



Newsletter Teams of Our Lady – Irish Region



Members of the Regional Team with our new Super-Regional Couple, Piotr and Dzidzia Chodzko-Zajko at the Regional Team meeting, held on 29th May at the O'Connell Schools' Monastery, Dublin.

Issue 105

Summer 2016

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Responsible Couples' Weekend

This year the weekend is being hosted by Mullingar Sector and will take place on Saturday and Sunday, 1st and 2nd October, at Bloomfield House Hotel, Mullingar



From the Regional Couple

Dear friends in Teams,

We hope you are all well and looking forward to the summer and, please God, some good weather. The Feast of the Holy Trinity on May 22nd highlights the mystery of God that has fascinated man since the early ages. The doctrine of the Holy Trinity is a Christian endeavour to cast light on the mystery of God. Some people get a degree of encouragement from this rational image of God, while for others it only deepens the mystery.

We as Christians should always remember that we are not expected to understand God but to believe in Him and to live our lives according to His Will. The first step towards our faith is in being open to the mystery of the world around us and to the wonder of our own being. If you want God to know that you are hungry, know that another is hungry. If you hope for mercy show mercy. If you look for kindness, show kindness; if you want to receive, give. If you ask for yourself what you deny others, your asking is a mockery. Show mercy to others in the same way, with the same generosity, with the same promptness, as you would wish others to show mercy to you. Therefore, let prayer, mercy and fasting be one single plea to God on our behalf, one speech in our defence, and a threefold united prayer in our favour. Let us use fasting to make up for what we have lost by despising others. Let us offer our souls in sacrifice by means of fasting. There is nothing more pleasing that we can offer to God, as the psalmist said in prophecy: *A sacrifice to God is a broken spirit; God does not despise a humbled contrite heart.*

The Regional Team, which meets about three times a year, had its meeting on Sunday, May 29th in the O'Connell's School's Monastery, North Richmond St, Dublin. As mentioned previously, our new Super-Regional Couple, Piotr and Dzidzia, who took up office in January, were visiting Ireland, and attended the meeting, to meet some of the Irish Teams and to update us on the Movement in the Super-Region and worldwide. They also attended the monthly Team meeting of Team 32, being hosted by Mary and Hugo Gallagher on the Sunday night.

As mentioned in the previous Newsletter, the International College of Teams is being held in Swanwick, UK, from July 23rd to 28th 2016. We have been invited to attend and to participate in the round table discussions about piloting new Teams in Ireland. Also, the GB Teams Gathering will take place from 30th September to 2nd October 2016 at the Hayes Centre, Swanwick in Derbyshire and we would encourage anyone who is not involved in our Responsible Couples' Weekend, which is on the same weekend, and would like to experience the International aspect of Teams, to attend (notice elsewhere in Newsletter).

We wish you all the Blessings of the Lord and a happy and peaceful summer.

Breda & Tony Preston

News from Around the Region

Dublin

The Summer Outing, in recognition of the centenary of 1916, will be to the Pearse Museum in St. Enda's Park Ballyboden. It will take place on **Saturday, 25th June**. The tour of the Museum has been booked for 2pm and we can relax with coffee/tea in the courtyard before or after the tour and then take a stroll around the beautiful park. Marley Park which is close by also has many attractions. Those coming from other parts of the sector might also wish to pay a visit to Marley, which could be from 10.30 on. All family members are welcome and, whatever the age, will find plenty of interest and to enjoy. We will be sending full details soon.

We have got very good feedback from the Retreat in February. As a result we plan once more to have a one day retreat. We have booked Avila again for the 2017 Retreat, to take place on **18th February, 2017**. So put the date in your diary to make sure you will be able to attend.

Avila has also been booked for the Teams Mass in December. The date is **Friday, 9th December**.

World Meeting of Families.

As you may know, the World Meeting is to take place in Dublin and the dates have just been announced – **22 to 26 August, 2018**. Details can be found elsewhere in the Newsletter. It was stated in the announcement that “the Dublin Meeting will be prepared for by a process of catechesis based on the Apostolic Exhortation – *Amoris Laetitia* – *The Joy of Love*. This will take place right across the Church in Ireland during 2017 and 2018”. Given that Dublin is the host city we could be expected to make a special effort to engage in this process. We are planning a special meeting in the Autumn to get your views on how we could make that special effort.

Bereavements.

We extend our deepest sympathy to Kevin and Sheila Halloran (Team 26) on the sudden death in April of Kevin's brother, Michael, RIP. This is particularly tragic for Kevin and Sheila and their family, as Kevin's brother, Donal, died suddenly only a few months ago, as mentioned in the last Newsletter.

