

Equipes Notre-Dame

Newsletter Teams of Our Lady – Irish Region



Team 2 in 1989

Front: Bernadette Blayney, Mary Orr, Monique Long. Back: Martine Donaghy, Fr. Hubert Delaney (deceased), David Orr, Pat Clinton, Paddy Donaghy, Colette Ellison, Billy Long (deceased), Bill Ellison. Missing from picture, John Blayney and Frank Clinton. Photo courtesy John and Bernadette Blayney, taken by John.

An exhibition of Memorabilia will be included in the Super-Regional Gathering from 15th to 17th August. If you have any photos or other memorabilia please send to Paddy Quigley (contact details back page).

The last date for bookings for the Gathering is 27th June. Final payment is due on that date also.

Bookings may be made through John and Elaine Cogavin (01 2831772). Booking form may be downloaded from website www.equipes-notre-dame.ie or may be obtained on request from Paddy Quigley (contact details back page).

Issue 97

Summer 2014

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From the Regional Couple



In the month of May we think especially of Our Lady “Queen of the May” and the Rosary. Archbishop Fulton Sheen once said “the Rosary is the book of the blind where souls see and there enact the greatest drama of love the world has ever known; it is the book of the simple, which initiates them into mysteries and knowledge, more satisfying than the education of other men, it is the book of the aged, whose eyes close upon the shadow of this world and open on the substance of the next. The power of the Rosary is beyond description.”

When, in 1858, our blessed Lady appeared to Bernadette at Lourdes for the first time she had a Rosary on her right arm. Upon seeing Our Lady, Bernadette tried to begin saying the Rosary by making the sign of the cross, but her arm became paralysed. Only after Our Lady had made the sign of the cross could Bernadette do the same. As Bernadette prayed the Rosary during the apparition, Our Lady passed the beads between her fingers but remained silent until the Gloria which she recited with Bernadette.

Each year on the 7th of October the Catholic Church celebrates the Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary. The Feast had been known for centuries as ‘Our Lady of Victory.’ The feast day is in honour of a 16th century naval victory which secured Europe against a Turkish invasion. Pope Pius V attributed the victory to the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary, who was invoked on the day of the battle through a campaign to pray the rosary throughout Europe. Some accounts say the Pope was granted a miraculous vision of The Holy Leagues of Victory. He was moved to institute the feast now celebrated universally as ‘Our Lady of the Rosary.’

The word ‘rosary’ means ‘crown of roses’. Our Lady has revealed to several people that each time we say a Hail Mary we are giving her a beautiful rose and that each complete Rosary makes her a crown of roses. As the rose is the queen of flowers so the Rosary is the Rose of all devotions and it is therefore the most important. The Holy Rosary is considered the perfect prayer because within it is the magnificent story of our salvation. In praying the Rosary we meditate on the mysteries of Joy, of Sorrow and on the Glory of Jesus and Mary. It is a simple prayer, humble, much like Mary was. In the Hail Mary we ask her to pray for us and Our Lady always grants our requests. She joins her prayer to ours. In every apparition at Lourdes, The heavenly mother has invited us to say the Rosary as a powerful weapon against evil, and a means to bring us to true peace. The beauty and simplicity of its repetitiveness rejuvenates our spiritual bond with our blessed mother. Bernadette said that “the Rosary was a way of life for her.” It is a way of life for us too, to travel through the life of Christ, to give thanks for his great sacrifice and to let us join with our Lady to give glory to the Triune God.

In August this year, Ireland will for the first time host the Trans-Atlantic Super-Regional Gathering of Equipes Notre-Dame (Teams of Our Lady) and at the same time celebrate 50 years of Teams in Ireland. It will be a wonderful occasion with visitors from across the entire Super-Region which incorporates Ireland, Great Britain, Trinidad and Tobago, English-speaking South Africa, Malawi and Zambia. We will also have friends from Teams of Our Lady in Canada and Australia. This important Gathering will take place at the Kings Hospital School in Palmerstown in Dublin from the evening of Friday 15th to the afternoon of Sunday 17th August. It is an occasion not to be missed and if you haven’t booked yet you will need to do so soon, as the latest date for booking is 27th June. For further details and information just log-on to equipenotre-dame.ie or call Pat and Carmel Cunneen at 01 2882 528 or Áine & Joe Clayton at 01 628 2468. We are looking forward to a wonderful Gathering and Celebration and to seeing you all there.

On behalf of Teams in Ireland, we take this opportunity to express our grateful thanks and appreciation to everyone involved and in particular to acknowledge the hard work and dedicated commitment of all concerned in preparing for this great event.

