



Equipes Notre-Dame

Newsletter Teams of Our Lady – Irish Region



Pat and Carmel Cunneen, Archbishop Martin, Breda and Tony Preston and Fr. Paddy Dundon at Dublin Sector Retreat

From the Regional Couple

Eucharist and Équipes Notre-Dame

‘Marriage is an admirable invention of Christ so that the Eucharist may be experienced as a pair’. Fr. Caffarel said this and much more on the Eucharist. He sees the marriage covenant, established on the wedding day as being ‘reactualised’, reactivated and renewed by every participation in the Eucharist. Fr Caffarel states that Christ wants his sacrifice, the Eucharist, to penetrate to the physical and spiritual depth of your marriage. He goes on to say that a marriage not fed on the Eucharist will be a union lacking resistance and vitality. He sees the Eucharist as an inexhaustible source of love, conjugal, filial, a love more purified, renewed, sanctified, by our partaking. The Eucharist is a gift, a gift for sharing, our true source of communion. We hope, despite the noise in the Church that the message of the Eucharist, reflected in the Eucharistic Congress, will be seen for what it is, an infinite and timeless gift of love.

Pat and Carmel Cunneen

Issue 89

Summer 2012

Inside this issue:

<i>Building Christian Community</i>	2
<i>Oliver Cahill RIP A Reflection Prayer Intentions</i>	3
<i>Tribute to Oliver Cahill RIP</i>	4
<i>Brasilia Responsible Couples' Weekend</i>	5
<i>News from around the Region - Dublin</i>	6,7
<i>News from around the Region- Belfast, Mullingar</i>	8
<i>News from around the Region -Galway</i>	9
<i>Building Christian Community - continued</i>	10
<i>Regional Chaplain/ Treasurers</i>	11

Building Christian Community

To an onlooker, the group that gathered together, first of all around the cross of Jesus and again after His resurrection must have seemed very unusual. Mary the mother of Jesus, Salome, Mary Magdalene, Joseph of Arimathea, Nicodemus, Simon of Cyrene, Peter, Paul and the apostles, even the Roman centurion might have been counted among its members. Jesus had promised:

“and I, when I am lifted up from the earth will draw all people to myself” (Jn.12.32). That is how a Christian community is formed. In Teams, which is a microcosm of what the church should be, we do not choose one another but we choose to be together. Like the disciples at the the supper at Emmaus we recognise the Risen Christ in our midst as we break bread together. In the year of the Eucharistic Congress we might reflect a little on our own eucharistic experiences together and to begin to see what we can bring to the wider church.

Eucharist is a Greek word meaning thanksgiving. Jesus at the Last Supper gave thanks before He broke the bread. Perhaps we should emphasize thanksgiving a little bit more since it gives voice to both what we are and what we have. The Teams movement promotes the endeavours and rightly so. They provide a “safe container” for the individual team to operate in so that the meeting does not become merely a social occasion and members can share in a confidential, loving environment. The invitation to prayer, reflection, bible reading, sit down etc is a stimulus to nourish our spiritual life and grow closer to one another. However the endeavours are only a means to an end. In my view the main gift of teams for which we should constantly give thanks is one another.

Let's return to that strange early Christian community where a Roman centurion, a representative of the occupying force and a pagan as well, a member of the Sanhedrin and a woman “from whom he had cast seven demons” (Mark 16.9) might have met together. As good Jews Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus would not normally have been able to sit with either the centurion or Mary Magdalene as they would have been defiled!

I am sure that the Roman centurion must have been bewildered in his new community. He was a servant of a powerful and ruthless empire; I imagine he was a good conscientious man carrying out the very unpleasant task of supervising a crucifixion. Unfortunately it must have been a procedure he was well used to. This execution however was very different. The centurion must have known insitnctively from the way Jesus bore Himself, in spite of His suffering, that this was no criminal. Mary, the women and John must also have impressed him. As Jesus was dying, the pagan soldier began to realise that he was part of something that did not fit in with his daily routine. It was he out of all others was chosen to proclaim:

“Truly this was God's Son!” (Mark 15.39.)

Like Peter at the transfiguration, he probably did not understand what he was saying. Life cannot ever have been the same for this man. Legend says that he died a martyr and is honoured as St Longinus. I imagine that he would have provided excellent discipline and organization to the fledgling church. However he would also have realised that there is more to serving Christ than “ticking boxes” and that He becomes present especially in the mess of everyday living.

