

Team Meeting 4

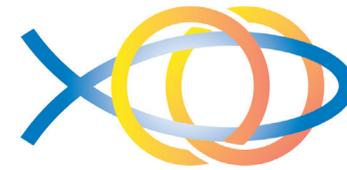


During the Next Month

Try to make a difference in your life by spending time on some or all of the five endeavours that have been discussed. You will not always succeed, but working on them in conjunction with the others in your Team, will provide opportunities for growth.

Before the Next Meeting

Have you ever been on a retreat, individually or as a couple? What benefits have you derived from it? If not, what do you think would be the value of going on a retreat?



Equipes Notre-Dame
Teams

Team Meeting 4



In Advance of Meeting 4

Have you been successful at incorporating some or all the endeavours into your life? Perhaps any achievement that you have made (however small) could be an inspiration for others in the team or vice versa.

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

As a preparation for Meeting 4 you were asked to examine whether or not there is an area of your life that could benefit from some improvement? You will not be asked to divulge what it is, but it will help you when the next endeavour is introduced in this meeting.

Team Meeting 4



Prayer

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

Scripture Text Romans 12 (verses 3-7, 9 and 12-13)

In the light of the grace I have received I want to urge each one among you not to exaggerate his real importance. Each of you must judge himself soberly by the standard of the faith God has given him. Just as each of our bodies has several parts and each part a separate function, so all of us, in union with Christ, form one body, and as parts of it we belong to each other. Our gifts differ according to the grace given us. If your gift is prophecy, then use it as your gift suggests; if administration, then use it for administration; if teaching, then use it teaching. Do not let your love be a pretence, but sincerely prefer good to evil. Do not give up if trials come; and keep on praying. If any of the saints are in need you must share with them; and you should make hospitality your special care.

Psalm Psalm 139

R. Guide me in the way that is everlasting

Yahweh, you examine me and know me,
You know if I am standing or sitting, you read my thoughts from far away,
Whether I walk or lie down, you are watching,
You know every detail of my conduct.

You know me through and through,
From having watched my bones take shape,
When I was being formed in secret,
knitted together in the limbo of the womb.

God examine me and know my heart,
Probe me and know my thoughts;
Make sure I do not follow evil ways,
And guide me in the way that is everlasting.

Concluding Prayer

Lord at the end of your life on earth you promised to send the Holy Spirit to enlighten and guide your followers. Through His presence in the Church may we bear faithful witness to you, in our work, in our parishes and in our homes.

Amen.

Team Meeting 4



Endeavours

Everybody will have the opportunity to talk about any success they have had in introducing the first four endeavours into their lives. In addition a further endeavour, the "Rule of Life", will be explored during the meeting.

Study Topic

Commitment

The theme of this topic is the importance of commitment to an ideal and the need to work at it.

"Run, then, in such a way as to win the prize. Every athlete in training submits to strict discipline, in order to be crowned with a wreath that will not last; but we do it for one that will last for ever. That is why I run straight for the finishing line."

1 Cor. 9 (verses 24-26)

"I do not claim that I have already succeeded or have already become perfect. I keep striving to win the prize for which Christ Jesus has already won me to Himself. Of course, my brothers, I really do not think that I have already won it; the one thing I do, however, is to forget what is behind me and do my best to reach what is ahead. So I run straight towards the goal in order to win the prize, which is God's call through Christ Jesus to the life above." Philippians 3 (verses 12-14)

"Physical exercise has some value, but spiritual exercise is valuable in every way, because it promises life, both for the present and for the future. This is a true saying to be completely accepted and believed. We struggle and work hard because we have placed our hope in the living God, who is the Saviour of all and especially of those who believe." 1 Timothy 4 (verses 6-10)

St Paul draws a parallel between athletes who train for a prize that will not last and us, who do so for a prize that will last forever.

- What lessons can we learn about our spiritual life by comparing it to the way an athlete trains?
- Can athletes exercise discipline in their training on their own? What can motivate them to train?
- How can we "work at" our spiritual growth and what difficulties are we likely to encounter?