Breda and Tony Preston

ANNUAL CONTRIBUTIONS

As you know we are encouraged to give, where possible, one day's pay or whatever you can afford. We know you will make a special effort to help the Movement this year.

Contributions are normally collected at the June assessment meeting and can be forwarded to your Sector Couple or directly to ourselves at:

46A Leopardstown Grove,

Blackrock, Co. Dublin Tel. 01 2884405

God bless, Sheila and Michael Foley

PS Do not send cash in the post

News from Around the Region

Dublin

Regional Gathering & 50th Celebrations

The final push is now on for our BIG CELEBRATIONS in August. Praise God for the huge efforts being made by everyone involved. It is a busy and exciting time.

We would like to stress that the FINAL date for bookings & payment is Friday 27th June.

Please pray for good weather for that entire weekend. It will make such a difference to us all.

The Cause for the Beatification of Father Caffarel

The first phase of the work of the Cause will be formally submitted to Rome on 18th October, 2014.

To mark this very important occasion we hope to have local celebrations in Dublin.

The Sector Team is planning a special Mass on that day - **Saturday 18th October**. Location is not yet finalised but we hope to have it in the late afternoon to facilitate as many as possible – especially families.

We will circulate details in due course, but for now, please put the date in your diaries. Enjoy the long days of the summer.

Joe & Áine Clayton

Belfast

We had our retreat on Sunday 11th May in the Passionist Retreat Centre, Tobar Mhuire, Crossgar.

Although our numbers were low – 12 people in total, due to illnesses and a funeral – we had a very enjoyable and spiritual day. We were particularly happy to see Maureen Mc Mullan and Gerry Mulhern who were well enough to attend the retreat. The theme was “Resting at the Well”; and for the first time we were led by a lay person, Brian McKee, who has much experience in this field.

Brian began by reminding us about Jesus' encounter with the Samaritan woman at the well; how she was probably there in the middle of the day to avoid people because of her bad name; how Jesus surprised her by breaking with tradition in several ways: being on his own with a woman, talking to a Samaritan, and a woman at that, etc.

Then he drew her out and finally told her the story of her life which had been a bit irregular.

But he did this in a way which was not judgemental or accusatory; and he accepted her totally as she was. Then he told her about the living water that he could give, and openly revealed to her that he was the Messiah.

We were each given a little booklet to fill in, just for ourselves to see, to help us see our lives in perspective, knowing that Jesus loves and accepts us, as he did with the Samaritan woman. On the first page we drew a line to represent our lives, and we were to fill in the important events in our lives.

There was a quotation in the booklet from St Paul of the Cross, the founder of the Passionist Order, which in a way described the spirit of the retreat.

“Give yourself the rest you need. When you are walking alone, listen to the sermon preached to you by the flowers, the trees, the shrubs, the sky, the sun and the whole world. Notice how they preach to you a sermon of love, of praise of God, and how they invite you to proclaim the greatness of the One who has given them being.”

We were asked to go off on our own, or as couples, to think or talk. There was a choice of places to walk or sit including: the church, a nice comfortable sitting room, various walks around the grounds and the woods, or a 3 km walk to the top of a hill and down again!

After that we could choose to go to the Chapel for adoration at 1.00 for a half hour before lunch at 1.30, or do our own thing. Restful and meditative music was played in the background.

Lunch followed: a really good 3 course meal.

The afternoon started with a talk by Áine and Joe Clayton about the 50th Anniversary/ Super-Regional Gathering 15th-17th August. It was nice to have some Dubliners along for a change!

Then we had another talk and discussion led by Brian about the things that help our faith, followed by Mass at 4.00 with Mass celebrated by Fr Ephrem.

The hymns were chosen by Maureen and Charlie McMullan, who also led the singing.

One of best things about the retreat was the fact that nothing was rushed and we had time to contemplate.

Please remember Michael Flanagan in your prayers as he has been in hospital because of his gall bladder; and though home again now and being looked after by Pauline, he is likely to need more treatment.

The Belfast Sector Team have been preparing for the Mass liturgy on the first evening of the 50th Anniversary/Super-Regional Gathering on 15th August which will be led by Belfast Sector. We are looking forward to this event and to meeting people from the many different countries in the Transatlantic Super-Region.

