



Equipes Notre-Dame

Newsletter Teams of Our Lady – Irish Region

70th Anniversary of Charter

Colloquium on Fr. Caffarel

Issue 112

Spring 2018



Attendance at Colloquium and at Fr. Caffarel's resting place

On the evening of December 8th, 2017, the 70th anniversary of our Charter was celebrated at a mass presided over by Monsignor Eric de Moulins-Beaufort, Auxiliary Bishop of Paris, in the Church of Saint-Augustin in Paris.

A Colloquium on Fr. Caffarel was held over 2 days at the College de Bernardins, Paris. This International Colloquium was called for by Father Paleri, Roman Postulator of the Cause for Canonisation of Father Caffarel.

4 half-day sessions enabled attendees to listen to talks and round-table discussions, given by numerous international speakers, as well as to see clips put together and filmed by Team members throughout the world ... The discussions were broadcast live and can be seen on www.equipes-notredame.com

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From the Regional Couple



Dear Friends in Teams,

We wish to thank all the Teams who completed and returned the Questionnaire to us, your comments have been noted.

We were delighted to have the Super-Regional Couple, Piotr and Dzidzia stay with us recently and attended the Dublin Retreat in Avila Carmelite Centre, Donnybrook, the Theme being 'The Joy of Love'. It was an invitation to value the gifts of marriage and the family and to persevere in a love strengthened by the virtues of generosity, commitment, fidelity and patience. Fr. Seamus Heaney, PP Delvin, Co. Meath gave wonderful reflections on The Call to Holiness in Marriage and the Spirituality of Family Life.

World Meeting of Families

For the upcoming WMOF in August 22nd -26th, 'Teams' will be having a stand in the RDS and if anyone wishes to help out on the stand on a rota basis, please let us know, as all help would be appreciated. Also, local Teams have been asked to provide hospitality to 'Teams' couples who will be attending both from Ireland and abroad. We wish to thank Gerry and Grace Mangan who will be coordinating this and any requests can be given to them. (Email. mangan42@gmail.com)

Offering 'hospitality' in whatever form is a great blessing and is an important part of charism in Teams.

RC Weekend 2018

The Belfast Sector do not feel that they could take on the task of organising and running a RC Week End as a significant proportion are experiencing health problem. Please keep them in your prayers.

It has been agreed therefore that this year the Responsible Couples' weekend will be held in Knock, on 6th and 7th October and each Sector would have an input into the planning/organising of the weekend. If anyone would like to assist the planning Team or have any ideas, please let us know.

We have had interest from the UK regarding the weekend and it will be advertised in their 'Teams' Newsletter /Website, so we are hoping for a good turnout for this event, both from Ireland and the UK. Early bookings are advisable and to avail of Knock House Hotel special offer please quote "Equipes Notre Dame Ireland" when making a booking.

The recently restored St Mel's Cathedral in Longford was a story of transformation from a shell to the beautiful and elegant sacred space of today. It was described as Longford's Phoenix which quite literally was raised from the ashes. Today we claim the strength and the ability to rise, not only to the occasion in every moment, but rise like a Phoenix from our own ashes and be reborn through the Resurrection. Jesus's resurrection really did change everything. It changed the cross from a tragedy into a triumph.

Wishing you and your families many blessings this Eastertime.

Jim and Elaine Keogh



From the Regional Chaplain, Fr. Peter Sexton SJ

Witness

There is a story told that after the Crucifixion and Resurrection, Jesus ascended into Heaven, and was greeted by an angel: ‘Lord, have you completed your work on earth?’ asked the angel. ‘No’, replied Jesus. ‘But what plans have you to complete it?’ the angel asked.

‘I have left behind eleven men’, Jesus replied. The angel was perplexed. ‘What if they fail, he queried?’

The Lord replied: ‘I have no other plan’.

Christ has no other plan but the plan of Gospel, with us to carry it out.