We also extend our deepest sympathy to Fr Joe Clavin PP Dunshaughlin and Chaplain to Team 39 on the death of his brother-in-law Ray O'Brien RIP and to Brian and Una Moore on the death in the USA of Una's brother Robert Bailey, RIP.

Gerry and Grace Mangan

Belfast

For the past number of years the Belfast retreat has been held in Tobar Mhuire Retreat House in Crossgar. However as the majority of team members live in the greater Belfast area it was thought that it would be more convenient to arrange the retreat at a Belfast venue.

It was therefore decided to hold the retreat in St Brigid's Parish Centre, Belfast. Everyone considered the venue to be quite satisfactory. We brought along our own lunches and we shared pleasant conversations during the lunch break. The retreat was led by Fr Brendan McConvery, a Redemptorist Priest. He based his presentations on Pope Francis's latest document *Amoris Laetitia* (The Joy of Love). Opportunity was given to contribute to the many points raised.

Members of the three teams in the sector were represented and a total of seventeen persons attended. We should also say that having it at this venue was half the cost of previous years.

We wish all members of Teams an enjoyable and safe summer.

Charlie and Maureen McMullan

Mullingar

We are looking forward to hosting the Responsible Couples' weekend here in Mullingar on the 1st and 2nd of October 2016. The RC weekend will be held in the Bloomfield House Hotel, Belvedere, Mullingar.

The cost of the weekend is €75 per person.

A number of Team members in Mullingar are in a position to offer accommodation. Please book early if you would like to avail of accommodation with Team members. Accommodation is available in the Bloomfield House Hotel and local Bed & Breakfasts.

Pauline and Richard Sheridan

Galway

The Galway Sector had their annual Retreat on a beautiful day in Croí Nua Spirituality Centre on Saturday May 22nd. We were delighted to welcome back Father Michael Screene MSC to lead us for the day in a reflection on Pope Francis's letter *Amoris Laetitia*... "The Joy of Love". The letter covers a wide range of topics related to marriage and family life with a strong emphasis on the family's vocation and mission of Love. It speaks of the family's strengths and gifts and the many challenges faced by families today. Married couples, families and pastoral ministers are encouraged to walk with and care for families and others in the Lord's Mercy and healing. A softer attitude in terms of real faith - that is what Christianity is about – "softer" Christianity actually will eventually demand more but as real faith, real caring and commitment, it evokes "life to the full" and real hope. "The Lord's Presence dwells in real concrete families with all their daily troubles and struggles, joys and hopes".

Father Michael suggested we allow this letter to invite us to be the church and the changes we long for and that people need today, especially that Christian “softening” or gentling that will make space for love.

Our day concluded with Mass and we left with much to reflect on and consider after our day together.

Other news from Teams in Galway.

More new arrivals for the families of Team 2. Eddie Lloyd’s son had a daughter Lia, who was born in China in April. The Costellos have a second grandchild, Stephen and Catherine had a baby boy Alex , born also in Dublin in April.

Eddie Lloyd is making good progress after his hip operation.

Wishing all Team members a happy, sun filled summer,

Margaret and John O'Dwyer.

Prayer Intentions

For those who have died:

Robert Bailey, brother of Una Moore, Dublin

Michael Halloran, brother of Kevin, Dublin

Ray O’Brien, husband of Fr. Joe Clavin’s sister.

Brian Carpenter, brother of Kitty Murrin, Mullingar

For those who are ill:

Margaret Lamb, Belfast



From the Regional Chaplain

Fr. Peter Sexton

A reflection on the Ascension:

Christ has a vision, a plan for us, which surpasses our wildest expectations for ourselves and for our future, - and in his limited time on earth he shared this plan, this vision, with his disciples – he himself was the revelation of his ‘Father’ – the name he gave to the incomprehensible puzzle behind all things, revealed as Karl Rahner says neither with incredible naivete nor tasteless presumption. In the days after the Resurrection we hear how Jesus opened their minds to understand the Scriptures – and then went from their sight in the Ascension – telling them to wait for the coming of the Spirit, who would console and teach and encourage them, and abide with them in all their ministry. The parting was not sad, but joyful because they began to realise that he would be with them in a far more profound way than he had already. In the Ascension he has taken up all that is human into the fullness of God – and this taking up is the source and meaning of our hope in the face of every small death in our daily lives that prepares us for the big one. The Ascension is mysterious – where did Christ go? Not higher and higher like a NASA missile into outer space, but to God the Father – heaven, beyond our grasp, is not a place, but the being with God – hell is not a place but the being without the God for whom we are created.