Wishing all team members and their families a relaxing summer,

Moyra and Brendan Bunting

Mullingar

Our retreat this year, led by Father Frank Monks, M.I. who is a chaplain in our Sector, was an enriching spiritual experience. Father Frank divided the talks into three important divisions. First, the scene of the Samaritan woman at the well, where we were guided into understanding that we need to be open to encountering the God of surprises in the most unexpected places and through the most unlikely of people. Second, Witness to Hope. Our challenge is to witness in this world NOW. To do this we need to be convinced that we are privileged because we have been called by God to build His Kingdom. 'Lord may your spirit within me touch the heart of those I meet today.' Third, Salt, Light and Witness. Here Father Frank guided us into understanding that the good people everywhere are the salt and light of which the Gospel speaks. He said tiny acts build the kingdom of God — most of which may go unnoticed, but that the world would be a total disaster without them.

We each received excellent notes on the talks to help us to ponder on the important guidance to our lives that emanates from Gospel scenes. Sincere thanks to Father Frank and to all his team.

Great preparations are under way for the International Gathering in August. We look forward to meeting you all there.

Frank and Margaret Fagan

Galway

We would ask all Team members to remember Emmie Lloyd and the Lloyd family in their prayers. Emmie is in hospital at the moment. We also ask for prayers for Fr. John Humphries S.J., Chaplain to Team 3 who was taken ill suddenly and is currently in Dublin. He is responding well to treatment. Team members in Galway especially send their love and prayers to Emmie and Fr. John. Also, Ann Hyland's brother, Charlie O'Donnell is in hospital and we ask for prayers for his recovery.

Peter and Anne Costello, Team 2 and their family and friends celebrated the marriage of their son Darren to Natacha Tillie in Mougins, south of France where the young couple live. A great time was had by all.

Enda and Joan Colleran's second granddaughter Saoirse Grace Colleran, second daughter of Eoin and Heather Colleran are coming from the U.S.A. this week. Saoirse Grace, sister to Aoibin, will be baptised in the Jesuit Church, Galway by Fr. Charlie Davy S.J. on Sunday 1st June. On this very happy occasion Teams in Galway wish God's blessing on the whole family and hope they have a memorable time.

Larry Hynes, who with Mary his wife, are very welcome new Team members in Galway contacted John and Modesta Tepani after reading 'Africa Trip - an Interview with Antony and Janet Denman' in the 2013 Winter Edition of the Transatlantic Super Region Newsletter. Emails have been exchanged. Its a welcome and lovely initiative from new Team members.

We will be having our annual outing to Coole Park on 29th June, the last Sunday of the month. We hope to have Mass at 12 noon followed by a picnic and walk.

Galway Team members are looking forward to meeting with the extended Team movement in August.

Slán agus beannacht.

Brendan and Máire Kelly



From the Regional Chaplain

Fr. Gerry Cassidy CSSR

July 2014

Isaiah 61:1-3, 6, 8-9

In what ways am I bread that is broken and shared with others on a daily basis?

What are the difficulties I experience when trying to live this way?

Faithful Love in Suffering

The goodness and compassion of Jesus compels us to stay with him through the difficult days of his passion. As teacher, Jesus gives us a final lesson about love, service, unity, humility and remembrance. Though powerless to prevent his human suffering, we can learn from Mary how to stay faithful when one we love suffers even unto death.

How can I reflect and learn from Mary’s place in the life and death of Jesus?

August 2014

Isaiah 42: 1-7 John 19:25-27.

When I reflect on my experience, what do I discover has contributed to my developing a relationship with Mary?

Have devotional prayers and artistic images helped or hindered my growth in a mature relationship with Mary?

September 2014

Luke 2: 33-35. Luke 2: 41-45

What qualities of Mary stand out for me in the scriptural stories which mention her?

Mary knew how to integrate suffering into her faith response. What application does her example have for my life?

Prayer Intentions

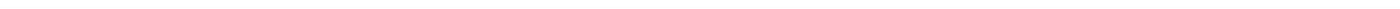
For those who are ill:

Michael Flanagan, Belfast,

Emmie Lloyd, Galway,

Fr. John Humphries, Galway,

Charlie O’Donnell, brother of Ann Hyland, Galway.





International Leading Team—April 2014

What amazing future for the Church could we imagine if Christ's luminous message about marriage reached the four corners of the world...! Father Henri Caffarel



The International Leading Team met in Namur, Belgium, March 18-22, 2014. Below are the different topics that were discussed there and that it is important for you to know about...

Concerning Father Caffarel

The Pontifical Council for the Laity has posted information about the Teams of Our Lady Movement on its website:

<http://www.laici.va/content/laici/en/sezioni/associazioni/repertorio/equipes-notredame-.html> and wants to add further information about Father Caffarel, who is considered to be very important for couples today.

The Cause for the Canonisation of Father Caffarel is moving ahead. The anticipated deadline for the sending the dossiers to Rome is October 18, 2014. To mark the occasion, a mass will be said on that day in the Church of St Augustine, Paris in the presence of the International Leading Team and all Team members and Spiritual Counsellors are very welcome to attend.