My father had an expression he often used to challenge us with: Two men looked out through prison bars, one saw mud, the other saw stars! St. Ignatius, when he was in Rome directing his newly formed group of jesuits to serve the Gospel and the Church around the world used to go up to the top of the house, and spend ages looking, gazing at the stars – and that deepened in him a deep sense of the greatness of God and the strongest of desires to serve Him.

Helder Camara, onetime archbishop of Recife in Brazil was approached by a large group of outraged parishioners who came to their bishop to report that their remote, rural church had been desecrated and vandalised by a group of bandits – the tabernacle was smashed open, and the hosts thrown in the mud – asked Dom Helder to reconsecrate the church. He was happy to do, he said, but he also reflected that the poor are trampled in the mud every day, not many were coming to protest – and, he said, ‘it is the same Christ!’

What is a Christian? Someone, surely, who is captivated or shattered by Jesus Christ. ‘Our real life’, as St. Paul said, ‘is hidden with Christ in God – I live now not I but Christ in me.’ The indwelling of the Trinity given us in our Baptism, God’s own Spirit in us, is the real meaning of our dignity and destiny, and that Spirit enables our real selves, not our false, mask-like selves to emerge. We are the Kingdom of God in the world – unique, no one can replace us. And if we do not witness to His presence in our world in integrity and justice, in challenging greed and selfishness in the political and social and personal arena – if we do not do it, who will? As St. Augustine said: ‘Right is right even if no one is doing it – wrong is wrong even if everyone is doing it.’

The only sadness, Bernanos wrote, is not to be a saint – and that in a Church, the people of God, that is sinful and fragile and that has been marked by scandals at every level since the beginning of Christianity.

The late Cardinal Basil Hume wrote about the Church's changing image of itself. Before Vatican II the Church saw itself somewhat as Solomon's Temple – majestic, unchanging, complete, self-sufficient – but after the Council, which is still to be fully implemented, she has seen herself more as Abraham's Tent : a pilgrim Church, on the move, in search of God's promises, listening as well as teaching, a humbler Church, with a new understanding of the laity, a new awareness and appreciation of different beliefs, of the centrality of the poor, of the handicapped, a recognition that the Spirit is also found outside the Church – a recognition that there are very significant qualities present in the young – a spirit of prayer, a sense of both individual dignity and of community, and a passion for social justice.

Of course some of these qualities of growth and development have been overshadowed by the sinful face of the Church and of gross failures – but it seems a matter of justice to me, while honestly and humbly acknowledging these, to keep the larger picture of the tumultuous history of the Church in mind – otherwise we react like adolescents on becoming aware of the limitations and faults of their parents – shocked beyond comprehension or cynical to the point of rejection of all they have received.

Without the Church for all its failings, most notably and scandalously in the exercise of authority, we would have lost the Gospels, the Sacraments, the Eucharist, the sense of Community, the plan of Christ. As Mother Teresa used to say: 'Unless we recognise Him in the breaking of the bread, we will not recognise Him in the distressing disguise of the poor'

Sometimes we feel overwhelmed by our weakness or our helplessness – the Word of God calls us again and again back to live out of the vision of Christ, not our own darkness – in the words of St. Augustine in his Confessions : 'Do not let my darkness speak to me', and as St. Paul says in Romans 8 : 'With God on our side, who can be against us?'

The last word to Helmut Thielicke, the German Lutheran theologian and preacher, who was preaching in all the darkness of Nazi Germany – 'Because of the Resurrection everything is now different : we do not know what is to come. But we do know who is to come. And if the last hour belongs to us, we do not need to fear the next minute.'

Readings:

April : George Herbert's poem : 'Rise heart thy Lord is ris'n, Sing his praise without delays!'

