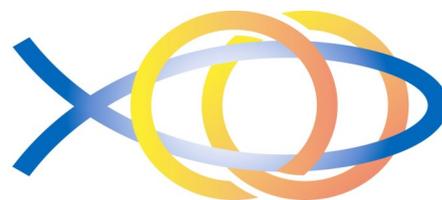




Newsletter

Teams of Our Lady

Irish Region



Equipes Notre-Dame

From the Regional Couple

Dear Friends in Teams,

With the spread of the Coronavirus (Covid 19) in Ireland, we are facing a challenge that is unprecedented in modern history. It is fair to say that we are all rising to the many challenges as we attempt to stem the worst of this crisis.



Rarely has the value of community been so important and we are fortunate to have the communities of our Parishes and Teams to support us if we need it. Even though we may not be assembling together, we remain united across our homes and communities as one Body of Christ in communion with each other and with God.

During this time, people are spending more time looking at their electronic gadgets, surfing for information on the net, on Facebook, exchanging messages in WhatsApp to keep in touch with each other and as you may be aware, of course, Mass is being broadcast on webcam or parish radio from many churches and we would encourage you to participate if you can. For many people, this year, Easter celebrations will find us at home and could we have ever imagined not going to Church on Good Friday, Holy Saturday and Easter Sunday? That's the reality we are in now, the ongoing Covid 19 has made life difficult and uncertain and has touched all of us.

This is a very strange and challenging time for us as a Country and as a world family, but we are not abandoned, God is with us, accompanying us and healing us, because God is love. A Capuchin Franciscan Brother Richard Hendrick, living in Ireland, has penned the following poem called "Lockdown" which we would like to share with you.

Stay safe and we send blessings to you all and your families.

God Bless

Jim and Elaine Keogh

www.equipes-notre-dame.ie

Please see links at the bottom of our web home page to:- Transatlantic Teams and the Vatican and check out the Notice Boards for up to date news.

Spring 2020

Issue 120

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Lockdown

Yes there is fear
Yes there is isolation
Yes there is panic buying
Yes there is sickness
Yes there is even death.
But,
They say that in Wuhan after so many years of noise
You can hear the birds again.
They say that after just a few weeks of quiet
The sky is no longer thick with fumes
But blue and grey and clear.
They say that in the streets of Assisi
People are singing to each other across the empty squares,
keeping their windows open
so that those who are alone
may hear the sounds of family around them.
They say that a hotel in the West of Ireland
is offering free meals and delivery to the housebound.
Today a young woman I know
is busy spreading fliers with her number throughout the neighbourhood
so that the elders may have someone to call on.
Today Churches, Synagogues, Mosques and Temples are preparing to welcome
and shelter the homeless, the sick, the weary
All over the world people are slowing down and reflecting
All over the world people are looking at their neighbours in a new way
All over the world people are waking up to a new reality
To how big we really are.
To how little control we really have
To what really matters.
To Love.
So we pray and we remember that
Yes there is fear.
But there does not have to be hate.
Yes there is isolation,
But there does not have to be loneliness.
Yes there is panic buying.
But there does not have to be meanness.
Yes there is sickness.
But there does not have to be disease of the soul
Yes there is even death.
But there can always be a rebirth of love.
Wake to the choices you make as to how to live now.
Today, breathe.
Listen, behind the factory noises of your panic
The birds are singing again
The sky is clearing,
Spring is coming,
And we are always encompassed by Love.
Open the windows of your soul
And though you may not be able
to touch across the empty square

SING



From the Regional Chaplain Fr. Peter Sexton sj

By way of exception in these exceptional times the article this time will be from the editorial from the recent Tablet.

“There is no more dramatic image from the coronavirus pandemic than that of the solitary figure of Pope Francis standing in the pouring rain as twilight darkened the sky, addressing an empty, cold and desolate St. Peter’s Square. He delivered a meditation on one of the more perplexing passages of the New Testament, when a storm threatens the boat in which Jesus and his disciples had embarked. They called on him to save them from drowning, saying: “Do you not care if we perish?” The Papal sermon, accompanied by the blessing Urbi et Orbi, which is usually reserved for Christmas and Easter, was broadcast worldwide and is still available online. It has brought comfort and encouragement to many millions.