Continued on page 10

Oliver Cahill



July 21st 1942 – January 22nd 2012

Our Reflection

God looked around His garden and found an empty place.
He then looked down upon the earth and saw your tired face.
God saw you getting weary and a cure was not to be.
So He put His arms around you and whispered "come to me."
With tearful eyes we watched you, and saw you pass away.
Although we love you dearly, we could not make you stay.

He saw the road was getting rough and the hills were hard to climb,
So He gently closed your eyelids and whispered "Peace be thine".

It broke our hearts to lose you but you didn't go alone,
For part of us went with you the day God called you home
A golden heart stopped beating, hard working hands at rest.
God's garden must be beautiful He always takes the best.

Oliver was a faithful member of Team 4 Mullingar, since the 23rd of November 1987

Prayer Intentions

For the deceased:

Oliver Cahill, Mullingar; Cyril Quinn, brother of Owen Quinn, Galway.

For those who are ill:

Kevin Jordan, son of Lynn and Jim Jordan, Belfast.

Stephanie, sister of Maureen McMullan, Belfast

Oliver Cahill R.I.P. Died on the 22nd of January 2012

We in Team 4 (Mullingar) are extremely sad to be reporting on the recent death of Oliver, who was such a loyal and highly valued member of our team for over 25 years. Oliver's passing has left a huge void in our team, as did Jimmy Murrin's death in 1995. Oliver died from an illness which he bravely and with such typical good humour, fought for over 4 years. Yet his commitment to our team never wavered, despite his failing health and strength. As recently as last December we were privileged to participate in a Mass celebrated in Oliver and Mary's home, by our chaplain, Fr. Paul Crosbie.

As a team we will try to support Mary in any way we can, and on Mary's behalf we thank the many members of other teams who have either called to see her since Oliver's death, or who at the time attended the funeral liturgy, which was celebrated by Mary's brother, Fr. Andy (Doyle). The singing at the Mass by our own team member, Valerie (Moore) and by Oliver's daughter-in-law, Bernie, enriched a most meaningful liturgy.

We can only now reflect on, and be so grateful for, the enormous privilege it has been for us, the remaining members of team 4, to have prayed and shared in the joys and sorrows of our lives, over a 25 year period, with one of the nicest people you could ever meet.

We recently gathered at Oliver's graveside, and the following were some of our words and prayers as we fought away our tears of sorrow at his passing.

"Our Christian faith brought us all together many years ago and we stand here now conscious of our great loss but also of God's goodness to us in blessing us with the company of Oliver, who walked along our path of life with us and supported us in every way- both practically and prayerfully throughout our wonderful times together.

We thank our blessed Lady for bringing Oliver into our lives, for his kindness, his goodness, his charity, his value-system, his humour and his constant prayerful presence at our meetings. We remember in particular Oliver's awareness of global tragedies and misfortunes.

We thank him for all the meals he helped prepare and for his wonderful hospitality when we went to his home in Beechgrove for our meetings.

We will all miss him but we believe that he will support us now from his rightful place in heaven. We ask our Lady to hear our prayers for Mary, Andrew, Paul, David and Raymond who are heartbroken by their loss of such a wonderful husband and father."

Rom. 1:11 "Meet your friends to share some spiritual gifts with them and to strengthen one another in faith"

Assumpta O'Meara

BRASILIA 2012

The Eleventh International Gathering of Teams will take place in Brasilia from 21st to 26th July.

The Theme is: **To dare to live the Gospel.**

The gospel chosen is the Parable of the Good Samaritan (Lk 10,25-37).

We pray that the Gathering will be fruitful for the whole Teams Movement at the service of Christ.

RESPONSIBLE COUPLES WEEKEND

Theme: The Road to Emmaus

Dates: October 6th and 7th 2012

Venue: Retreat and Conference Centre, Dromantine, Newry

Responsible couples or their replacement are expected to attend this weekend on behalf of their Team . All team members should contribute to the cost of the RC's attendance.

The cost for the weekend will be €100 per person sharing.

This includes all meals for the weekend and overnight stay on Saturday night.

If anyone wishes to stay on Friday night, including a meal, there will be an extra cost.