May: The Magnificat

June: John's Gospel: chs 13-17

Prayer Intentions

For those who have died:

Elizabeth O'Hegarty, Team 11, Dublin

Fr. Joe Brennan, Team 13, Dublin

Eilis Roche, daughter of Gerry Roche, Team 13, Dublin

Michael Walsh, brother of Dolores Corcoran, Team 1, Mullingar

Paschal Barkley, brother of Andrina Finch, Team 11, Mullingar

For those who are ill:

Eddie Lloyd, Galway

Manus Duggan, Galway

Fr. Colin Garvey, Galway

News from around the Region

Dublin

Teams Mass

This period began for Dublin Sector Teams with a well-attended Teams Mass on 8th December in Avila. The celebrant was Fr. Paddy Dundon CSSP, Chaplain to Team 11. Fr. Paddy delivered a reflective and challenging sermon. Pat Seery with guitar led us in the singing. This was followed by tea/coffee, biscuits, cakes, lively chat, networking and exchanges of good wishes and blessings for Christmas. Many thanks to Fr. Paddy, Pat and to all who attended this important and enjoyable Teams event.

Teams Retreat – Dublin Sector

Our Retreat also took place in Avila on Saturday, 17th February. The title was **Teams “Day for our Marriage”** to emphasise the fact that it was open, free of charge, to guests who are not members of Teams but have been invited to attend by Team Members. We were delighted to welcome a number of guests who fully participated in the programme. We very much hope that we can build on this in the years ahead. Our Retreat is really a “day for our marriage”. It is so important that we share it more widely

Fr. Seamus Heaney PP, Delvin, Co. Meath, led the “Day” with series of profound talks and reflections on – “THE JOY LOVE” (AMORIS LAETITIA, (AL)) of Pope Francis, in which he invites us to “value the gifts of marriage and the family, and to persevere in a love strengthened by the virtues of generosity, commitment, fidelity and patience.”(AL,5). The programme began with an opening meditation by Pat and Maureen Seery. Fr. Seamus structured his talks around the following themes, *the Call to Holiness in Marriage, the Sacrament is for Life* and the *Spirituality of Family life*. Each presentation included talks by Fr. Seamus, one to one exchanges with one’s spouse on the themes and more general discussion. It concluded with the Vigil Mass celebrated by Fr. Seamus. There was a very positive response to the programme and much praise for Fr. Seamus both in relation to the inspiring and reflective content and the way in which it was presented.

We were also honoured to have as our guests on the Retreat, our Regional Couple, Jim and Elaine Keogh, and Piotr & Dzidzia Chodzko - Zajko, our Super-Regional Couple. Piotr and Dzidzia gave us an excellent presentation on Teams Worldwide and on the upcoming World Gathering of Teams in Fatima from 16th to 21st July. Up to 9,000 are expected. A number of couples and two chaplains, Fr. Paddy Dundon CSSP and Fr. Peter Sexton SJ, Regional Chaplain, have registered for the Gathering. Piotr and Dzidzia also brought special hats for use in the hot weather at the Gathering in Fatima. They were all rapidly sold out, so hot weather is also being expected here in Ireland! Piotr and Dzidzia mentioned the upcoming World Meeting on Families in Dublin from 21st to 26th August. There will be a stand, representing Teams Worldwide. Team couples from Ireland and Internationally will be in attendance at the stand. Plans are also being made to have get-togethers of Teams during the course of the World Meeting. Further details will be circulated later.

World Meeting

There are now just 5 months left. We would appeal to you to ensure you are registered either as individual couples or as part of a Team. They are still looking for volunteers, so there is still time to volunteer.

Teams in Dublin have indicated that they would be happy to host a Team couple from abroad. We are currently arranging for a number of couples from the UK to be hosted. If couples from other parts of Ireland need to be hosted, please let us know.

Summer Outing

As you know we had a most enjoyable Summer Outing in Glendalough last July, superbly organised by Pat and Carmel Cunneen and Team 25. We are currently planning a similar outing for this year on either 1st or 8th July. As the last two summer outings have been on the Southside, we would very much welcome offers from North of the Liffey, which of course for sector purposes also includes Meath and Kildare. Especially as it is the month before the World Meeting of Families, all family members are welcome to join us.