Francis does not have a tidy answer to the disciples’ question. Jesus rebuked their lack of faith, but he did not let them drown. God does care. In his address Francis criticises the pettiness and shallowness of the values of the world, and the failures to show solidarity, which the pandemic has exposed. The virus is, as it were, revealing humanity to itself.

The calls on God to save the human race from a mess of its own making and then blaming God for not doing so are in contrast to those wonderful manifestations of solidarity with which the world is becoming familiar. “We were not shaken awake by wars or injustice across the world, nor did we listen to the cry of the poor or of our ailing planet. We carried on regardless, thinking we would stay healthy in a world that was sick. Now that we are in a stormy sea, we implore you: ‘Wake up Lord!’”

Reproduced from THE TABLET 4 APRIL 2020

Wishing everyone in the Teams in our Region the joy of the Risen Lord, and may His presence sustain us in hope and serenity throughout this difficult time. Happy Easter!

Peter Sexton sj

Tony Preston RIP (1947 – 2019)

It is difficult to imagine that Tony Preston will never again be present at our Team Meetings.

Teams meant so much to him: it was part of his life. He had an unwavering faith, which sustained him through his life. In November, Breda and Tony had hosted our Team meeting. Then, following a short illness, Tony set off for Heaven on 20th December 2019.

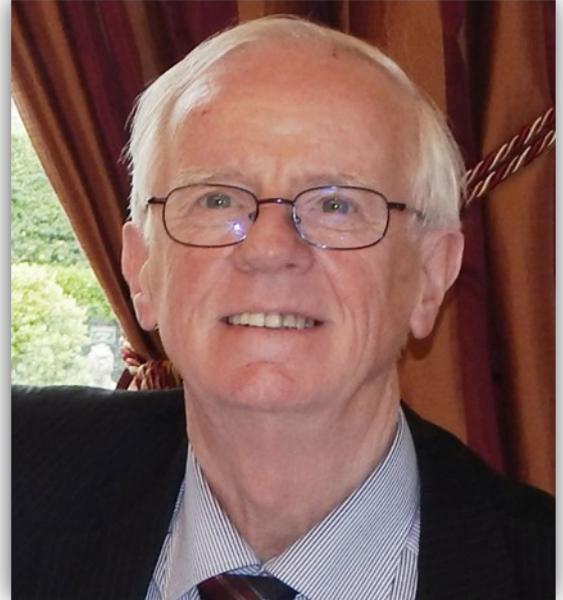
We all were in shock. Tony had missed one Team meeting.

Hugo and Mary Gallagher have known Breda and Tony for almost 40 years, friends since their children were babies. Both families attended the Gaelscoil in Leixlip and Coláiste Chillian in Clondalkin, where Team member Proinnsias Ó hAilín was then Príomhoide. Breda and Tony joined our Team in 2003. *“We miss Tony’s friendship and will greatly miss his being at our meetings and Team occasions.”*

With the ever-supportive presence of Breda, Tony gave very generously to Teams. His many personal skills came to the fore, as they embraced the many challenges associated with the responsibilities of Sector Couple in 2009, piloting a new Team in 2012, establishing a website for the Irish Region, and embracing Regional responsibilities in 2013 as the Movement prepared to celebrate fifty years of Teams in Ireland in August 2014. Breda and Tony attended many Teams conferences abroad, presenting aspects of Irish Teams life, including Liaison. Nothing daunted Tony - he didn’t waste his time being annoyed when there was a problem: instead put his energies into finding a solution.

A quiet thoughtful person with a love of the Irish language and traditional Irish music, Tony had an incredibly inquiring mind. Kindness, caring and unrivalled generosity were his hallmarks, a true Christian, strong in faith and a man of his word. He was above all, a loving family man, happiest in the midst of his family of six children and eight grandchildren.