News from around the Region

Dublin

Annual Retreat

Our Annual Retreat took place on 3rd and 4th March at the Iona Centre, Knocklyon. Fr. Brian O'Toole Cssp, Chaplain to Team 25 presented the Retreat Theme "*The Eucharist: communion with Jesus Christ and with one another*". The principal topics of Fr. Brian's presentation were "***On the Road to Emmaus***", "***Our Heritage***" and "***Our Jewel The Eucharist***". Fr. Brian gave a powerful delivery and retained the gripping interest of everybody throughout the two days of our Retreat.

It was a wonderful Presentation over the two days and everyone felt enriched and renewed in our faith. On behalf of the Dublin Sector, we extend our thanks and appreciation to Fr. Brian for his hard work and efforts in making our Retreat for 2012 a truly wonderful experience.

Archbishop Diarmuid Martin's Address

We were to be further blessed as prompted by his recent public Talk on "Marriage and the Common Good". One of the Sector Team couples, Martha & Kevin Wade had received a letter from Archbishop Martin on an unrelated matter and they suggested that perhaps we should invite the Archbishop to speak at our Retreat on his Paper "*Marriage and the Common Good*". After further consideration and discussion, it was decided that Martha & Kevin should send an invitation to Archbishop Martin to speak at our Retreat. It was relatively short notice and in truth we had no real expectation that the Archbishop would be able to include our Retreat in his busy schedule of engagements.

However, we were delighted when Martha phoned to say Archbishop Martin had accepted our invitation and would address us at 4.00pm on Saturday 3rd March. He arrived on Saturday evening precisely on time and addressed our retreat for approximately an hour and a half. His delivery was scintillatingly clear. He explained: "***As a Catholic Bishop and Archbishop of Dublin, I have a special responsibility to foster marriage within the Christian community. I have responsibility to promote and support marriage as a social institution and as a sacrament of the Church***". Archbishop Martin spoke about societies like our own where faith and the Christian life once flourished and faith communities were strong and are now undergoing a far-reaching transformation. He explained that in today's world, "**people are torn between two realities, one God's and the other Caesar's but in many ways the reality of God is slowly being eclipsed and men and women live their lives as though God does not exist.**"

In concluding his talk, Archbishop Martin explained that those of us who are believers have to be in the lead in the promotion of what the family really means. We have to be courageous in promoting the ideal of marriage. "***Love and fidelity are part of the backbone of fruitful human interaction. We owe it to society and to the common good to see that the love and fidelity of marriage can find a truly enabling social environment to allow them to flourish***".

International Eucharistic Congress

As everyone no doubt is now aware, the International Eucharistic Congress is to be held in Dublin this year, commencing with the Opening Ceremony on 10th June and Closing with the “*Statio Orbis*” in Croke Park on Sunday 17th June. The Theme for Tuesday 12th June is “*Exploring and Celebrating the Communion of Marriage and Family*” (*Family day*). This is an important day for Teams. Our Regional Couple, Pat & Carmel Cunneen will give a talk on “*Spirituality for Married Couples*” commencing at 10.00. We would encourage all of our Dublin Sector team members to attend if possible on Tuesday to support Pat and Carmel’s Talk on this very important topic in the lives of all married couples. The Theme for Wednesday 13th June is “*Exploring and Celebrating Ministry – Ordained and Lay*”. Professor Brendan Leahy of the Focolare Movement will speak on “*Movements in the Church*”. Gerry & Grace Mangan of Team 26 will lead a Workshop on the Teams Movement. Lots of Team members are involved as volunteers and as many as possible are invited to attend and support this Workshop. Participation in this Workshop will also offer a once in a lifetime opportunity for couples to deliver personal statements/ accounts of witnessing Christian Marriage within the Teams Movement.

Stand No 27 has been booked for Teams and will need to be manned by Teams members from Sunday, 10th June through to and including Saturday 16th June. A significant number of members have already volunteered to man the stand. The Dublin sector is also offering accommodation to fellow Teams members on a B&B basis.

New Teams

Good progress continues to be made and under the stewardship of Vincent & Margaret Ryan from Team 3, a new Team has been formed in North Dublin. Two further new Teams are also in the process of formation, one in Sligo and one in Limerick and we ask for your prayers for a successful outcome.



TEAM 32 COUPLES SHARING A MEAL AT THEIR MONTHLY MEETING

The above photograph is taken from an article by Susan Gately and published by Reality Magazine on Equipes Notre-Dame Couples Witnessing Christian Marriage. The full report will be available on the website very shortly.