Deaths

Elizabeth Hegarty, Team 11

The death took place suddenly in January of Elizabeth Hegarty, Team 11, who was one of our longest serving Team members. She was held in high regard and with much love and affection. Many Team members in the Dublin Sector attended her funeral. May she rest in peace.

Gerry and Grace Mangan

Belfast

Our sector has had a difficult time in the last few winter months.

First of all our December 8th Mass had to be cancelled because of snow and ice. Then as time went on, the flu took over and various team meetings were cancelled because so many people had flu. Declan Kennedy became very ill with pleurisy and had to go to hospital for a couple of weeks. After that Deirdre had to go into hospital regarding her heart.

But we have had some good news also! Charlie and Maureen McMullan's eldest son got married recently. And Michael Flanagan's grand-niece who was only one and a half pounds at birth is now over 5 pounds and is home with her parents.

Prayers are asked for Michael Flanagan's two sisters and a niece.

Michael and Eithne Clenaghan ask for prayers for a relative who is having an operation for cancer in April. We wish you all a happy Easter.

Moyra and Brendan Bunting

Mullingar

Our annual retreat had to be cancelled due to the bad weather. However Fr. Hurley kindly agreed to host an evening of prayer and reflection on Friday evening 23rd of March in La Verna, Ballinderry. We were delighted that this time and day seemed to suit many more of our members than the Sunday would have done. The theme for the evening was "Saintly spouses, parents and grandparents, Heaven speaks to us about our families". We extend our sympathies to Dolores Corcoran in Team 1. Sadly for Dolores, her brother, Michael Walsh died recently. We also sympathise with Andrina Finch in Team 11 whose brother, Pascal Barkley died recently. May they rest in peace.

Assumpta O'Meara

Galway

Congratulations to Brid and Owen Quinn who celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary on 1st February 2018. This is a wonderful cause for celebration. Brid and Owen together with their five children and eight grandchildren booked into the Connacht Hotel for a night of celebration. The young children had a great time in the swimming pool. Owen and Brid really appreciate the blessings they have in particular that they have each other, health and family. We wish them continued blessings in the years to come.

Our team retreat was held in Croí Nua, Galway on 25th February. Fr. Charlie Sweeney facilitated the retreat. Like last year's retreat the core of the retreat was the Sacrament of Reconciliation. It was well received by the team couples present. Fr. Charlie took us through an interpretation of scripture. He posed the question, 'what is my Image of God'? He suggested that Jesus, at his baptism in the Jordan was confirmed in knowing who he was in his relationship with his Father. Fr Charlie suggested that as Christians this is our identity, that is our relationship with the Father. The teams were challenged to share what Image of God do each of us have.

Our prayers for a full recovery for Eddie Lloyd, Manus Duggan and Father Coilin Garvey. All three have had health problems recently.

Galway would like to thank Stephen and Marguerite O'Neill for accepting the job of Sector couple for Galway.

Anne and Jack Hutchinson

John Cogavin's book, "**The Spirituality of Married Life**", Meath, Ireland: Publibook, 2014. – 173p was reviewed in the Publication, **INTAMS review 22 (2016)** by Ray Temmerman, Winnipeg, Canada.

In his review he said the following;

If you're looking for a step-by-step path to spiritual growth, a kind of 'Spirituality for Dummies', this book by John Cogavin is not for you. If, on the other hand, you want a book which challenges you, lays out the reality of the world in which we live, in which we are called as spiritual beings to live the human journey, then provides motivation to persevere over a lifetime, then this book is well worth reading.

C.'s whole context is given in an almost throwaway line early in the book when, speaking about his relationship with his wife, he says "We awoke to the reality that spirituality was not so much a religious matter but how we learn and practice to be more human as persons and as a couple." It is this sense, of immersing oneself in the human condition, and growing there in one's humanity, that pervades this entire book- and, indeed, that makes it worth reading. C. finds that sense of immersion, in the uniqueness and wonder of the human person, of our environment, and of the power and generosity of our Creator and Trinitarian God, most fully realised in the bond of marriage.