Airíonn muid go mór uainn thú, Tony. Suaimhneas Síoraí duit.
Tony, we greatly miss you. Eternal rest to you.



Team 32 Dublin

Prayer Intentions

For those who have died:

Tony Preston, husband of Breda, Team 32

Ethel Meek, mother of Patti, Team 34

Bernard O'Carroll, father of Philip, Team 34

Maura Cunneen, sister of Pat, Team 25

Phyllis Hughes, sister of Una Moore, Team 13

Kathleen Gilsenan, sister of Eileen Walsh, Mullingar

Rosaleen O'Halloran, sister of Assumpta O'Meara, Mullingar

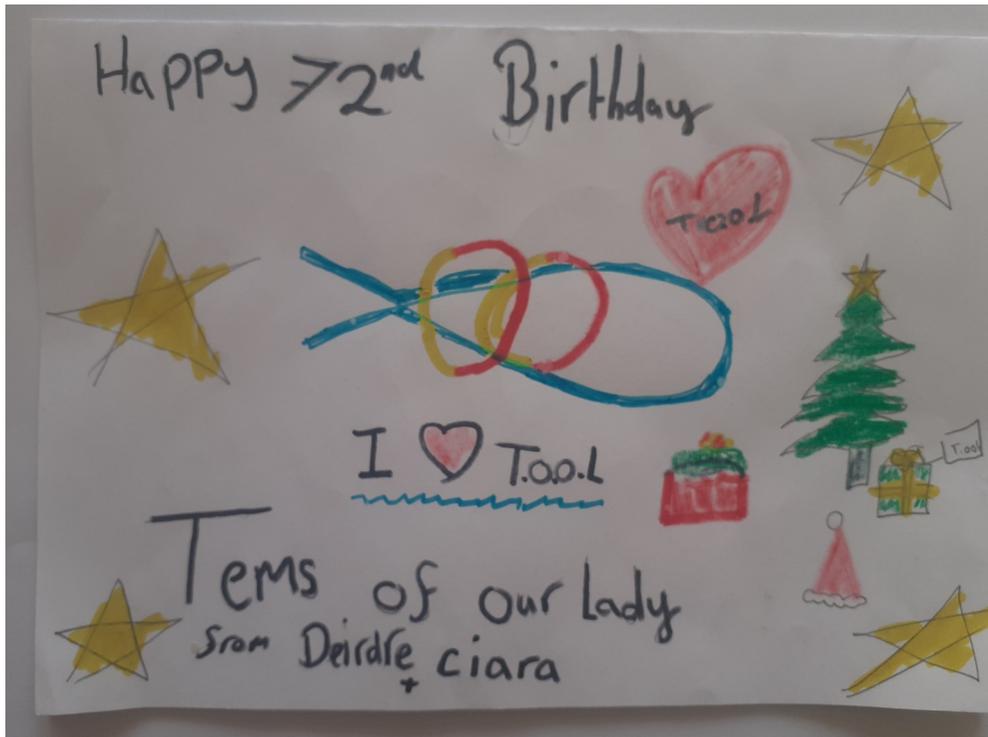
For those who are ill:

Eddie Lloyd, Galway

Around the Region

Dublin

The Mass for the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, was celebrated by Fr. Richard Sheehy on the vigil at Avila Carmelite Centre, Donnybrook. Refreshments followed in a convivial atmosphere.



Teams around the world were celebrating the 72nd Anniversary of the Charter of Équipes Notre-Dame. This birthday card, made by Deirdre and Ciara Ó hAlmhain, was brought to the mass.

We are prevented from having gatherings like Teams during this pandemic so here is an idea that other Teams might like to try. Team 34, RC Patti and Eamonn, have had a team meeting using Zoom and it was successful. Of course it wasn't the same as meeting together but they are going to do it again during this difficult time.

Proinnsias and Kate Ó hAilín celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary on 19th March. We send them our congratulations.

Stay safe until we meet again.

