficult to put into words the many experiences we so greatly treasured but this is a summary.

The warmth of welcomes and care generously given to all members was outstanding. Memories of family experiences in Teams were generously shared by members from different countries. Second generation memories given by Kevin and Martha Wade's daughter were particularly important, making it clear to all that parents in Teams really make a great contribution to their family members. I hope her presentation is published. The candle ceremony, remembering deceased members was very prayerful, gentle and moving.

Our own Mullingar sector Stephen Cummins gave a splendid presentation, sharing with us that lack of communication is the greatest difficulty which exists in modern marriages, despite the fact that communication has never been so readily available through modern technology. His good-humoured talk was warmly received and merited special applause.

Valerie Moore, Assumpta O'Meara and Mary Cahill put together a prayer session based on the prayer of St. Francis of Assisi, dedicating it fondly to their recently deceased friend in Teams Florian Leavy.

The party time was thoroughly enjoyable with contributions made by groups from visiting Teams from U.K., Malawi, Trinidad and of course Ireland! Proinsias O hAilin assembled a superb mixture of performers ranging from local Riverdancers to traditional musicians. All were invited by him to learn to participate in "The Walls of Limerick" That was hugely enjoyed by all.

We attended the Sunday Mass concelebrated by Bishop Michael Smith and several chaplains from Teams of Our Lady. The choir was excellent, accompanied by the devoted Jacinta Quigley. Lastly but by no means least, the children's choir, led by Rosemarie Gavin, sang the Creed and other hymns, giving a beautiful refreshing finish to the day.

Each of the Teams in Mullingar Sector was represented at the Gathering including our new Team Eleven which means that an enriching appreciation of Teams of Our Lady should emerge. Congratulations and sincere thanks to all who played their parts in putting it all together "helping us to be more aware of God's presence in the everyday life of our homes and to reflect God's love in the witness we give to the world."

Frank and Margaret Fagan.

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## **Dublin Sector Notices – Dates for your Diary**

To mark the occasion of the Cause for the **Beatification of Father Caffarel**

The Dublin Sector will celebrate a special Mass

on **Saturday October 18<sup>th</sup>**

**Venue: Convent Chapel of the Disciples of The Divine Master**

White's Cross, Newtownpark Avenue, Blackrock, (just off the Stillorgan Road)

**Time: 4.30pm**

We hope the afternoon time will suit all, especially families.

*Refreshments afterwards.*

Let us celebrate with Teams throughout the world this wonderful event.

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## **Feast of the Immaculate Conception**

Mass will be held this year on

**Sat 6<sup>th</sup> December**

**Further details to be announced**

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## **ANNUAL RETREAT**

**Dates: Sat & Sun 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> March**

**Venue: Avila Retreat Centre, Donnybrook**

**Further details to be announced**

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## **“THE SPIRITUALITY OF MARRIED LIFE”**

John Cogavin’s book, which was launched during the Gathering, is available directly from John at the Gathering price of €12.

Reflecting on personal, Christian and married spirituality the book delves into the timeless question: What is Love?

John may be contacted at [cogavins@hotmail.com](mailto:cogavins@hotmail.com)

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## **CDs of Gathering Talks**

A set of 7 CDs of the Gathering Talks, which were memorable, is available from Eist Audio.

The cost is 30 Euro which includes delivery anywhere in Ireland.

Contact Paul Daly on 087 2789 390

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Galway Sector Summer outing to Coole Park



Áine Ni Dhubhghaill entertains on Saturday



Conga led by Trinidadians



Morris Dancers from Great Britain



Trying out Ceili Dancing.



Guest Irish Dancers



Sunday Morning



Fr. Lucius with couples from Malawi



Some of the youth choir at Sunday Mass



Mealttime



Remembering deceased members

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Please note: Deadline for submissions for Winter Newsletter is Sunday 23rd November

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