“Past all grasp God,” as Hopkins says,” throned behind death with a sovereignty that heeds but hides, that bodes but abides.”

If the people have no vision they perish says Ecclesiasticus. Our deepest fear is that our lives in the long run have no meaning and that death is the cruel and absurd end of all – a fear fostered down through the ages by bright and gloomy brains, like Dawkins and Hitchens - people who are themselves without a vision worthy of God’s creating, and many others, usually less bright but no less self-righteous like in our own media and airwaves in the sustained adolescence that is the fashion in not a little of the public arena of the Ireland of today. The Feast of the Ascension transforms that fear into a mighty shout of confidence and hope in God’s loving purpose in Christ.

This is no mere optimism that ‘hopes for the best’, this is Christian faith and hope in the Living God who has overcome the world and the power of death on the Cross, the tree of Life, and who draws us into living out of this faithful vision and enduring hope.

So we followers of Christ today are called to be men and women of vision and hope, of the larger viewpoint – to come out of our obsessive angst and self-preoccupation – and to live our lives in the awareness that God’s own Spirit is within each one of us, that Christ is not merely beside us but actually in the midst of us – an awareness that swept the early Church to go to all corners of the world to spend their lives, and frequently give their lives, in the service of the Gospel.

“We are God’s work of art, chosen in Christ Jesus to live the good life as He meant us to live it”.

Readings for July: Ephesians 3, 14-21 (following the Feast of the Sacred Heart)

August: Jeremiah 29, 11-14 (God's promise)

September: Psalm 139 : O Lord you search me and you know me

ANNUAL CONTRIBUTIONS

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

Contributions are normally collected at the June assessment meeting and can be forwarded to your Sector Couple or directly to ourselves at:

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

PS Do not send cash in the post

God bless,

Billy and Ann Hyland

Responsible Couples' Weekend

Date: **1st - 2nd October 2016**

Venue: **Bloomfield House Hotel, Belvedere, Mullingar, Co. Westmeath**

Registration: **Saturday 1st October 2016 at 9.30am**

The R.C. weekend will conclude with Mass on Sunday at 12 noon followed by lunch.

Further information in Autumn Newsletter.

Teams GB Gathering

30 September – 2 October 2016

Hayes Centre, Swanwick, Derbyshire

“Living the Gospel in a Changing World”

To get a taste of what is involved visit www.teamsgb.org.uk
and click on “Gatherings”

Cost £150 per person to include full board

No charge for Spiritual Counsellors or Children

TEAMS LITERATURE

AVAILABLE FROM LITERATURE COUPLE, IRISH REGION

**LIAM AND EILEEN MC KINNEY, 10 INNISFAYLE ROAD,
BELFAST, BT15 4ER. TELEPHONE : FROM ROI 048 9077 7775
FROM NI 028 9077 7775
e-mail : mckinneyteamslit@aol.com**

The following list includes the titles of most booklets and leaflets available through Teams :-

INFORMATION ABOUT TEAMS

- A Leaflet – giving basic information about Teams of Our Lady **
- A Booklet – outlining what Teams of Our Lady involves
- A Poster promoting the Teams movement

FOR ALL COUPLES

- The Charter – The basic constitution of the Teams **
- The Teams Thirty Years On – An updating of The Charter
- Getting to Know the Teams – This is based on the material ‘The TeamsThirty Years On’ and has been written to help you know more about the purpose and programme of the Teams. It contains five chapters.
- Guide of the Teams Of Our Lady **

PRAYER CARD – The Magnificat and a summary of the Endeavours.

ENDEAVOURS

The following give practical advice on some of the endeavours :-

- Word Of God (Scripture and Prayer)
 - Couple Prayer and Family Prayer
 - Personal Prayer
 - The Rule Of Life (Leaflet)
 - The Rule Of Life (Booklet)
 - The Sit Down
 - Sharing On Team Endeavours
 - The Team Retreat
 - The Study Topic
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GUIDELINES FOR THOSE WITH RESPONSIBILITY

- The Responsible Couple (Booklet) **
- The Responsible Couple (Leaflet)
- The Information Couple
- The Piloting Couple
- The Spiritual Counsellor **

FOR NEW TEAMS

Meeting Together in Christ's Name – An Introductory Programme for new Teams containing eight chapters. Suitable for the first eight meetings.

STUDY TOPICS

Meeting Together in Christ's Name – A Renewal Programme for Teams – A programme in six chapters (meetings) to enable teams to renew their commitments or engage in a re-piloting exercise. Also suitable for initial piloting of new teams. **

Jesus Christ at the Heart of Christian Life – Study topic set by the International Leading Team for the year 2007-2008.