Una and Brian Moore



Pope Francis is pictured greeting Gerry Mangan, Team 13, at an audience in the Vatican. Gerry, a member of the Irish Bishops' Council for Marriage and the Family, was attending an International Conference on the pastoral care of the elderly, on the theme 'The richness of many years of life'. This Conference is the first step in rolling out a programme of pastoral care for the elderly in parishes worldwide in the coming years.

Belfast

For people all over the world it is a very worrying and anxious time. In this part of Ireland we thought the troubles would never end. And then for the past few years we thought there would never be an end to the difficulties that Brexit might bring about.

But nothing compares with the arrival of Covid 19. Everything that we have taken for granted up to the beginning of March has greatly changed. For example going to morning Mass, paying a quiet visit to the church from time to time or calling to visit a friend or family member are all off our agenda now.

Our team met up a few weeks ago just before we were advised to apply "social distancing ". So we now live in a world where to help ourselves, others and the brave people working in our health services we must obey what the experts and governments are advising us.

Although our daily routines have changed we feel fortunate that many of our parishes have webcams installed and we can see Mass every day. It is sad that we cannot receive the Eucharist now but it is a great opportunity to focus on the word of God in the daily readings of the Mass.

Being members of the Teams has encouraged us to make more time for prayer in our lives. And there is little doubt that prayer beseeching our God to protect us all and to comfort those who have lost love ones to this virus is more important than ever.

As we are now unable to meet up with our individual Teams we should try to keep in touch by phone or other means. It is always important to meet up as a sector at the time of a retreat and the 8th December but due to the current circumstances our retreat planned for Sunday 17th May has been postponed.

Finally we hope and pray that all members of Teams and their family and friends in Ireland and worldwide will be spared from contracting Covid 19 and that our Lord will help us and all our leaders to make our world a better place when this virus comes to an end.

Charlie and Maureen Mc Mullan

Mullingar

We had our December 8th eve Mass at the Cathedral of Christ the King, Mullingar. It was celebrated by Father Joseph (Camillian). We retired afterwards to the Greville Arms Hotel for tea, sandwiches and goodies.

During these trying times we are lucky to have our Spiritual Director Father Paul Connell leading a Holy Hour from Mullingar.

We pray in thanksgiving for all who are working to keep us all safe during this difficult time.

We include in our prayers Team members and their families here in Ireland and throughout the world.

We thank God for our chaplains and all our priests who are inspiring us daily.

Thanks to Elaine and Jim, Mary and Des and their sector Team for keeping us all united when we can't physically meet.

We remember with love our Team member Michael McGovern whose 1st anniversary occurred on the 26th March.

Our Lady of the Teams pray for us.

Galway

Greetings to all Team members especially to those who are “cocooning” at present.

There was a special meeting of Galway teams on 28th January 2020. This meeting was hosted by Marguerite and Stephen O’Neill, the Galway sector couple. In a wave of enthusiasm after the responsible couples’ week-end in Galway, plans were discussed for future activities of teams in Galway. Of course the coronavirus has postponed everything. Hopefully it will not be too long before we are under “Full sail” once again. A team outing in Portumna Castle for May 2020 and a team retreat for April are unfortunately casualties to the virus. However it is good to have plans ready.

The meeting discussed how we might expand the Team Movement. Among other ideas put forward were to develop a liaison with the engaged couples marriage preparation course, contact some priests in Galway and reach out to places like Westport. This meeting was certainly full of enthusiasm and hope.

It seems a long time since our 8th December 2019 mass (feast of the Immaculate Conception) celebration. This was held in Croí Nua Galway. We had a very good attendance. We celebrated Mass in a nice intimate setting. Father Charlie Sweeney was the celebrant. Fr. Charlie gave a very meaningful reflection on the Feast Day. He can bring us through the theological meaning of the feast and show us how the feast is relevant to our lives in the here and now.

Congratulations to Betty and Peter Quinlan on the birth of their new granddaughter Evie. She was born on the special date of 29th February 2020.

Prayers are continually requested for Eddie Lloyd who is in a nursing home.

