



THE SECTOR COUPLE

September 2005

This document was prepared by the Formation Satellite Team for the Teams of Our Lady



Introduction

"The teams are grouped in a Sector and the Sectors themselves in Regions; the Responsible Couples of the Regions and Sectors are responsible for the progress of the Teams entrusted to them." (The Charter of Teams of Our Lady, 1947)

This is how the Teams of Our Lady Charter presents the Sector within the structure of the Movement. Following on the Charter numerous documents have been written to define and clarify the roles of the different levels of responsibility and leadership within Teams.

The principal documents are:

- ❖ Responsibility within Teams of Our Lady, ERI, May 1993;
- ❖ Guide of Teams of Our Lady, ERI, May 2001;
- ❖ Exercise of Collegiality, ERI, 2002;
- ❖ Call to service within Teams, ERI, 2004

In the light of the evolution of the Movement and the changes in society, the Movement considered it appropriate to set up Satellite Teams to help bring a vision better adapted to its mission and to its way of exercising the responsibilities to which the Lord and the Movement are calling both couples and individuals.

The documents mentioned above have inspired the drafting of this new document "THE SECTOR COUPLE" The principal aim of this document is to guide and enlighten those couples who will become responsible for a Sector. At the outset of their responsibility, it will provide the elements which the couple will need in order to deepen the spirituality of their mission, to better understand their role, and to organize their Sector in an efficient way.

We are conscious of the difficulty of making this document fit for use internationally. The principles and guidelines to describe this service are presented as orientations implicit in the commitment of the Sector Couple. However, in practice, care will be taken to respect the culture, the mentality and sensibility of each country.

In this way internationality is preserved in the principles and the orientations, but flexibility, suppleness and adaptability are sought in order to ensure a better exercise of responsibility and collegiality.



TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introduction	1/39 - 2/39
Contents	3/39 – 5/39

Chapter 1 - The Sector

1.1.0	Description of a Sector	6/39
1.1.1	The Sector	6/39
1.1.2	The place of the Sector within the Movement	5/39
1.1.3	The Importance of the Responsibility of the Sector	5/39
1.1.4	The Mandate	6/39
1.1.5	The Call and Appointment	3/39
1.1.6	Call to service	6/39
1.1.7	The Length of the Mandate	6/39
1.2.1	The Sector Couple	6/39
1.2.2	The collegiality in Teams	7/39
1.2.3	The Exercise of Responsibility	7/39
1.3.0	The Sector Team	7/39
1.3.1	The Reason behind a Sector Team	7/39
1.3.2	Building a Sector Team	8/39
1.3.3	The Functions of the Sector Team	8/39
1.4.1	The Spiritual Counsellor	8/39
1.4.2	The Life of the Sector Team	9/39

Chapter 2 - Sector Services

2.1.0	Services of Introduction	10/39
2.1.1	Promotion / Expansion	10/39
2.1.2	Information	10/39
2.1.3	Piloting	11/39
2.2.0	Liaison Services	11/39
2.2.1	Spirit of Liaison	11/39
2.2.2	The Liaison	12/39
2.2.3	Types of Liaison	12/39
2.3.0	Development Services	12/39
2.4.0	Support Services	13/39
2.4.1	The Secretariat	13/39
2.4.2	Sector Treasury	13/39
2.4.3	The Sector Newsletter	14/39
2.4.4	The Links with the Region	14/39

Chapter 3 - Assuming the Sector Responsibility

3.1.1	Evangelical Attitudes	15/39
3.1.2	A Call	15/39
3.1.3	An Answer	16/39
3.1.4	A Service	17//39
3.1.5	A Mission	18/39
3.2.1	Human attitudes	18/39
3.3.0	How to Prepare for the Responsibility of a Sector	19/39
3.3.1	On a Spiritual Level	19/39
3.3.2	On the Management Level	19/39
3.3.3	The Training Sessions	20/39

Chapter 4 - The Role of the Sector Couple

4.1.0	The Team of the Sector	21/39
4.1.1	To Animate	21/39
4.1.2	To Liaise	22/39
4.1.3	Training	22/39
4.1.4	Organization of Sector Activities	23/39
4.1.5	Promotion	23/39
4.2.0	Relations with the Movement	24/39
4.2.1	Sector Accountability with the Movement	24/39
4.2.2	At the Regional level	24/39
4.2.3	The International Level	25/39
4.3.0	Relations with Church and Society	25/39
4.4.0	Relations with "Small Sectors" and "Isolated Teams"	26/39
4.4.1	Small Sectors	26/39
4.4.2	Isolated Teams	26/39

Chapters 5 - The Functions of the Sector Couple

5.1.0	Management	28/39
5.1.1	Management in TOOL	28/39
5.1.2	The Collegial Approach	29/39
5.1.3	The Principles of Collegiality	29/39
5.1.4	The Fruits of Collegial Responsibility	30/39
5.1.5.	Note to assist animation and evaluation	30/39
5.2.0	Coordination of the Sector Team	32/39
5.3.0	Animation and bringing life to the Sector	32/39
5.4.0	Mobilization of Team Members	32/39
5.5.0	Passing on the Responsibility of a Sector	33/39
5.5.1	The Succession of the Sector Couple	33/39
5.5.2.	Transition to a New Sector Couple	34/39



Chapter 6 - Regular Sector Activities

6.1.0	Defining the Role	35/39
6.2.0	The Meetings of the Team Responsible Couples (R.C.s)	35/39
6.2.1	Objectives of these Meetings	35/39
6.2.2	Proposed Agenda for the Meetings	36/39
6.3.0	Meetings with All the Team Couples of the Sector	36/39
6.4.0	Practical Advice	36/39
	Conclusion	38/39
	References	39/39



CHAPTER 1

1.1.0. Description of a Sector

“The Sector is a community of teams who desire to help each other travel together. It is usually a geographical unit made up of approximately 5 to 20 teams, allowing for direct communication and meeting of others, and grouping enough couples to ensure a critical mass. It constitutes the most essential community for the life of teams.” (Positions of Responsibility in TOOL, May 1993, p12)

1.1.1 The Sector

The Sector is a group of Teams within which the Team members are called to offer their talents and their gifts in accordance with the charisms and availability of the couples called to serve in the Movement. More than the structure in place, it is the individuals who weave the bonds of membership and who circulate the life of the Movement.

1.1.2 The Place of the Sector within the Movement

The Sector is at the heart of the organization and development of the movement. Its relatively small size allows the Sector Couple to get to know each team's responsible couple (R.C.) and most of the team members personally, which is indispensable for the life of the Movement.

The principal role of the Sector is therefore to ensure a dual link, between the Teams in the Sector and between those Teams and the Movement. Without the Sectors, no life would be transmitted to the team members; the Teams would dry up and fall apart.

1.1.3 The Importance of the Responsibility of the Sector

After piloting, the individual Team becomes autonomous, and through the Sector Couple, the Sector is the first link which will create the bond with the other Teams in the Sector, and with the Movement. The Sector, accordingly, is the first entity to which the Team will be grafted in order to ensure its vitality. For the base Teams it is the most important responsibility in the Movement. The life of the Team Members and their membership of the Movement are entrusted to the Sector Couple and the Sector Team.

It is extremely important to clarify the responsibility of the Sector Couple so as to facilitate their mandate which is, above all, to imbue the Teams of the Sector with the life of the Teams of Our Lady and to ensure that that life will be faithful to the charism of the Teams of Our Lady.