The Association of the Friends of Father Caffarel: Some Super-Regions and Regions do not yet have a liaison couple. The Responsible Couples for their Zones ought to make contact with their Super-Region and Regional Responsible Couples so that liaison couples can be appointed in their countries.

Miscellaneous Information

Modification of the Movement's Canonical Statutes: the Pontifical Council for the Laity has recognised that the International Leading Team of the Teams of Our Lady Movement has integrated propositions in a new text of their statutes and will prepare an approbation decree.

Together for Europe: Georges & Mahassen Khoury (Responsible Couple for the Central Europe Zone) will represent To & Zé at the next gathering of the Movement to be held in Slovenia, November 13-15, 2014.

Questionnaire for the Bishops' Synod: The Movement sent a reply to Rome that was a synthesis of the contributions of many team members.

Meeting with Belgian Team Members, March 22, 2014 at the end of the International Leading Team's meeting in Namur. It was moment of fruitful exchanges despite the fact that many found that there just was not enough time to discuss everything!

Life of the Movement & Different Perspectives

Stimulated by Pope Francis' words, To & Zé would like to think about and discuss with the International Leading Team the role that the Movement ought to play from now onwards in the evangelisation of the world today. A document will be prepared and presented in Rome at the Gathering of the Regional Responsible Couples in 2015.

Solidarity Project: International solidarity aims to ensure the unity of the Movement by helping those countries that are most in need. Under Roberto & Graça Rocha's lead, a think-tank was organised to consider **Elder Teams** and an experiment that took place in Belgium was presented in Namur, entitled "A Weekend with the Family for Elder Teams." The International Leading Team is interested in pursuing further discussion and thought on this subject.

Finance: The International Leading Team members approved the accounts for 2013. The Budget for 2015 was presented and all agree with the foreseeable rise in expenses that will be incurred due to the Gathering of Regional Responsible Couples in 2015 in Rome. The members of the College will be asked to approve this in Medway, Massachusetts, USA, in July 2014.

Subject Topic for 2014-15: "**Perceiving Signs of the Times**" was written by a team of couples from the Super-Region of France-Luxembourg-Switzerland and was coordinated by Françoise & Rémi Gausse. The document has been sent to all Super-Regions and Regions for circulation and translation. It is an important element that contributes to the unity of the Movement.



The Subject Topic for the following year, 2015-16, will be based on Pope Francis' apostolic exhortation, **The Joy of the Gospel**. The Hispano-American Super-Region will choose a team of couples that will be coordinated by Clarita & Edgardo Bernal.

Upgrading the Website: Françoise & Rémi Gausse put forward a proposition to upgrade and redo the website that was amended and validated by the International Leading Team. A project with figures and details will be presented at Medway, Massachusetts in July. An editorial and watchdog committee, composed of couples representing different languages, will be set up to oversee the project.

Assessment of the Satellite Teams: The Satellite Teams' work is progressing according to schedule and the dates for the 2014 meetings have already been fixed. The decision was taken to form a Satellite Team on "**The Theology of Sexuality**," made up of four couples (two from the Europe work group and two from the America work group) and the first face-to-face meeting will take place in La Glacière, Paris in October 2014.

Future Meetings

International Leading Team Meeting (July 16-20, 2014) and **International College Meeting in Medway, Massachusetts, USA** (July 20-25, 2014) focussing on the Lord's words, "**Indeed only one thing is needed**" Lk 10, 38-42.

5 key words for the 5 days: **Call-Listen-Welcome-Action-Love**

In anticipation of this meeting, the Responsible Couples for their Zones have been asked to **put together the statistics** of the number of Teams in the Super-Regions and Regions according to how long ago they were set up: 2-5 years; 6-10 years; 11-20 years; more than 20 years ago.

Rome 2015: The programme will be presented at Medway in July 2014 and the invitation letter will be sent out to the Super-Regions and Regions in October. Lodging the Responsible Couples and Spiritual Counsellors will be born by the Movement, as usual.





Teams called to Radical Welcome

Brian O'Toole Cssp, chaplain Team 25 Dublin

The theme for Teams of Our Lady for Year 2013/2014 is designated as “Daring to Welcome in Today’s World”. As demographics shift and migration brings global Christianity to our parishes in Ireland, how will we as Teams of Our Lady in parishes respond?



One of the most well-known and revered icons today is Andrei Rublev’s reflection on the Holy Trinity, painted between 1422 and 1425 in Russia. It depicts three angels seated around a table that bears a chalice. The female figures form a circle evoking deep mutuality, interconnectedness, and love between one another. But the circle is open, inviting the world into this profound experience of community. As Christine Chailiot, an Eastern Orthodox laywoman, wrote, “Rublev painted the three angels with a circular motion to signify their unity and equality, ‘thus creating a unity to represent the Holy Trinity in its movement of love’”.