Anne and Jack Hutchinson

Amazing Grace and a wretch like me!

As a teenager, I learned to play the guitar and considered myself quite a good guitarist. A group of us would get together on occasions and spend hours emulating our various artist heroes. From time to time other musicians drifted in and out of the group and I can still remember the first time I heard Claude play the guitar; I was blown away by his talent. I could only manage chords, but when Claude played the guitar, his fingers would zip up and down the full length of the fret board, while with his other hand he plucked individual strings with delicacy and dexterity, Claude was amazing on that instrument and compared to him, my guitar playing sounded so humdrum. Although it took me a while to accept the painful truth - that I wasn't the dynamic musician I thought I was – still, the upside of the story was that Claude became a great friend and was happy to pass on his skills to me, and boy was I thrilled to learn!

My friendship with Claude taught me a valuable lesson quite apart from anything I learned about music. In one way, Claude's picking up his guitar that first night didn't change my ability as a musician. In another way, following his stupendous guitar exhibition, I saw my skill in a lesser light in comparison to the quality of his playing. If Claude had never shown up, I may have continued to mistakenly consider myself a pretty good guitarist. Witnessing Claude's expertise, gave me perspective on my own abilities.

This brings me to the well-known hymn "Amazing Grace." Our contemporary sensibilities can be offended by an old hymn like this, written in 1772, especially when it seems to accuse our humanity with such lines as "...that saved a wretch like me". Have we not, for too long, particularly in the Church, been exposed to a self-deprecating narrative, exclusively focused on the negative aspects of our human nature and particularly that awful word - sin? While it is certainly the case that an over emphasis on our human weaknesses is not the hall mark of a healthy Christianity, it is also true that the pendulum can swing to the other extreme.

To consider the hymn "Amazing Grace" the epitome of this negative view of humanity, seems to totally miss the point. It's no accident that this hymn is performed up to 10 million times each year and has appeared on over 11,000 albums worldwide. If its *raison d'être* was simply to highlight the wretched creatures we all are, then I would agree we should consider it the worst hymn of all time. But the heart of this anthem is an attempt to capture the experience of one who has in some real way experienced God's touch, and the effect that such an encounter necessarily has on an individual's self perception. In such an encounter I see myself **as I am, in relationship to Him**, and that's the important part – **in relationship to Him**. I see myself in perspective. It is not possible to come away from an encounter with God and still feel worthy. If we focus on the word "wretch" apart from the "Amazing Grace" we will indeed be offended. The dignity of the human person requires that we consider each other and particularly ourselves, to be worthy of love and respect. However, in the face of a revelation of God, the Creator of all that exists, we are humbled. In a way, the greater the experience of God the more "wretched" we experience ourselves to be, not because we're bad but rather because God is all Good.

The extent to which I am offended by such language, as it appears in this hymn, may be a challenge to open myself more to that “Amazing Grace”. Maybe it’s the case that I feel - “I’m quite all right as I am, Jesus, thanks. I don’t need to be ‘saved.’” – in which case the Incarnation was a waste of time.

Remember the occasion, in Luke’s Gospel, (Lk 5:1-11) after a fruitless night of fishing, Jesus told Peter and his friends to go out again and cast their nets. When they did, the nets were filled to bursting point. What was Peter’s reaction? He jumped out of the boat and swam to shore, fell down at Jesus’ feet and said: “leave me Lord, I am a sinful man.” Earlier in the morning, before this incident I don’t think Peter was going round continually reminding himself “What a terrible person I am, I’m such a sinner.” It was through the experience of Jesus doing something he thought impossible, that Peter gained a new perspective and recognised his own wretchedness, in comparison to this man standing before him. He could see in the person of Jesus “Amazing Grace” that had “saved a wretch” like him.

Pat Seery Team 38

The Story of ‘Amazing Grace’

Coincidentally we received the article below from a Teams member who wishes to remain anonymous.

One of the best-known hymns in the Christian tradition is the old favourite ‘Amazing Grace’.