Conjugal Spirituality and the Commitments of Teams of Our Lady – Study topic developed to support the Orientation of the Teams of Our Lady 2006 – 2012 and presented to the Movement at Lourdes in September 2006.

To be a Christian Couple Today in the Church and in the World – A three year programme of orientation of the Teams Movement following the International Gathering of Teams in Santiago de Compostela in September 2000. Recommended study topics as

follows -

First Year – Year to June 2002

- Second Year – Year to June 2003

- Third Year – Year to June 2004

Being a Family Today in the Church and in the World – Study topic used in preparation for the Eighth International Gathering in Fatima in July 1994 – eight chapters. Recommended for further study.

Twelve Plans For Family Prayer – Booklet accompanying the study topic 'Being a Family Today in the Church and in the World'. Could be used in a variety of ways to develop prayer life or as a study topic.

The Team Meeting – A booklet with eight chapters, highlighting different aspects of the monthly meeting and encouraging us to see the meeting as a high point in our team life. Useful as a 'refresher course'. ***

Listening to the Word of God – Eight chapters on ways of listening to the Word of God and Its place in our personal life, our married life and our life in society.

The Autumn of Life with the Teams – Eight chapters on different aspects of our later years. A refreshing look at spiritual life for people in or approaching retirement.

Father CAFFAREL, prophet of marriage – A booklet in eight chapters based on the life, work and writings of Father Caffarel. Eminently suitable as a study topic. **

The Mystique of the Endeavours and Sharing - Study Theme – A study of the Endeavours in eight chapters. This is an excellent study topic and is recommended as preparation for Brasilia 2012. **

The Path to Spiritual Life as a Couple – Study Theme – A follow up on the theme of the XI International Gathering in Brasilia in 2012. This is presented in eight chapters for study at eight Team meetings. **

Dare to Live the Gospel – A further follow-up on the theme of the XI International Gathering in Brasilia in 2012. This material leads us to a deep reflection on the Gospel and gives us a starting point for our mission in life. Presented in eight chapters the material is eminently suitable as a study topic for the annual yearly cycle. ***

Discerning the Signs of the Times – This is another follow-up on the XI International Gathering in Brasilia in 2012. This leads us to reflect on and evaluate the times in the light of the Gospel. Again this is presented in eight chapters for study at eight Team meetings. ***



Members of Belfast Teams at their retreat

Pope Francis confirms date and theme for Ireland's World Meeting of Families

(Press Release 24th May 2016)

Pope Francis has decided that the World Meeting of Families will be held in Dublin on 22 to 26 August 2018, with the theme “*The Gospel of the Family: Joy for the World*”.

The announcement of the date and theme for the 9th World Meeting of Families (WMF) was made at a press conference in the Vatican this morning, attended by Archbishop Diarmuid Martin, Archbishop of Dublin, and the head of the Pontifical Council for the Family, Archbishop Vincenzo Pagila. The Archdiocese of Dublin is the host diocese for this event which takes place once every three years in different parts of the world.

Addressing today's press conference Archbishop Martin said, “The 2018 World Meeting will be held in Dublin, but it is an event of the entire Church”

Archbishop Martin said it was significant that Pope Francis chose the family as the theme of the first Synod of Bishops of his Pontificate and that he launched a new methodology for the Synod which would involve consultation with families. “Hopefully the World Meeting will be an important milestone in the application of the fruits of the Synodal process and of Pope Francis' Apostolic Exhortation *Amoris Laetitia*”, he said.

The Dublin Meeting will be prepared for by a process of catechesis – based on Apostolic Exhortation *Amoris Laetitia* (*The Joy of Love*) which was published last month – and this will take place right across the Church in Ireland during 2017 and 2018. It is hoped that something of that catechetical process will be shared with other Churches around the world, especially in Europe. Archbishop Martin said the Dublin World Meeting of Families, more than earlier Meetings, should be a world event even in its preparation.

“The World Meeting of Families in Dublin will hopefully be a festival of witness to the love of God revealed in Jesus Christ. The vocation of Christian couples, supported by the Sacrament of Marriage, is a call to witness to that love and to experience the joy of bringing the love of Jesus to those who are troubled and challenged,” said Archbishop Martin.

It is too early to know if Pope Francis will attend the WMOF. His programme is normally announced just a few months prior to any event. The Pope has expressed his desire to attend, and such a visit of the Pope would bring great joy to Irish Catholics and others. But the final decision will depend on many factors.

Given the age of Pope Francis, a possible visit of the Pope in 2018 would inevitably have a more restricted programme than that of the Papal Visit of Pope Saint John Paul II in 1979.