Breda & Tony Preston

Belfast

The sector held their December 8th Mass and social evening in the Passionist Centre, Tobar Mhuire, Crossgar, Co Down. The vigil Mass was concelebrated by Fr Ephrem Blake CP and Fr Gerry Cassidy CSsR. All teams were represented. It was a beautiful Mass. Afterwards we enjoyed meeting each other again whilst having tea and sandwiches and buns.

Our Annual Retreat was also held at Tobar Mhuire on 11th March 2012. It was led by Fr Perry Gildea CM, and the theme was "Communication with Christ and with each other". We all found the retreat inspiring and it helped us to have a better understanding of the Eucharist.

Our thanks to Margaret and Gerry Mulhern, who were the main organisers of both of the events above.

The Belfast Sector Team has been preparing for the Responsible Couples Weekend on 6th/7th October 2012. It will take place in the Retreat and Conference Centre, Dromantine, Newry. The theme for the weekend is 'The Road to Emmaus'. We will have two guest speakers: Dr Johnston McMaster, who is a Methodist minister, is a well known scripture scholar whose many activities include reconciliation and peace building, celtic Christianity and spirituality, and inter-faith dialogue; and Mrs Michelle Marken, who is former principal of St Joseph's College in Belfast, and is a well known broadcaster and commentator.

Your prayers are asked for Kevin Jordan (son of Lynn and Jim Jordan) who is undergoing tests at this time; and also for Maureen Mc Mullan's sister Stephanie.

Moyra and Brendan Bunting

Mullingar

Our annual retreat again took place at St. Camillus, Killucan, Co. Westmeath, on March 24th and 25th where we were made superbly welcome by Brother Augustine and Brother John. The retreat was led by Father John Humphreys S.J., from Galway, a Teams of Our Lady Chaplain. We were gently guided through coping with bereavement, always a difficult time for families. We were led through various prayer sessions. The Mass in the beautiful new chapel was very devotional with everyone participating. On our way out we were given a little prayer leaflet which read

‘Look ahead and pray over the time ahead:
The people you may meet,
The work you have to do,
The whole future of your life,
And offer it in humble love to God.’

A visiting Priest to Mullingar, Father Daniel, wishes to know details of E.N.D. He has attended a meeting with Team 6 already and is due to attend a meeting with Team 7. Father Daniel has said that he greatly admires the movement, supportive to families and to priests. In a recent sermon he gave, he suggested to us that a fire will fade out if further fuel is lacking, indicating to us that we need to nourish our faith life.

As this is the year of the Eucharistic Congress it has been decided to make our trip to the Congress our Summer outing. We look forward to attending on Tuesday June 12th (Family Day and Meath Diocesan Day). We are having a sequel evening to meet on Saturday June 23rd to share our experiences of the great event at 7pm at Bloomfield House Hotel. The Lynnbury Suite has been reserved for us. All Team members will be welcome but please let us know numbers who wish to join us.

Please remember to pray for Oliver Cahill who died in January. Oliver has been a staunch member for many years, he has been greatly loved and will be sadly missed by us all. May he rest in peace.

Pray for the success of the Eucharistic Congress which promises to be an enormous blessing on our country, families and friends.

Frank and Margaret Fagan

Galway

Recently we had our annual teams' retreat in Croí Nua. The day was facilitated by Fr. Michael Screene MSC and there was a good attendance. Our theme for the day was the Resurrection of Christ in our lives. The day went well and we were delighted to have Emmie Lloyd and Helen McCarrick with us on the day. John and Helen had just returned from visiting their family in South Africa and London. Eddie and Emmie had just climbed Knocknaree with a group of friends the previous week. Eddie as always played his part in providing the music for the Eucharist. Go raibh mile maith agat, Eddie.

On the last Sunday in June (the 24th) we look forward to our annual outing in Coole Park near Gort. We have always enjoyed this outing as we have been blessed with fine weather. We hope that Fr. Cóilin Garvey OFM will be available to celebrate the Eucharist which normally begins between noon and 12.30. All are welcome. We hope that Teams from Limerick and Sligo will join us again this year. Team members bring their lunch and after lunch a stroll in the park is always enjoyable. We were saddened to hear of the recent death of Cyril Quinn the brother of Owen in team 3. We extend our deepest sympathy to the family and relations. May he rest in peace.