The origin of Amazing Grace is an interesting one; it was composed by a man called John Newton whose personal story is reflected in the words he penned. He was the captain of a slave ship in 18th century England whose early life was a miserable tale of drunkenness and ‘loose living’.

While at sea in March 1748 the ship encountered a violent storm, which came close to sinking it. It was during this storm that Newton cried out to God for mercy, later reflecting that this was the first time he had uttered such a prayer in life as he had always imagined himself beyond mercy’s reach.

“I thought there never was or could be such a sinner as myself; I concluded that my sins were too great to be forgiven”.

For weeks, the damaged ship was at the mercy of the sea and the crew was close to despair as rations ran short. All this time Newton was reading New Testament... desperate to find out if the God he had rejected for so long was real. Finally, the wind changed. Newton wrote:

“We saw the island of Tory and next day anchored at Bunrana in Lough Swilly, Ireland. This was the 8th day of April, just four weeks after the damage we sustained from the sea. When we came into this port, our very last victuals was boiling in the pot;

and before we had been there two hours, the wind began to blow with great violence. If we had continued at sea that night in our shattered condition, we must have gone to the bottom. About this time, I began to know that there is a God that hears and answers prayer."

This was the turning point of Newton's life. He stepped ashore a changed man. The crew received a warm welcome from the local villagers in Bunrana. Carpenters went to work repairing the ship. Newton lodged in Derry and attended prayers daily in St. Columb's Cathedral.

From this time, John Newton's life began to change as he came to realise that God's grace could save even a 'wretch' like him! Others soon noticed the difference when he stopped swearing and his behaviour altered. But he still had much to learn. Despite his spiritual awakening he continued to work in the 'slave trade' such was his self-interest and acceptance of the culture of the day.

It was only when he came under the influence of the preaching of John Wesley and the anti-slavery campaigner William Wilberforce that the horror of the whole wretched business brought him to his senses. John Newton went on to become a clergyman in the Church of England and a staunch opponent of slavery – his journey had led him to conversion of heart. In February 1807 when the bill to finally outlaw slavery was passed through the British parliament, John by now nearly blind and near death, "*rejoiced to hear the wonderful news.*" His story is a real testament to the power of God's grace on even the most hardened of human hearts.

Amazing Grace, How sweet the sound

That saved a wretch like me.

I once was lost, but now I'm found,

Was blind, but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,

And grace my fears relieved.

How precious did that grace appear

The hour I first believed.

The Endeavours

We reproduce the second part of a talk given by Jack and Anne Hutchinson at the Responsible Couples' Weekend last October, held in Croi Nua, Galway.



Scripture

Jack

As the Teams handout reminds us:

We shall make no progress in our aim to know and love God unless we seek Him regularly in Scripture. It is for this reason that reading the Word of God is such an important Team endeavour.

The Word of God and prayer are very often linked together – one naturally leads to the other and together they can be a voyage of discovery where we can be led to discern His work in our everyday lives.

In Mark 9, I am struck by the episode we call the Transfiguration. One of the high points in scripture. Jesus, Peter, James and John have a “top of the mountain” experience. Jesus is transfigured. Peter exclaims “it is wonderful for us to be here “.

Immediately after the Transfiguration episode, in the scripture, Jesus came down from the mountain. He was met by a man whose son had an epileptic demon, according to the scripture account. Jesus disciples could not heal the young man; Jesus was confronted by the reality that his disciples did not have the power or faith to heal the young man. Jesus, not for the first time was exasperated. The reality of the situation was a sharp contrast to what had happened on the top of the mountain.

The two incidents need to be taken together, I think. Life can have great moments as symbolically described as “on the mountain top”. Life can have its moments symbolically described as the Bottom of the mountain. We are called to live both.

Anne

People have their favourite scripture stories. I think of the story of the three wise men and their quest. The three wise men were Gentiles. They did not know God. They were however wise because they were seeking God in their own way. They were symbolically following their own star. In a way there is a parallel between these wise men and our Teams. We are trying to find God in our meetings, in our endeavours, in our scriptures and in our Christian living. The three wise men found their goal and somehow, as the poet TS Eliot wrote, they returned home, no longer at ease in their old way of life. They had changed somehow.