Each Team is an authentic Christian Community. The Sector is the first rung of the community formed by the whole of the Movement of the Teams of Our Lady. *“The Sector is a community of Teams wanting to travel together with mutual help along the way (...) It forms the most essential community for team life,” (Responsibility within Teams of Our Lady, ERI, May 1993)*

1.1.4 The Mandate

“The responsibility of a sector is assigned by the Movement to a couple called Sector Couple supported by a Sector Team. This team is made up of a few couples a priest and the spiritual counsellor of the Sector.” (Teams' Guide, ERI, May 2001, p.33)

1.1.5 The Call and Appointment

Each region has its own method for calling and appointing its Sector Couples. The call is determined by a collegial process while the appointment is the responsibility of the Regional Couple.

“All responsibility in Teams is a service. The Movement isn't structured upon the principles of political democracies. We are not "at the service" as we have not submitted our candidacy, undertaken a campaign with a program nor elected by a majority. We have been called, not upon our own merits, but because the Lord looked upon us.”

1.1.6 Call to service in Teams, ERI, 2004)

This official recognition enhances the importance of this responsibility and looks as a “sending for mission (Luc 9, 1-6)”.

1.1.7 The Length of the Mandate

The mandate of a Sector Couple is for three years:

“Their duration of service is for three years. The Sector Couple is called to serve by the Regional Couple” Teams' Guide, ERI, May 2001, p.33

1.2.1 The Sector Couple

The responsibility of the Sector is borne by **both spouses**. Together they put their abilities, their gifts, their talents and their charism at the service of the Sector. The Sector Couple must possess a good knowledge of the Movement. That is why the couple is strongly recommended to attend a training session devoted to this particular service. If the couple has been unable to attend such a session, the Regional Couple may appoint them while strongly advising them to attend a session at the earliest opportunity. Throughout the whole of their mandate they will have the support of the Regional Couple in discerning the needs of their Sector.

The Sector Couple must take both a general and a particular view of their Sector. They must be aware of the needs felt and expressed and of the problems being experienced by the Teams and by the members of a Team. They must know what resources can be called upon to help them resolve whatever difficulties are encountered.

The activities of the Sector Team are the responsibility of the mandated couple working collegially with the Sector Team. The Sector Couple is accountable to the Movement for its decisions and for carrying them out.

"When the collegial process cannot reach a consensus and when solicited by the sector team, the sector couple must make their final decision in their soul and conscience, in view of their responsibility. But this must be undertaken in prayer, in close union with the Spirit and in a spirit of service."

1.2.2 The exercise of collegiality in Teams of Our Lady, ERI, 2002, p.11

The Sector Couple must be concerned about the spirit and progress of the Teams. In addition, they must watch over the growth of the conjugal spirituality of the Team members in the Sector who are entrusted to them. The Sector Couple and the Sector Team must look after the progress of the Teams in the Sector so as to ensure that the Team members derive the greatest possible benefits from the Movement in which they have put their confidence and in this way be witnesses of the Lord.

1.2.3 The Exercise of Responsibility

The exercise of their responsibility by the Sector Couple is founded on the notion of service. They develop the practice of collegiality with their Sector Team, relying on certain well tried working principles:

- ❖ Fostering trust and friendship;
- ❖ Discovering the gifts of each member and putting these at the service of the Sector Team;
- ❖ Guiding the Sector Team through reflection, study and discussion allowing for the free expression of everyone's ideas;
- ❖ Acting in fraternal charity working toward consensus in decision making. *"The Exercise of Collegiality, Teams, May 2001"*

1.3.0 The Sector Team

1.3.1 The Reason behind a Sector Team

The sharing of tasks is not the primary reason for the Sector Team. *Co-responsibility and Collegiality* encourage the involvement of all team members, the members being mutually enriched by the diversity of opinions, reflections, gifts and talents of the couples making up the Sector Team. The leadership of the Sector Team is primarily a spiritual one attentive to the Spirit. To be attentive to the Spirit, which entails praying, and exchanging views and ideas in a fraternal spirit that is open and humble, it is preferable not to be alone. It is only through this prayerful and collegial reflection that a true discernment is made possible.

1.3.2 Building a Sector Team

There are many ways of creating a Sector Team. There is no general rule for its formation because the local situation and circumstances vary. However, experience has shown that to work well it should not be too large.

Its composition depends, to a considerable extent, on the needs and characteristics of the Sector itself, and on the procedures which obtain in the Region. At the same time, the members should complement each other so that they can work together responsibly in a spirit of collegiality.

A basic team should never become a Sector Team. It is preferable to take care that the Team represents the various age groups of the Sector.

All the members of the Sector Team are encouraged to include the spiritual support of the Sector in their prayers. Since the Intercessor movement is not officially part of the Teams' Movement, the Intercessors can be asked for their spiritual support. In this way, the Intercessors will pray that the Holy Spirit may accompany, enlighten and guide the Sector Team in the exercise of its responsibility.

1.3.3 Functions of the Sector Team

The following functions are listed in the **Guide of Teams (May 2001)**:

- ❖ Spiritual support;
- ❖ Liaison;
- ❖ Organization of activities; and
- ❖ Spread of the Movement.

1.4.1 The Spiritual Counsellor

The Spiritual Counsellors' for the Sector is the priest who advises the Sector Couple and the Sector Team. After consultation, he is chosen by the Sector Couple.

As the title clearly indicates, he advises the Sector Team. Particularly he assists in keeping Teams open to and in communion with the Church. The Sector Team includes him in their discernment, important decisions and activities.

It is important to keep him informed of the details of the Sector. He helps the Sector Team to consider problems in the light of the Gospel. The spiritual support of the Sector is enriched by his presence at the Sector Team meetings and Sector activities. His contribution is particularly important when retreats and enrichment and formation sessions are planned.

In collaboration with the Sector Couple, he will prepare meetings with the Spiritual



Counsellors’’ of the Sector teams and will be available to the Spiritual Counsellors’’ of the Sector who might need his advice, encouragement or discernment. In addition, his advice and help can facilitate contacts with the hierarchy and clergy. *“The Priest, Spiritual Counsellor in Teams, ERI, 1993”*

1.4.2 The Life of the Sector Team

The life of the Sector is, in the first place, supported by prayer. At the meetings, there is a danger of giving too much importance to questions of organization and not taking enough time to allow oneself to be moved by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. It is a question of arriving at a balance between prayer and action.

Friendship, brotherly love and mutual trust greatly simplify the life of a Sector Team. Being a member of such a Team is very different from being a member of a base Team. The latter exists for your couple, and your fellow members; the former is there for the service of the Sector and the Movement. The latter is a long term affair; the former is temporary for a particular task.

Finally, it is a life of service," Your Sector Team will meet periodically to meet the needs of the Sector." *Team Guide, May 2001”*

After a time of prayer, there is a sharing on the tasks and the commitments of the Sector Team members. Then some time is devoted to getting to know the Teams in the Sector. Their problems are always discussed with discretion. There is no shortage of concrete questions: activities to prepare, Sector days, meetings to organize, information to be distributed, Teams to be completed and to be created, animation etc.

Formation is a very important aspect of the life of the Sector. In close collaboration with the Spiritual Counsellor, the Sector Couple will, each year, attend to establishing a plan relating to formation, principally with reference to the spirit of service which should infuse the life of the Sector Team. For this, the Spiritual Counsellor, at each meeting, will give a short commentary relating to the plan which has been established. The discussion and exchange with the Spiritual Counsellor are an integral part of the formation.

CHAPTER 2

SECTOR SERVICES

2.1.0 Services of Introduction

All the services involved with recruitment and formation of new Teams are grouped under this heading and include:

- ❖ Promotion / expansion;
- ❖ Information; and
- ❖ Piloting.

2.1.1 Promotion / Expansion

The aim of promotion is to make known to couples God's marvellous plan for Human Love:

Christian marriage is a path to love, happiness and holiness.