It is almost twenty years since teams began for the second time in Galway. Fr. Ciary Quirk was chaplain for the first ten years while Liam and Dolores Corcoran were the piloting couple. We are very grateful to Ciary and the Corcorans for their enthusiasm and dedication.

Táimid ag súil le saoire an tsamhraidh. Guímis rath agus beannacht ar Equipes Notre Dame in Eirinn.

Ann and Billy Hyland

Continued from page 2

Joseph of Arimathea I think was faced with a similar dilemma to Pilate, whether to publicly profess what he knew to be the truth. Like Nicodemus he was a member of the Sanhedrin and wealthy. He was a secret disciple of Jesus we are told “because of his fear of the Jews.”(Jn 19.38.) Joseph unlike the Roman governor, made the decision to risk everything in coming forward at the time of the crucifixion to ask for the body of Jesus. Joseph came in just when he was needed; a person of authority who could take charge and lift the burden from the little group round the cross who must have been paralysed with grief. Joseph would have been a natural leader among the early Christians as a ruler who was probably very learned as well. His ability to act when necessary, his familiarity with the government and politics of the day and his courage to stand up for what he believed would have been invaluable.

Mary Magdalene was different to the other two, not only because she was a woman but because she behaved in a very different way. She was impulsive and often acted without thinking. Mary was obviously deeply in love with Jesus. She stood by Him as He died in agony, when most of his followers had fled and she went to the tomb either to embalm Him (Mark and Luke) or merely to be with Him in her grief (John). When she met the supposed gardener, she was all ready to go off and bring back the body of her beloved, oblivious to the fact that she wouldn't have the strength to do it. When Jesus appeared she clung to Him lest she lose Him again but at His command she ran off to the apostles with her news. I can imagine them all thinking:

“Silly woman - whatever will she come up with next!?”

Mary had a very different style of leadership to the centurion or Joseph. It seems that Jesus made His first appearance to her and we need to reflect deeply on this. Her willingness to love and her intimacy with Him have sometimes made the institutional church uncomfortable. The Holy Spirit breathes life in unexpected places and Mary would know this intuitively.

May the joy of the Risen Lord be with us all in our eucharistic experiences, and may we recognise and celebrate the gift that each team member brings, not only to the movement but to our very wounded church of which we are all part.

Elizabeth Roddy
Corcullen
Galway.

From the Regional Chaplain – Fr. Gerry Cassidy

Scripture Readings

Being ready and alert to answer God's Call

One of the marvels of Christian life is that fact that, as loved sinners made new by God's mercy, we are invited by Jesus to be his disciples. When we turn our attention to Jesus in the gospels, we can come to a deeper knowledge and love of him and his ways.

God, in that encounter with Jesus, stirs us with love and transforms our minds and choices so that, as the process of conversions unfolds, we become a fuller reflection of Christ for our own time in human history.

June If a human leader can have an appeal to us, how much greater is the attraction of the God-Man Jesus Christ. Matthew 16:24-26 & John 4:34.
What role have heroes and heroines played in my life? Who have been the mentors and models whose lives and values have inspired me?
What dreams, values and issues stir my passionate concern at this time in my life?

July Whoever wishes to join me in this mission must be willing to labour with me, and so by following me in struggle and suffering may share with me in glory.
Matthew 21: 28-32 & Luke 12:22-31
What is there about the person and priorities of Jesus which has drawn me into being a Christian disciple?
In all honesty, what do I hesitate to give up or to do in order to better respond to God's call?

August I desire to deepen my faith and trust in God who has become human in Jesus.
I try to enter into the vision of God and with God can I hear people laughing, crying, some shouting and screaming, some praying, others cursing. Luke 1: 26-38
What aspects of being human are delightful to me? What aspects can be burdensome?
In what areas of my life am I being asked to say "yes" as Mary did?

From the Treasurers

Annual Contributions

It is that time of year again when we need to raise the issue of contributions. As you know we are encouraged to give, where possible, one day's pay or whatever you can afford. We know you will make a special effort to help the Movement this year. Contributions are normally collected at the June assessment meeting and can be forwarded to your sector couple or directly to ourselves at:

No. 46A Leopardstown Grove
Blackrock,
Dublin 18. Tel No. 01 2884405
We hope and trust you are all well.
God bless
Sheila and Michael Foley