This profound reflection is set in the biblical context of giving hospitality to the stranger. The icon depicts the story of the hospitality offered by Abraham and Sarah in Genesis 18:1-15 to three strangers. Abraham rushed to offer them hospitality - water and food. The three migrating strangers are messengers of God. The text says simply that they were the Lord; interpreters see the three as the presence of the Trinity. And they, in turn, bring an announcement that Sarah, in her old age, will bear a son, fulfilling God’s promises. Sarah and Abraham suddenly find the tables reversed, and they are the guests at God’s table, being invited into this community of love. Thus, Catholic theologian Elizabeth Johnson explains, “This is a depiction of a Trinitarian God capable of immense hospitality who calls the world to join the feast.”

This biblical story is a declaration of the unexpected, life-giving presence of God, discovered through providing hospitality to strangers. Rabbi Jonathan Sacks notes that the love of strangers is declared 36 times in the Hebrew Scriptures, as opposed to the love of neighbour, mentioned only once. The love of strangers and sojourners is a primary test of one’s love for God; this is linked to the presence of migrating people, with whom we can unexpectedly encounter God in fresh and promising ways that open the future to new possibilities. This intrinsic connection between the experience of God’s love and the stance toward the “other” also resounds through the life and ministry of Jesus. Jesus began his life as part an exiled, migrant family in Egypt, echoing the experience of the people of Israel. Reaching across borders and boundaries that constricted the understanding of God’s Love became a constant pattern in both the parables and the actions of Jesus.

Today, in Ireland, Parishes and Teams in parishes are faced with a calling to welcome the stranger, within the society and local community. This means ministering to the stranger’s concrete physical needs, even as Abraham and Sarah did immediately to the three strangers outside their tent.

Beyond this is the commitment to support refugees' dignity and protect their security and safety in a society where some fear, racism, and animosity toward the strangers in its midst exists. Going further there is a more ecclesial and practically perplexing challenge: How does a parish and Teams within parishes relate to, welcome, and extend its *koinonia* to those immigrants who are practicing Christians or who convert to Christianity in the midst of their sojourn? How does our belonging to one body find concrete expression in this most specific and vital part of the church – the local parish?

Crucial questions come into play. How do we deal with deep cultural and social differences in the life of a local church? Further, what is the overall goal for those who are new immigrants in our midst? Isn't the point to get new residents assimilated to our culture and way of life? Shouldn't the church play a role in that progress? It is worth asking how the church dealt with these issues when it was being established.

The early church took root within an empire exercising its own version of "globalization" in the ancient world. Multiple cultures and languages defined the context of where Jesus lived, died, and was resurrected. Even the Jerusalem church exhibited a degree of cultural diversity. But when the gospel made that initial journey from Jerusalem to Antioch, following the vision given to Peter and his journey to Cornelius' home, the nature of the church as a multicultural body of people became intrinsic to its understanding of God's grace, power, and reconciling love.

The leadership of the early Pauline churches, as recorded by Luke, exhibited a consistent multicultural nature. Moreover, when the Council of Jerusalem met to resolve the major conflict around the understanding of gospel and culture, at one level its answer was clear. Greeks did not have to become Jewish to be part of the community of faith. But at a deeper level, this response constituted a "non assimilation" policy of the early church. The picture of the New Testament church as a reconciled and reconciling community is compelling and clear.

Will parishes be capable of the transformation that is essential for them to be signs of the hospitality, justice, mutuality, and reconciliation that reflect God's intention and love? Moreover, will parishes become the local laboratories of ecclesiology that demonstrate how the entrenched divisions in world Christianity can find expressions of that unity, which is both a gift and an obligation?

We're taken back to Andrei Rublev's icon of the Trinity. This is a moving depiction of how the Trinitarian love of God flows between each person in full mutuality, responsiveness, interdependence, and equality. This same love also reaches out in generous hospitality to the world. The circle is open in the icon, even as the circle is to be open when that love fills the body of Christ. The profound mutuality and equality necessary at the foundation of a multiracial parish are derived from the Trinitarian love of God. Rublev's icon provides the inspiring description of how those brought into the circle of the Trinitarian love are to respond to one another in a worshipping community filled with the gifts of God-given diversity.

Welcoming the stranger into the life and love of a parish or a Team, an action so indispensable for discovering anew the unity of the body, is nothing more, or less, than participating in the love of the Trinity.

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