The aim is also to make the Movement known:

- ❖ to married Christians; and
- ❖ to couples preparing for the Sacrament of Marriage

Moreover, it may also help to lead Christian marriage, co-habiting couples who are searching to deepen their plan of life together, through an adapted and specific process, separate from that of the Teams of Our Lady.

The Movement of Teams of Our Lady is promoted to a very wide range of people; to all levels of the local Church and Diocese, to organizations which work for couples and family. Every Sector Team should draw up plans for promotion and expansion.

There are different ways of making the Movement known:

- a) Person to person
- b) Speaking to groups
- c) Spreading the word in parishes etc.

No way is more important than any other. Sector Teams should be open to making use of the most appropriate way, taking into account the particular circumstances in their Sector.

2.1.2 Information

This is the stage which follows promotion (expansion).

It consists in explaining the background of the conjugal spirituality proposed by the Teams of Our Lady. It is addressed to couples who have already shown an interest and are seeking a way to develop their spirituality.

There may be just one couple for an information meeting, or a group of couples.

2.1.3 Piloting

When a new team is formed, the Sector selects a pilot couple who will stay with the Team during the piloting period so as to make it capable of carrying on its own after the piloting is finished.

The Sector Couple will ensure that the following important points are borne in mind:

- It is the Lord who brings them together and not some affinity between the couples;
- The aim pursued by a Team is to commit themselves to seeking human and spiritual growth through conjugal spirituality;
- Propose an attainable ideal. In particular, the Endeavour's are a means of gradual progress and not objectives to be attained immediately. The couples should be both reassured by the progress they have made and anxious to advance beyond where they are; and
- The spirit should always prevail over the letter of the law.

When the piloting has finished, the Sector Couple will provide the Team with support and a link. The Sector will define the nature of the liaison required to create this link and to safeguard the Team's fidelity to the Movement and to its teaching.

2.2.0 Liaison services

These services are essentially services of liaison with the Teams in the Sector.

2.2.1 The Spirit of Liaison

The need for a liaison couple became apparent very early in the development of Teams of Our Lady. It was no longer possible for Father Caffarel, or the leaders of the Movement, and eventually the Sector Couples, to maintain a close link with each Team. The aim of liaison is to promote communication and ensure that all of the Teams are closely linked firstly to the Movement, but also to each other.

The Charter tells us:

"Although very useful, the Monthly Letter is not sufficient to ensure that the ties between the leaders of the Movement and all the Teams be as close and as fruitful as possible. Each team is cared for by a Liaison Couple. The Liaison Couples are each responsible for about five teams. The frequent contacts of the Liaison couples with the leaders of the Movement enable the leaders to pass on their directives and, at the same time, stay informed of the wishes and needs of the Teams. In this way, the Teams are linked to the leaders of the Movement by bonds of mutual understanding and not purely by administrative functions". (The Charter of Teams 1947 p. 14)

2.2.2 The Liaison

For the base team, the liaison is an appreciation, objective, neutral and fraternal by a visiting couple, which permits the Team to see how it is really working and which shows them the benefits which can be reaped if they remain faithful to the particular charism of the Teams of Our lady and to its methods. In addition, the Liaison Couple reminds the Team of the advantages of remaining united to the other Teams in the Sector and of participating in its activities and of accepting to observe the priorities of the Movement.

The liaison is a service to be provided to each base Team and equally a service to be provided to the Sector. It enables the Sector to get to know the vitality of the base Teams, their needs and difficulties, and in the light of them to plan the Sector activities, and the sessions of formation and enrichment.

The many forms which liaison can take enable the task to be simplified and made attractive and desirable. The function is filled by a couple or by other ways appropriate to the local situation.

The liaison establishes horizontal links between the base Teams and vertical links with the Sector Couple and the leaders of the Movement.

2.2.3 The Types of Liaison

The choice of types of liaison calls for judgment on the part of the Sector Couple. Some of the factors influencing the choice are the availability of couples, the size of the sector, its geographical distances and means of communication (internet, fax, telephone, etc.)

Horizontal liaison is very important. The Sector Couple, when the Sector is small, and the liaison couples, when the Sector has more teams, meet periodically with the Team responsible couples. This permits a better communication in both directions and additionally strengthens the feeling of belonging of the base teams.

We should always give priority to "personal and face-to-face liaison: as contact and communication provide life and encouragement." (**Responsibility in TOOL, ERI may 1993**)

2.3.0 Development Services

This term covers the services available to Team members as aids to their growth and development:

- ❖ Sector activities;
- ❖ Sector days;
- ❖ Retreats and development sessions;

- ❖ Training sessions; and
- ❖ Sessions developing the charism and the teaching.

Each Sector develops its own experience in these areas depending on its particularity, and the resources available and the needs of its own environment, through local initiatives and its own special creativity.

2.4.0 The Support Services:

These are the services necessary for the proper administration of the Sector and easy sharing of information:

- ❖ The secretariat;
- ❖ Treasury;
- ❖ Newsletter; and
- ❖ Links with the Region.

2.4.1 The Secretariat

The Sector Couple selects one of the Sector Team couples to act as Sector Secretary.

The Secretariat retains in its archives a copy of all the basic documents of the Movement, the International Study Topics, and the archives of the Sector. The Secretariat looks after the correspondence and any documents received from the Teams in the Sector.

The Secretariat couple provides the Regional Secretariat with:

- ❖ A copy of the minutes of the Sector Team meetings; and
- ❖ The yearly list of Teams and their members as well as the Sector Newsletter if there is one.

2.4.2 Sector Treasury

Sometimes the Sector has at its disposal a sum of money resulting from subscriptions, depending on the number of Team members in the Sector. This sum is used to finance the organization and management of the activities of the Sector.

The subscriptions are shared out in accordance with the methods adopted by the Movement in conformity with legal requirements and those of the Movement.

The Treasurer keeps the books up to date and there must be absolute confidentiality with regard to subscriptions.

2.4.3 The Sector Newsletter

Where there is a Newsletter, it enables information about the life of the Sector and the Movement to be circulated. It promotes solidarity and the sense of belonging to the Sector. It creates bonds between the Teams and the Team members.

Any form of media is suitable for the publication and distribution of the Sector Newsletter.

2.4.4 The Links with the Region

If liaison is essential for the vitality of a Sector, it is equally essential for that of the Region.

Thanks to frequent contacts, bonds of friendship and confidence become established between the Regional Couple and the Sector Couples. In this way the Regional Couple ensures the unity of the different Sectors of the Region.

This liaison guarantees the transmission of the life of the Teams, on the one hand, vertically, between the Teams of the Sector and the Region and the Movement, and on the other hand, horizontally, between the Teams of the Sectors amongst themselves.

The liaison between the Sectors and pre-Sectors and the Region takes concrete form in the Regional College which comprises – the Regional Team and the Sector Couples. The liaison between the Region and isolated Teams is looked after by a Liaison Couple or by a support couple chosen for this service by the Region.



CHAPTER 3

Accepting the Responsibility of a Sector

3.1.0 *"If anyone serves, let it be as in strength granted by God "*

1 Peter 4,-11

"There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit. There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord .There are different kinds of working , but the same God works all of them in all men Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good." 1 Cor 12, 4-23

"A spiritual responsibility can only be conceived as received from the Lord, it can't be usurped, meaning one must maintain close union with the One who conferred this responsibility"

Fr Tandonnet

This chapter is a very good reflection of the long tradition of the Movement, summarized in recent texts such as:

- ❖ *Responsibility in Teams of Our Lady - May/93;*
- ❖ *Guide of Teams of Our Lady, - International Leading Team, - May 2001;*
- ❖ *Exercise of Collegiality in Teams of Our Lady, International Leading Team, 2002*

3.1.1 Evangelical Attitudes

Accepting responsibility in Teams is a mission within our range, which transforms us in a climate of love and warmth. The notion of responsibility is huge and often unclear. In this chapter we will try to define with more precision what responsibility means in the Teams of Our Lady.