Annual Retreat

Jack

Each team as an endeavour has an annual retreat. In our Team we used to have a twp- day retreat but now a one day retreat is the norm.

The annual retreat is like a visit to a foreign country. We notice when we go abroad we can view our own country with different eyes. This year we went abroad. We met many people and had a contact with their culture and history. Above all it gave us a fresh view of our own country. The outside influence of a retreat can be beneficial and a help to us to widen our vision.

It's like the film we saw some years ago with the late Robin Williams “Dead Poets Society”. He challenged the pupils to stand on their desks and from the height to look around. Look around with fresh eyes. It is a good metaphor for the annual retreat.

Sit Down

Jack

Fr. Caffarel was asked by a married couple for a book on prayer and meditation. We feel it is appropriate to bring Fr. Caffarel into our thoughts as I think that in a way his spirit is here in the room with us. He answered “you will have to learn to decipher the book that God has given you, your marriage and how do we do that? I believe as we were taught that “to be open to our partner, to listen to and communicate with him/her is to listen and communicate with God”. I think that Fr. Caffarel was getting to this fact.

Anne

This is where we come to the endeavour which we call the Sit-Down. As a married couple at least once a month we put time aside **to talk** to each other, but also **to listen** to each other in an atmosphere of trust.

Sometimes this is a beautiful experience, at other times negative feelings arise and I say “never again”. But we are more complex people. It’s as if our thoughts and ideas are one part of us and our feelings are in a different world. Like the thoughts are the tip of the iceberg and the feelings are the large huge section out of sight and unconscious most of the time. Couples in teams have shared with us their inability to have a sit down without negative feelings arising. I know what they are saying because we have similar experiences. With a bit of practice and a mind-set of patience and kindness we can see the beauty of our sit down.

Jack

The preparation for the sit-down is important. The sit down is a time when I try to make a real contact with Anne at a deeper level. A small simple ritual is good. At another team event some years ago, we were advised if you are cutting a tree, spend two thirds of the time sharpening the axe – which shows preparation is important. This means a comfortable place to sit, no interruptions, sit close together, say a prayer and in silence recall in faith the presence of God. In our sit down it does not mean that we have to be talking all the time. As with prayer, silences can be part of an intimate conversation. So, enjoy the silences whether at the beginning or end of the sit down or when gathering thoughts to make the next point.

Anne

If you are an organised person you can set a specific time aside during the month. Sometimes we put the sit-down on the long finger. We realise our monthly meeting is a few hours away. We then have our “sit down” just before we leave the house for a team meeting. I feel a bit guilty about this when it happens to us. The Teams movement advice is that this is alright and is a good preparation for the team meeting. As you can guess it is not the ideal time from a planning point of view. Its often I who suggest having a sit down and sometimes I can get a negative reaction (there could be a match or programme on TV which Jack wants to watch) and he might say – will it take long? Other times we agree together. We usually make sure we have as little distractions as possible and light a candle and say a prayer to help us. We then begin our sit down. Our Teams handout suggests the following:

One person begins – talk about where you are at this moment. Consider your relationship with God, your physical health, your material needs, job, career, family, and church – all the things that make you unique.

The other person JUST LISTEN

Reverse roles and follow the same pattern

When both have finished individual sharing it is time to look at where we both are as a couple.

Discuss things that you are both willing to change, reinforce or continue in our lives.

Jack

I GIVE Anne time to speak of where she is at the present moment.

I have to remember that thoughts and feelings are neither right nor wrong they just are, it's good to remember this if negative feelings come to the fore. Sometimes I want to jump in and defend myself. I remind myself that I can RESPOND to Anne instead of REACTING. Or I could choose to listen.