Editors

WORLD MEETING OF FAMILIES

DUBLIN, 21 – 26 AUGUST, 2018



- **HOSPITALITY**

If you would like to host a Teams Couple/family during the WMOF please contact Gerry and Grace Mangan (mangan42@gmail.com)

- **TEAMS STAND**

If you would like to volunteer to be on the Teams stand during WMOF please contact Gerry and Grace Mangan (mangan42@gmail.com)

Register online for WMOF at www.worldmeeting2018.ie/tickets

RC Weekend - Knock, 6th - 7th October 2018



Basilica Shrine of Our Lady of Knock, Queen of Ireland

Accommodation

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www.knockhousehotel.ie

Tel:094.9388088

Father Henri Caffarel – Prophet for our Times (1903 – 1996)

Last year, 2017, marked the 70th anniversary of the Charter of Teams of Our Lady. To mark this occasion and to promote the Cause for the canonisation of Father Caffarel, the organisation - *'Les Amis du Pere Caffarel'* - *'The Friends of Father Caffarel'* organised an International Colloquium in Paris last December.

About 300 Teams members from all parts of the world attended. The Meeting was hosted at College des St. Bernardins in Paris over two days. Each day's programme consisted of three short presentations by speakers who shared with us on different aspects of Father Caffarel's life namely:

“Henri Caffarel, The Vocation of a Man of God”

“Henri Caffarel, A Founder in the Church”

“Henri Caffarel, A Master of Prayer and Spiritual Counsellor”

“Henri Caffarel, A Prophet for Couples and Marriage”.

We as couple, with Father Patsy Kelly from Galway were invited to the Round Table discussion after the presentation of *'Father Caffarel - as Master of Prayer and Spiritual Counsellor'*. Father Patsy had attended a retreat under Father Caffarel's guidance in his House of Prayer at Troussures outside Paris many years ago and had been deeply affected by the experience. At that time Father Patsy had never heard about Teams of Our Lady.

We hope over the next few Newsletters to share with you some insights we have learned about Father Caffarel from the Colloquium presentations. We think it is only right that we as members of Teams of Our Lady, particularly in the English speaking world, should know more about the holiness of this man, who deeply loved the Church which he served with fidelity, whose life was entirely given over to God, and who was instrumental in the beginning of Teams of Our Lady. Cardinal Lustiger, Archbishop of Paris, said about him: ***“He was a prophet for our time”***.

Sharing on his own calling, Father Caffarel tells us that at the age of 23:

***“On that particular day, God entered my life and since that day, I am at his service.”.....”
Christ who made Himself known to me could use me to make Himself known to others.”***

The Colloquium is available on: UTube – Colloque de Pere Caffarel – 9/12.

John and Elaine Cogavin.



Dear Friends,

We are very sad to announce the death and return to the Father's house of Monsignor François Fleischmann, at the age of 83 and in the 56th year of priesthood. He was a great servant within the Teams Movement, both as Spiritual Counsellor to the International Leading Team for six years and also as Spiritual Counsellor to two Teams of Our Lady in Paris over a long period. Most recently, he was very involved in the cause for canonisation of Father Henri Caffarel. In this capacity, he spoke last December 8th at the Colloquium organised in the Collège des Bernardins in Paris, upon the occasion of the 70th anniversary of the Charter of Teams. His talk concerned the "L'Anneau d'Or" magazine, that he knew so well since he had contributed in-depth work to it in the past. Father François Fleischmann was a man of great humility and great depth, devoted to the mission for all in a single Church. Our prayers accompany him so that God may welcome his faithful servant into his joy and peace.

Together in prayer with all of you.

Maria Berta & José MOURA SOARES

Responsible Couple in the International Leading Team of Teams of Our Lady

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