3.1.2 A call

"The evangelical parable illustrates the immense vineyard of the Lord and the large crowd whom He calls and sends to work there. The vineyard is the entire world (Mt 13, 38) which must be transformed according to God's plan, towards the final achievement of the Kingdom of God". (Christi fideles laici)

A call from the Lord

It is not in their own name that the Couples with responsibility in the Movement call us. It is the Lord who is calling you through them. This call to accept responsibility is above all God looking with love on us and our couple, in spite of our weakness and our limits.



Just as this call is personal and not addressed to a group, so the responsibility of the couple to God and to the leaders of the Movement, who have chosen this couple, is total and personal

b) A Call to a Greater Love

It is a call to love more, to love the Lord more, to love more one another, the Movement and the Church. The Lord asked Peter three times: "Peter do you love me? Do you love me more than the others?" After Peter had answered, 'yes' the Lord said: "Feed my sheep". The first question that the Lord asks us before entrusting us with a responsibility is a question about love.

c) A Call to Conversion

The responsibility with which the Lord entrusts us should be an occasion for self-renewal in the Spirit. It is through praise and thanksgiving, asking and forgiveness, that the Spirit renews us. He invites us to truly know ourselves, to reach out to others, to listen to them and learn from them, to be challenged by His Word and to serve, following Christ the Servant.

3.1.3 A Response

a) A Response in Gratitude

The conviction of the messenger comes from the certainty derived from his personal encounter with the one who sent him. This certainty is the foundation of all enthusiasm, courage, and prophetic action. The joy of having experienced God's kindness gives to the couple who accept the responsibility a lasting momentum because its support is God's love.

b) A Response of Surrender

We are never fully prepared for a responsibility or the service which flows from it. It is with Mary's attitude of surrender that we need to abandon ourselves to the movement of the Spirit, to let ourselves be guided by Him. It is with the heart of the poor in spirit that responsibility must be welcomed in an act of faith and confidence in the Word of Jesus "Go, I am with you".

We must believe that the Lord develops in us the capacities He has given us and that these gifts are those which will be seen to be needed at the opportune moment.

c) A response of self-denial

To accept to serve implies already the notion of self-denial. "The disciple is not greater than his master". To be ready to die a little for others, to give them part of our life, means not only giving them our work, our talents and our time, but also to give ourselves freely, in the joy of sharing without reservation.

3.1.4 A Service

"The ministers present and operating in the Church are all, although in different roles, a participation in the ministry of Jesus-Christ, the Good Shepherd who lays down his life for his sheep (John 10: 11), the humble servant who gave his life as a ransom for many" (Mark 10: 45) Christifideles laici,)

a) A Service Accomplished with Detachment

We do not own our Teams nor the service that is asked of us. The Lord is the only Pastor, the only guide. We are co-responsible and we take pleasure in all the good that others bring to our Teams.

Responsibility in Teams is a temporary service. We are not irreplaceable, nor are we the guardians of orthodoxy, or the only interpreters of the charism. On the contrary, other couples, with other talents, will continue the work and contribute to the enrichment of our Movement.

b) A Service Asked of the Couple

It is the sacrament of marriage which is the source of fruitfulness in service, and it is as a couple that we are a sign for others. In this service the couple pool their talents and their complementary approaches through dialogue, reflecting together, involving the whole couple. Their conjugal prayer is the privileged place where the Lord nourishes and enlightens the couple.

c) A Service undertaken as a Team

In Teams of Our Lady, responsibility is not exercised in an individual or authoritarian way. The leaders must gather round them a genuine team, not only to share the work, but especially to collegially discern together, with the help of the Spirit, the true spiritual needs of the teams for which they are responsible. It is the task of the Responsible Couple to give leadership to the team with conviction and enthusiasm, to develop unity, stimulate the gifts and talents of each and encourage sharing with everyone.

d) A Service within the Movement

Although the service is exercised as a team, it is the Sector Couple who bear the direct responsibility within the Movement. This presupposes that the Sector Couple are open to the needs of the couples and the teams of their Sector and that they work in close communion with the entire Movement, faithful to its charisms and its orientations.

e) A Service in the Church

Our service has a special character through its being a service of lay couples. Its foundation is our priesthood of the faithful and our sacrament of marriage. It complements the service of the priests, spiritual counsellors”. Open to all dimensions of the Universal Church, in union with it, we work to make the Church the People of God, and to make our responsibility a service of that People.

f) A Service Rooted in the Word of God and the Eucharist

We can do nothing without drawing living water from the well, without ensuring that we listen to our only Master, in silence, by the regular practice of meditation. We keep in our hearts the Word that is addressed to us, the events that challenge us. It is by meditating on all this that things become clearer and that we succeed in discerning God’s Will.

3.1.5 Mission

Acceptance of this responsibility requires a deepening of the sense of commitment and mission within the Movement and the Church. To include the responsibility of the Sector in the Mission of the Movement will avoid bureaucracy. The Sector responsibility will be rooted in the long tradition of the Movement, to which will be added an adaptation to the current methods of working and carrying on the activities of the Sector.

The Sector couple and the Sector Team will find their inspiration in important references in the Gospels, the Charter, the documents of the Teams of Our Lady, and Church documents dealing with the mission of the Laity.

3.2.1 The Human Attitudes

Rooted in the evangelical attitudes, certain human attitudes which have to be acquired, preserved and developed come to support and consolidate the taking on of the responsibility throughout the whole of the mandate of the Sector Couple.

The couple is not obliged to have all the attitudes. It must be borne in mind that the two spouses complement each other through their respective strengths and talents. They can count also on the complementarities of the members of the Sector Team, not forgetting the special grace attached to every responsibility.

The list of human attitudes set out here below is far from being exhaustive. It can serve as a reference for a reflection on the make-up of the person who accepts the call to be responsible for a Sector or on the complementary elements of a group:

- Love of the Teams of Our Lady;
- Love of people and of couples;
- Openness of heart and spirit;
- Respect for self and others;
- Truth and honesty;

- Dynamism and determination;
- Self-confidence and confidence in the Team;
- Enthusiasm;
- Judgment;
- Work with realism and humility;
- Ability to face new challenges with confidence;
- A sense of responsibility;
- Acting according to strengths and limitations;
- Knowing how to justify decisions and attitudes;
- Respect for tradition and innovation;
- To be capable of controlling oneself;
- Calculating the extent of projects;
- Sharing the work;
- Relying on the resources already in place;
- Using people's complementarities.

3.3.0 How to Prepare for the Responsibility of a Sector

Preparing for the responsibility of a Sector is like finding a life style which:

- ❖ Deepens that already being lived in our Team; and
- ❖ Completes it in the direction of the responsibility taken on.

3.3.1 On the Spiritual level:

- ❖ Discuss the task during the Sit Down since taking charge of a Sector is done as a couple and the couple must safeguard its equilibrium;
- ❖ Pray more intensely, giving priority to intercession for all the couples of the Sector, and with a thought also for all the couples the Teams of Our Lady could help; and
- ❖ Nourish yourself with the Word of God and the sacraments to persevere with the mission entrusted to you by the Lord.