Anne

What does the sit down mean to me? I as a woman love to be listened to and not just to get air space – as if what I have to say doesn't matter – for example, for us to go through the ritual of being given time to speak but know that Jack is not listening – or to get the impression that he is just letting me have my say. We usually talk about ourselves first: How I am feeling myself. About the family, about things which are bothering me, how I am feeling about us at the time. Then we discuss how we can help each other. Sometimes when we get stuck in our talk together we decide to leave the discussion for another time. The sit down is not for the purpose of solving problems. It is a way to bring us as a couple closer. We aim to create an empathy with each other. At times, we find things work out and we decide to take some action to improve our life together.

Jack

In our sit down we have talked about the area of our intimate life together. Listening to Anne in our sit down I have become aware of her need – to be held, to be touched, to be physically close not just when we make love. I have heard recently and agree that intimacy is an opportunity for us couples to explore who we really are. Listening to Anne gives me an awareness of her needs and how we both need each other, and how I need to step out of my self-controlled world at times into her world. In this stage of our life – it's never too late to learn.

Rule of life

Anne

The Rule of Life is different to the other endeavours of listening to the word of God, Daily prayer, conjugal prayer, sit down, Annual retreat. The rule of life endeavour is personal to each person. Why do we have a Rule of Life? The most recent handout from the Teams movement says: If we are to move forward in our spiritual life: if there is to be any real spiritual growth, we have to be aware of any obstacles that might hinder our progress. This is the point of the Rule of Life: to take an honest and reflective look at our self, our relationships and our attitudes and decide if there is some point that we could improve on. The Rule of Life need not be restricted to spiritual matters; it can be something from our everyday life, its often in personal relationships where the most benefit can be found.

Jack

How do we consider what our rule of life should be?

The team movement suggests that some of the following thoughts may be a useful guide.

Am I so preoccupied by work or my hobbies that I don't give the time I should to my husband/wife/
family?

Do I give my full attention when my family talk to me – could I be a better listener?

Can I be more co-operative, at home, at work, with others?

Is there a point of concern that has come from the “sit down” that needs to be addressed?

I heard of one married couple who decided recently as a result of a talk together to make Tuesday night their night out. A little part of the week became special to them. This was a good example of a Rule of Life.

The advice for the Rule of life is to keep it “simple”. The advice is to write your rule of life out. A few words will suffice. The Rule of life need not be connected to spiritual matters.

The ideal “Rule of life” is something in my life which moves me and I know it would be good if I made a change. I'm sure we all are aware of some changes we could make in the area of our personal relationships whether it is our marriage, family, neighbours or friends. It is good to review the rule of life from time to time. The Rule of Life is not meant to put a burden on us; it is there to help us in our growth as a Christian.

Anne

What we have been talking about here in this presentation on Teams Endeavours is spirituality, personal and married spirituality. This means we try to live in love with kindness and patience and being aware that God is there somewhere. The ups and downs of our married life is caught very well we think in Bruce Springsteen's song “If I should fall behind” which we would like to share with you now.

Jack

So we would like to end this talk by reciting the words of Bruce Springsteen's song. It means a lot to us.

IF I SHOULD FALL BEHIND – (Bruce Springsteen)

We said we'd walk together baby come what may

That come the twilight should we lose our way

If as we're walking a hand should slip free I'll wait for you

And if I should fall behind Wait for me

We swore we'd travel darlin' side by side

We'd help each other stay in stride

But each lover's steps fall so differently But I'll wait for you

And if I should fall behind Wait for me.

Now everyone dreams of a love lasting and true

But you and I know what this world can do

So let's make our steps clear

That the other may see and I'll wait for you

If I should fall behind Wait for me.

Now there's a beautiful river in the valley ahead

There 'neath the oak's bough soon we will be wed

Should we lose each other

In the shadow of the evening trees I'll wait for you

And should I fall behind Wait for me

Darlin' I'll wait for you should I fall behind wait for me

We wish you and your families God's blessings this Easter, in these strange and difficult circumstances.

Paddy and Jacinta

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We plan to have a Summer Newsletter in early June.

Please send us your contributions by June 1st.
