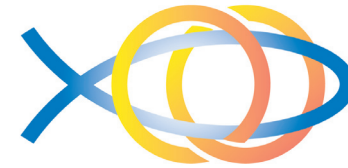


Team Meeting 5



During the Next Month

Spend some time on the endeavours that have been introduced. Remember that you may not always succeed at implementing them, but hopefully with the ongoing support of your Team, you will improve in time.



Equipes Notre-Dame
Teams

Team Meeting 5



In Advance of Meeting 5

You have been introduced to five of the endeavours so far. These are opportunities for you on your journey of faith. How have you fared in introducing them into your life? If you are finding them difficult, you are not alone in this life long challenge. Perhaps you could refer back to the endeavour leaflets that you have been given so far to help you. The endeavours that have been introduced so far are:

- Personal Prayer
- Prayer as a couple and as a family, where appropriate
- Word of God
- The Sit Down
- The Rule of Life

As a preparation for Meeting 5 spend a little time reflecting on your experiences of being on a retreat (if you have been on one). What type of retreat(s) were they and how did they impact on you?

Team Meeting 5



Prayer

For the sequence of prayer please refer to the Team Meeting Card.

Scripture Text 2 Peter 1 (verses 3-8)

By his divine power, he has lavished on us all the things we need for life and for true devotion, through the knowledge of him who has called us by his own glory and goodness. Through these, the greatest and priceless promises have been lavished upon us, that through them you might share the divine nature and escape the corruption rife in the world through disordered passion. With this in view, do your utmost to support your faith with goodness, goodness with understanding, understanding with self control, self control with perseverance, perseverance with devotion, devotion with kindness to the brothers and kindness to the brothers with love. The possession and growth of these qualities will prevent your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ from being ineffectual or unproductive.

Psalm Psalm 84

R. Let us see, O Lord, your mercy and give us your saving help.

I will hear what the Lord God has to say
a voice that speaks of peace.

His help is near for those who fear him
and his glory will dwell in our land.

Mercy and faithfulness have met;
justice and peace have embraced.
Faithfulness shall spring from the earth
and justice look down from heaven

The Lord will make us prosper,
and our earth shall yield its fruit.
Justice shall march before him.
and peace shall follow his steps.

For as the heavens are high above the earth
so strong is his love for those who fear him.
As far as the east is from the west
so far does he remove our sins.

Concluding Prayer

We thank you Lord for the gifts you have showered on us. Guide us that we are not distracted by careers or by ambitions from our path to you, and help us to use our talents, and the opportunities you have given us, in the service of your kingdom. We ask this through Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns for ever.

Amen.

Team Meeting 5



Endeavours

You will have the opportunity to talk about any of the endeavours that you have spent time working on. The effort or method that has helped you move forward on this lifelong challenge, could be the encouragement that others in the Team need to kick start their journey, or vice versa!

In addition the sixth and final endeavour, the “Team Retreat”, will be introduced.

Study Topic

Pressures of Modern Society

“ Let us go off by ourselves to some place where we will be alone and you can rest for a while.” Mark 6 (verses 31-32)

In our highly structured and complex society, marriages cannot escape the pressures of modern living such as technology, speed, mobility, competition and social demands. It seems that on all sides, traditional Christian values are being ignored or at least questioned by society. The pressures of modern society can affect our family and personal relationships. Each of us can probably give personal examples. The question is, can these pressures be countered so that the elements of our Christian marriage and other values that we hold as important are not eroded?

As Christians, we didn't just “get married”. A great deal of thought went into the choice of our partner and our future together. We developed some picture (hazy as it might have been) of a married life founded on our human love and supported by Christ's love.

Despite our human deficiencies and weaknesses, we started to live a sacrament that is our Christian marriage. Time, and the avalanche of married “busy-ness” tend to obscure or bury the basic fact that Christian marriage is a DAILY sacrament. A husband and wife can find innumerable ways to give Christ to one another every day of their married lives, and in so doing, each can grow closer to Christ. One of the most challenging aspects of the married vocation is that we must now approach God, the Church and the world as a couple, together - not two separate individuals, following different paths. If we can do that, we achieve “married spirituality” - living together a Christian life in accordance with the will of God.

- What “pressures” do you find most common in marriage in general?
- What approaches have you used to counter the effect of these pressures?
- Are there some pressures that “nothing can be done about”
Why do you think this?