3.3.2 On the Management Level:

- ❖ Seek information in order to know better the Movement, the Regional Couple and other Sector Couples;
- ❖ Make a portrait of the Sector in order to get to know it properly: the Base Teams (composition, age, what stage they are at, any particularities etc.) the Responsible Couples, the Spiritual Counsellors, the Couples taking on a responsibility, and those who have had a responsibility;
- ❖ Improve their formation by attendance at sessions organized by the Region and the

Movement.

To get help: form a Sector Team with complementary varied talents in order to work as a college (see chapter 1 on the formation of the Sector Team.)

3.3.3 Training Sessions

The passing on of the spirit of responsibility and the commitment to the mission of the Movement cannot be achieved simply by the delivery of a document in which the tasks and the roles of the Sector Couple are described.

We strongly recommend that a training session be offered to couples who have agreed to take charge of a Sector. It is accordingly essential that training sessions be organized according to the needs of the Sector. The documents produced by the Movement are excellent and an enormous help and the importance of reading and rereading them should be emphasized, so that each person may be stimulated to reflect on their responsibility.

The Sector Couple and the Sector Team must have available to them the basic documents of the Movement:

- ❖ The Charter of 1947;
- ❖ What is a Team of Our Lady? 1977;
- ❖ Responsibility in the Teams of Our Lady, May 1993;
- ❖ The Guide of the Teams of Our Lady, International Leading Team, May 2001; and
- ❖ The Exercise of Collegiality in the Teams of Our Lady, 2002.

The Sector Couple must see not only that the directives and priorities of the Movement are respected, but also that the spirit which is at the origin of the Teams of Our Lady, and has driven them ever since, is fully understood.

The Sector Couple must understand and accept the rules which are necessary for the correct functioning of the Sector and the whole Movement. In addition they must attend training sessions; and adopt the orientations, priorities and projects of the Movement in order to transmit them to their Sector.

CHAPTER 4

The Role of the Sector Couple

4.1.0 Vis-à-vis the Teams of the Sector

As regards the Teams in their Sector, the Sector Couple and the Sector Team take on the following tasks “spiritual animation, liaison, training, organizing activities, spreading the Movement.” (*Guide of the Teams of Our Lady, ERI, May, 2001 page 34*).

4.1.1 To Animate, (To give the spirit)

The Sector Couple and the Sector Team, taking into account the orientations proposed by the Movement, and the particularities and needs of the Sector and the Region:

- ❖ Choose what will help the couples to live better up to the ideal proposed by the Movement; and
- ❖ Develop and carry out a Pastoral Project for the Sector and a plan of action according to its means.

This is an on-going collegial work plan to be carried out with the Sector Team. The planning must be done well in advance so as not to be rushed. Prayer assists good judgment. In practice, this will mean:

- ❖ helping couples to fully live their marriage sacrament and to be dynamic Christians in the Church and in Society;
- ❖ Helping the Teams be true Christian communities;
- ❖ Creating and maintaining the unity and cohesion of the Sector;
- ❖ Encouraging the Teams to get to know each other;
- ❖ Creating links of solidarity and of belonging to the Movement;
- ❖ Making known and deepening the orientations of the Movement so that they may be of help in the spiritual life of the couples;
- ❖ Keeping a reasonable balance as regards the activities proposed to couples who frequently are very taken up by a variety of commitments;
- ❖ To encourage couples to take on commitments within and outside the Movement (*The Responsibilities in Teams of Our Lady, International Leading Team, May 1993, page 19*).

4.1.3. To Liaise:

- ❖ Liaison is indispensable for building and developing a spirit of community and unity;
- ❖ For giving a sense of belonging to the Movement and of fidelity to its aims and methods;
- ❖ Liaison ensures a sharing of life vertically, the Teams with the Movement, and horizontally, amongst the Teams themselves;
- ❖ Liaison is not only an experience of communication but also an announcement of the Good News;
- ❖ It has an evangelical and challenging dimension;
- ❖ Liaison must consist of personal contact and communication. The dynamics of the liaison will be adapted to the situation and resources of each Sector in order to promote the life of the Teams; and
- ❖ The Sector Team can assume the liaison themselves or call on couples appointed by the Sector Couple. (**The Guide of Teams of Our Lady, May 2001, pages 38-39.**)

4.1.3 Training

Working closely with the Sector Team and the Regional Couple, it is for the Sector Couple to promote training. Accordingly the Sector Couple will attend to the following:

- ❖ helping team couples understand the spirit of the methods and orientations of the Movement;
- ❖ Discussing with them the life of the Church and society;
- ❖ Studying with Team members the documents of the Movement;
- ❖ Encouraging them to participate in Sector meetings and activities of the Sector;
- ❖ Helping base Team couples to fully live their faith and sacrament of marriage;
- ❖ Helping couples to understand God's presence in the daily life of the individual and society;
- ❖ Helping couples to assess their commitments within and outside the Movement;
- ❖ Proposing training to couples with a particular responsibility;
- ❖ Team responsible couple, liaison couple, couple responsible for information, spreading the Movement and piloting.

“Training sessions are an important time in the life of Teams. Their purpose is to transmit and deepen the couples’ knowledge of the spirit and methods of the Movement. Having thus deepened their understanding of the ways of the Teams of Our lady, couples are strengthened in their commitment. They live the life of the Movement more fully and are better able to fulfil their responsibilities.”(Guide of the Teams of Our Lady, May 2001 – Section 10)

4.1.4 Organisation of the activities of the Sector

In order to realize its triple mission (animation, liaison, formation) the Sector Couple and their Team must envisage a certain number of activities: meetings of mixed Teams, Sector days, Sector celebration of the Eucharist, prayer meetings, friendship days or meetings, retreats, lectures, study days and days of reflection etc.

It is important for the Sector Couple to arrange periodic meetings of the Spiritual Counsellors of their Sector to enable them seek to give greater depth to their role and their place in the Team through an exchange of their experiences.

4.1.5 Promotion

The role of the Sector Couple is of prime importance in the promotion of the Movement, since on their shoulders rests the missionary responsibility of the entire Sector and they have to give the impetus to its dynamism. (c.f. 2.1.1)

Promotion (expansion) has two aspects:

- ❖ The deepening of conjugal spirituality and the values of Christian marriage, (Spreading the Word);
- ❖ Promotion of the Movement itself. (Expansion)

The leadership of the Sector Couple is crucial. They should prepare a plan for the expansion of the Movement in the Sector which should take the following form:

- ❖ Organising with the help of the couples in charge of promotion (expansion), activities open to the greatest possible number of couples;
- ❖ To make approaches to parishes and other movements, establishing joint ventures;
- ❖ Giving Team members a sensitive awareness of their mission to promote the good news of Christian marriage; and
- ❖ Ensuring the start –up of new Teams with the help of the information and pilot couples (**Positions of Responsibility in Teams of Our Lady International Leading Team May 1993**)

4.2.3. Relations With the Movement

4.2.1. Sector Accountability to the Movement

The Sector Couple maintains a constant relationship with the whole of the Movement. The Sectors are united with the Movement through the Sector Couples. In addition, the Sector Couples must be in communion with the Regional Couple. In this way they seek to transmit the life of the Sector to the Movement, at the same time maintaining contact with the problems on the ground.

The Sector couple is members of the Regional College and should attend its meetings. If they are unable to attend, they must remain in communication with the Regional Couple.

The Regional Meetings enable the Movement to remain in contact with the base Teams, through the Sector Couples as intermediary, and to communicate to them the principal orientations and priorities of the Movement. They also enable the Sector Couples to get to know each other and to get to know the Regional Couple. In addition, they enable the Movement to inform the Sector Couples about the life and preoccupations of the Movement and to give them the general orientations which are essential.

Furthermore, they are an occasion for advancing the study of questions which are of interest to the life of the Movement, to which the contribution of the responsible couples is indispensable and the clash of differing views very enriching.

These meetings are enriching for the Sector Couples both from the spiritual and doctrinal point of view, which is considered to be essential.

4.2.2. At the Regional Level

It is essential to maintain close links between the Sector and Regional couples. The latter have an important role of liaison to perform in regard to the Sectors – and it is for the Sector couples to make them welcome and to keep them informed about the vitality of the Teams in their Sectors, and the problems encountered, particularly any thorny question that may have arisen in some of their Teams. It is normal to invite the Regional Couples to the various activities organized in the Sector, even if they are not always able to come to them.

The Regional College brings together, two or three times every year, the Sector Couples of the Region and the Regional Team. Their participation in the Regional College enables the Sector Couples to compare their experiences with those encountered in other Sectors.

The College will always be available to advice on all questions which may arise for decision by the Sector Couple. If the question is confidential, the Sector Couples can contact the Regional Couples between meetings of the College.

It is with the Regional Couples that they should raise the problem of who is to succeed

them. The choice of the couple who will take over has to be dealt with at the level of the Regional Couples (it is they who will have to work the following year with the new Sector Couples) and it should be made in consultation with the Sector Couple, to whom the couples in the Sector are well known.

Thanks to the Regional College, inter-Sector collaboration can be organized from time to time whenever it is needed.

4.2.3. At the International Level

As regards the Movement, it is essentially a question of gathering and transmitting information directly, with the Regional Couple acting as intermediary;

- ❖ Receiving from the Movement orientations and directives in order to transmit them to the Teams in such a way as to enable them to receive them and incorporate them in their lives;
- ❖ Retransmit to the Movement the experiences of the Teams, their joys, their difficulties, their questionings, their aspirations, their needs;

The Sector Couple have a special mission in the Movement and they should:

- ❖ Be answerable for the identity of the Movement in their Sector;
- ❖ Feel a joint responsibility for the life of the whole Movement;
- ❖ Take part in the Gatherings of the Movement;
- ❖ Study and deepen their knowledge of the documents and texts of the Movement;
- ❖ Follow the orientations and give a good reception to the demands of the Movement.
(c.f. **Responsibility in the Teams of Our Lady – E.R.I. May 1993 page 20**)

4.3.0. Towards the Church and Society

4.3.1. The Sector Couple are the local representatives of the Movement. They have therefore the following responsibilities:

- ❖ To spread conjugal spirituality, to propagate God's marvellous plan for human love;
- ❖ Give the sacrament of marriage its true value as a place of love, a path to happiness and a means of attaining holiness;
- ❖ To make the Movement and its riches known to couples, priests, deacons and the hierarchy of the Church, pastoral agents and diocesan organizations for the couple and the family;

- ❖ Take part in pastoral work for the family and maintain relations with other Movements of spirituality at the service of the couple and the family;
- ❖ To develop Team couples' awareness of their personal mission in the Church and the world;
- ❖ To find means of transmitting the ideal and the spirituality of the Teams of Our Lady. There is no magic formula for this. The Sector Couple need to use their imagination. Each Sector must become part of the social context of its environment, adapting its approach and its publicity so as to encourage the growth of the Movement; and
- ❖ To keep listening for the new signs of the times.

"It is important for the Teams of Our Lady to respond to the call of the Church for a new evangelization based on human love and family life. Today, the Church has a great need for married couples mutually enriched by life and faith. Christian couples have a missionary and charitable commitment to other couples with whom they wish to share their experience and show how Christ is the wellspring of conjugal life"
(John Paul II - 50th anniversary of the Charter, 1997)

4.4.0. Toward Small and Isolated Sectors

4.4.1. Toward Small Sectors

The Small and Isolated Sectors have fewer Teams than the urban sectors. The Sector Team will therefore be smaller and the number of couples available for the various Sector functions more limited.

Frequently, Teams in this type of Sector have begun at the same time, or thereabouts. Accordingly it is not possible to have the new Teams benefit from the experience of Team members who have been longer in the Teams. It is therefore important to establish a twinning relationship with the nearest urban sector.

When Sectors are close enough to one another, in addition to being good neighbours they can also become a source of support for each other. They can invite each other to take part in their respective activities. While each can maintain its particular character, these exchanges can greatly facilitate the activities of the Sector Couples. Each can benefit from the experience of the other through new ideas, mutual support and prayer.

Also, the Sector Couple should not hesitate to seek the support of the Regional Couple or to call upon the resources of the Movement (travelling formation couple, liaison couple etc.)



4.4.2. Towards Isolated Teams

Isolated Teams do not have the means to provide for their Team members the services which they might legitimately expect from the Teams of Our Lady (for example, Sector days, renewal sessions etc.) In the spirit of fraternal mutual help, and at the request of the Regional Couple, the neighbouring Sector Couples will be moved to offer them these services.

The liaison with these isolated Teams is part of the responsibility of the Regional Couple. However, the Regional Couple may ask a Sector Couple to help them temporarily in following the Teams which happen to adjoin their Sector. Alternatively, the Regional Couple can entrust the Teams to a liaison couple appointed for this work.

Chapter 5

The Functions of the Sector Couple

“Very often in the world today, the word ‘responsibility’ is synonymous with strength and power. But when Christ washed the feet of his disciples, he showed us another way to exercise responsibility in the Teams of Our Lady: by putting ourselves at the service of our brothers and sisters. Responsibility in Teams is an invitation to a greater love, and all responsibilities are a call to serve.

Responsibilities in the Teams of Our Lady are exercised by couples, meaning the husband and wife together. They exercise them with the help of other couples, in a team assisted by a priest-spiritual counsellor, in a climate of co-responsibility, collegiality and communion.” (The Guide to Teams of Our Lady, May 2001 Section V111)

5.1.0. Organisation

The Sector Couple take on the organization of the different aspects of their role. The four functions of organization, which are those of the decision procedure in all human activity, apply, accordingly, to each service and each activity.

5.1.1. The Constituents of the Organisation:

- ❖ Having a project; to have a project of work and growth for the Sector according to its needs;
- ❖ Planning to establish the priorities and orientations which should be ratified collegially by the Team responsible couples;
- ❖ Programming to establish a plan of action for the year with activities consistent with the priorities;
- ❖ Organising: To put into effect the plan of action through the activities;
- ❖ Evaluation: Carry out a thorough evaluation of the past year and target the priorities of the year to come.

Today, we can no longer rely solely on generosity and good will in the matter of taking on a responsibility. Voluntary work and commitment rely on methods which are better structured and adapted to the modern world. Use is made of the main principles of organization applicable and adaptable for every type of body. Recourse to new methods of organization and of animating meetings gives credibility and confidence to the Sector couples.

5.1.2. The Collegial Approach:

a) Opening oneself to Collegiality.

Collegiality can be defined as a pooling of the diverse and complementary gifts which the Holy Spirit has granted to each of us with the aim of a joint seeking of truth and achieving closeness at a deeper level. It presupposes an attitude of participating and not being authoritarian and demands discipline and work methods. It does not set at naught the mission of the Sector Couple. Collegiality surpasses our individual possibilities; it can only be the fruit of the Holy Spirit;

b) **Living Collegially**

The particular personality of each member of the Sector Team must be respected. Each member must feel loved and accepted by the others and feel that their ideas are respected and their contributions appreciated;

b) **Working Collegially**

Working collegially presupposes communication, open sharing, top quality listening and mutual trust. Working collegially is difficult and demands lots of listening, openness and tolerance.

We must accept that we have need of others and that they have need of us; we must allow ourselves to be challenged. We must therefore have a strong dose of common sense and realism, have an absolute loyalty towards the others, and be able to count on their trust and loyalty.

Finally, it is also clear that working collegially does not dispense the Sector Couple from its particular mission to take on board the final decision.

(Responsibility in the Teams of Our Lady – E.R.I. May 1993 pp 12-13)

5.1.3. The Principles of Collegiality.

In the course of its history, the Movement has developed progressively a spirit of collegiality in its way of working, with the aim of getting on well together and taking decisions. In order to succeed in this, certain principles can be perceived:

- ❖ The principle of equality confers on each person the same rights and the same duties and this ensures the conditions which are essential to the construction of true collegiality;
- ❖ Transparency stimulates free expression by those who wish to speak in complete freedom and confidence;
- ❖ Dialogue avoids the clash of opinions and convictions which would overshadow reflection and collegial judgment;



- ❖ The balance between collegiality and responsibility is a good indication that the sense of service, openness, and responsibility has been preserved during the exchanges and the making of decisions;
- ❖ The chain of collegiality is there throughout the whole line of responsibility and service in the Movement. Every level of responsibility must allow for this element of judgment, transparency, reflection and decision.

5.1.4. The Fruits of Collegial Responsibility

c) Love and Communion

It is important for each Sector Couple that one can say of their Sector Team: "See how they love one another". Responsibility having taught us to live in communion within the Movement, we can be agents of communion: and travelling the road with communion, we will be able to build bridges of dialogue, listening and reconciliation;

b) The Missionary Spirit

With the missionary spirit, it is a case of always keeping alive the concern to go further, to find new ways which bring us closer to other couples, to other milieux, to other countries. It is to feel compassion towards those who need us: the young, the aged, and the disappointed in love, those who despair, and those who, in order to believe in God's love, need to see a couple who love each other and who love others gratuitously.

c) Building of the Kingdom of God

Our responsibility at the heart of the Movement is a service which contributes to building the Kingdom of God in so far as we exercise it within the Church and in communion with the Church, relying on the charism and special character of our Movement. (**Responsibility in the Teams of Our Lady – E.R.I. May 1993 pp 12-13**)

5.1.5. A Note to assist Animation and Evaluation

The graphic design is a visual synthesis of different aspects of the good functioning of a Team in the field of work. The graphic becomes a mnemonic to enable account to be taken of the three important levels of functioning of the venture so as to be able to judge the value and the efficacy of the contribution of the members of the Team in the realization of a joint project and in the attainment of the objectives of the venture. The different aspects of the evaluation suggest concrete means of attaining the objectives of a venture.

It will always be profitable to keep in mind the reason for the venture by questioning oneself periodically on the objectives which have been fixed and the content of the

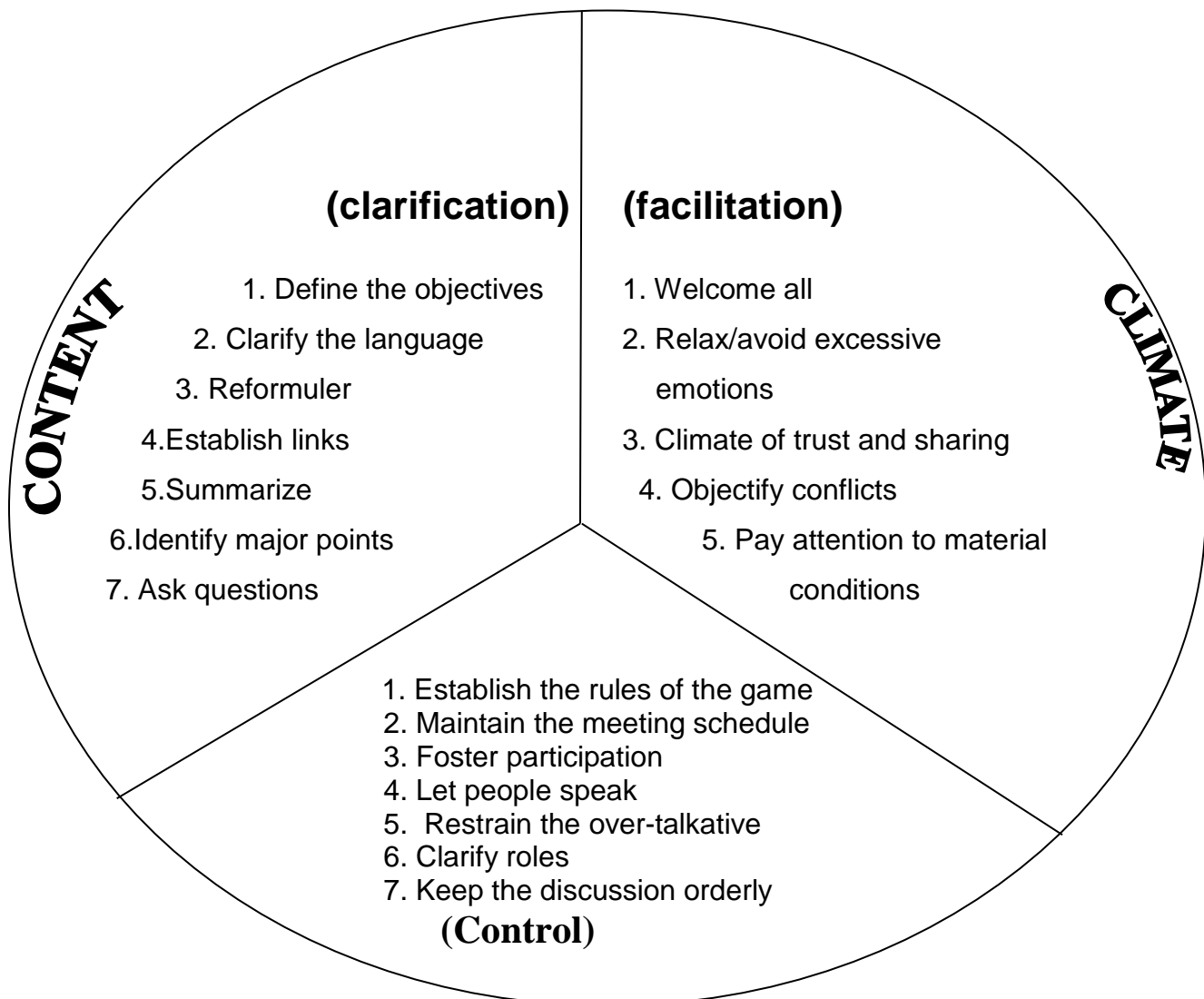
meeting and by clarifying the progress of the exchanges in order to attain the objectives.

Good relations between individuals encourage lots of exchanges. Accordingly, it is very important that people will feel confident in giving freely their opinions and making their proposals. In a spirit of collegiality one will see “Team formation” in an attitude of respect and fraternal acceptance of each other.

The attainment of the objectives is often guaranteed by the application of a certain number of rules which encourage the participation of all the members of the Team. The facilitator will see that these means are used to ensure the good working of the venture.

The three levels (content – climate - procedure) are complementary and the absence of any one puts at risk the attainment of the objective envisaged and the harmonious functioning of a meeting.

Three Areas to Consider



procedure

5.2.0. Coordination of the Sector Team:

- ❖ Collegially distribute the tasks and responsibilities within the Sector Team;
- ❖ Give clear tasks to couples of the Sector Team;
- ❖ Give occasional and specific tasks to couples of the Sector;
- ❖ Encourage and support the couples in carrying out their tasks;
- ❖ With the couples involved evaluate the results of what they were asked to do.

5.3.0. Animating and Bringing Life to the Sector

The Sector Couple will work to create a **collegial spirit**. A large part of the Sector team meeting will be devoted to reflection and prayer, so that the Team will fully understand that the work undertaken will not be accomplished without the help of the Lord.

Without losing sight of the different aspects of their responsibilities, the Sector Couple, and the members of the Sector Team, will define together what they propose to do to enliven the Sector, at the same time, keeping in mind the following considerations:

- ❖ To regard the couples and the base Teams as their clients;
- ❖ To help the couples to be dynamic Christians;
- ❖ To exercise leadership by providing reflection, sensitivity, orientations and the definition of priorities;
- ❖ To create and maintain the unity and cohesion of the Sector, the Team members link to the Movement, and their getting to know each other;
- ❖ To integrate the orientations of the Movement into the spiritual life of the couples;
- ❖ To keep a reasonable balance as regards what is proposed to couples who are frequently very taken up with a variety of commitments; and
- ❖ To promote the charism of Teams of Our Lady and conjugal spirituality.

5.4.0. Mobilization of Team Members

So as to keep very much alive the motivation of the individuals and couples who have taken on responsibilities in the Sector (information, piloting, liaison, Sector Newsletter etc.) it is advisable that the Sector Couple should bring them together for a meeting during the year.

There are three stages in the involvement of people who take on a commitment:

- ❖ Recruitment; when making contact for the purpose of recruitment, emphasise the needs of couples and those of the Sector, refer to the capacity of the persons contacted for the particular responsibility, assess with them the signs of the times, challenge them with this being a call from God, reassure them of being accompanied by Christ, and witness to the joy of serving.;
- ❖ Formation; offer them a session of formation to support them in their commitment, describe their mandate and facilitate understanding the nature of the task. Every commitment is preceded, confirmed and consolidated by a formation which is especially for the particular service;
- ❖ Recharging the Batteries. Meet annually all those who are involved in the Sector to give food to their reflection on their commitment and their mission, to support them and encourage them by mutual experiences, and to stimulate them to continue their involvement in serving the couples and the Movement; and
- ❖ Set aside a time for them to exchange their respective experiences and to encourage each other to continue their service. It can also be an occasion for giving thanks for the work of the Holy Spirit achieved through them.

The Sector Couple will play a more active part in this third stage. Being conscious of the difficulty of recruiting people for different responsibilities, the Sector Couples will need to deploy numerous and serious efforts to preserve their motivation and enthusiasm throughout the whole of their service.

5.5.0. Passing on the Responsibility of a Sector.

5.5.1. The Succession of the Sector Couple.

When the appointment of the new Sector Couple has been ratified by the Regional Couple, it would be extremely helpful that the outgoing Sector Couple should meet the new Sector Couple to inform them of the state of the Sector for which they are about to become responsible.

Although the new Couple have complete freedom of action and can exercise their own originality when taking charge of the Sector, they must none the less see that there is certain continuity in the functioning of the Sector and attending to outstanding matters.



Also the Sector Couple will make a “photo” of the true state of the Sector c.f. 3.3.2 of this document.

5.5.2. Transition to a New Sector Couple

It is very important to devote a lot of time to considering how the transition from the old Sector Couple to the new should be carried out. The passing of responsibilities should be effected in whatever way is the most human and, for the Sector, the most efficient. What is being passed on is not just the matters in hand and the documents but the responsibility for a Sector. This involves two things: a formation session in order to grasp the significance of the responsibility and a satisfactory meeting between the couples involved in the transition. A good transition guarantees continuity in the life of the Sector.

Without going as far as developing a dependence which would hinder their creativity, their freedom of action and their initiative, the new Sector Couple could have recourse to the assistance of the former couple if they think it appropriate.

Chapter 6

The Regular Activities of the Sector

6.1.0. Defining the Task

The most important part of this responsibility is to transmit the life of the Teams of Our Lady, to ensure the circulation of the life blood of the Movement.

It is well to limit the scope of the task of the Sector Couple so that they will be better able to concentrate their energies on breathing life into the Sector, creating the cohesion of the Sector, organizing the animation and encouraging the sense of belonging to the Movement. To achieve this, they will take care to delegate and share out the tasks and responsibilities amongst the members of the Sector Team.

6.2.0. The Meetings of the Team Responsible Couples (R.C.s)

6.2.1. The Object of the meetings:

- ❖ To maintain a strong link between the head, the Sector Couple, and the members of the base Teams;
- ❖ To concern themselves with the cohesion of the Team members of the Sector in loyalty to the Movement;
- ❖ To organize at the beginning of the year a meeting of the Team responsible couples. This is an occasion for the Sector Couple to get to know the new R/C.'s; this meeting will also enable the R.C.'s to get to know each other;
- ❖ To explain liaison to the R.C.'s; it can take different forms;
- ❖ To encourage them to get to know each other through exchanging their experiences of Team life;
- ❖ To give to the Sector Couple the minutes of the annual assessment meetings, which remain confidential;
- ❖ These minutes will help the Sector Couples to get a better idea of the needs of the Teams, to see what the priorities are, to decide on a plan of action and to draw inspiration from them for the animation of the future activities of the Sector;
- ❖ To communicate relevant information; and
- ❖ To evaluate the activities and the life of the Sector during the previous year in the light of the plan of action adopted at the beginning of the year.

6.2.2. Proposed Agenda

In general the aim and character of the R.C. meetings are only slightly administrative. They should have their own particular form. Accordingly, they should have a working aspect. At the same time, without being a copy of the meeting of a base team, they can take inspiration from it and include:

- ❖ A period of prayer;
- ❖ Pooling, including the life of their Team and/or the life of the Sector;
- ❖ A period of reflection: with a content nourishing and revitalizing for themselves and for their Team; and
- ❖ A period of sharing (in mixed Teams, if it is thought wise) on the preoccupations in regard to the orientations and the life of the Movement, the priorities of the Sector and of the teaching and the charism of the Teams of Our Lady or concerning the Sector's plan of action.

6.3.0. Meeting with All the Team Couples of the Sector

The Sector Couple and their Sector Team are completely free to put their creativity at the service of the Sector.

These meeting do not take the place of the monthly meetings of the base Team.

In order to stimulate greater participation in the life of the Sector, the activities of the Sector should not be too numerous.

These activities will be chosen in the light of the priorities gleaned from the minutes of the assessment meetings.

The objective of the varied activities is fraternity, renewing strength, deepening, formation and the sense of belonging to the Movement.

6.4.0. Practical advice

To encourage participation in the activities it is advisable to take into account couples' needs and their state of mind.

Here are some practical suggestions:

- ❖ Bear in mind those couples, where both work, have very little free time, and have problems in having their children taken care of;



- ❖ Inform the neighbouring Sectors of any strength renewing activities being organized in order to enable them to participate;
- ❖ Assist a new couple to settle into an existing Team;
- ❖ Invite couples to some of the activities of the Sector with the aim of promoting the Movement;
- ❖ Prepare a form to be used at the assessment meetings of the base Teams; and
- ❖ Explain the spirit, the purpose and the usefulness of the subscription, and how it is used.

CONCLUSION

- ❖ Responsibility for a Sector is of both a human and spiritual order;
- ❖ If it is valuable to acquire competencies, it is equally valuable to draw near to the Lord. Daily prayer, the Eucharist, and regular reading of the Word of God are the privileged means for drawing close to the Lord and becoming submissive to His will;
- ❖ The Sector Couple and their Team must remain faithful to their commitments, out of love for the Lord and love of those for whom they are responsible;
- ❖ The role of the Sector Couple is to act as a guide and a pastor;
- ❖ The role of the Sector Couple is a role of spiritual animation. To animate a Sector is to give it life; and
- ❖ The Sector Couple wish to live as Disciples of Christ: they are there to love and serve the other members of the Sector as if they were the Christ and as if they themselves were the Christ.



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