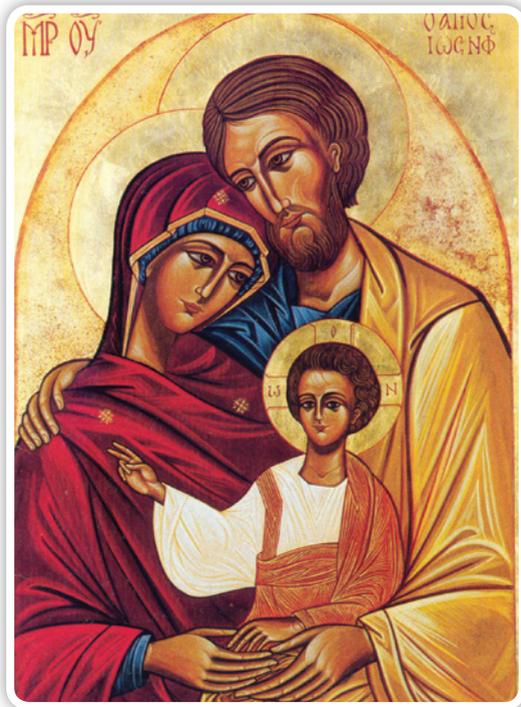


Equipes Notre-Dame  
Teams



## Newsletter for the GB Regions

Equipes Notre Dame, Teams, is an International Christian movement for married couples of all ages.  
Charity Reg. No: 1044902

Equipes Notre-Dame • Teams of Our Lady • Equipos de Nuestra Señora • Equipas de Nossa Senhora • Ehegruppen E.N.D

June 2013 • July 2013 • August 2013

## ■ From The GB Region

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- 1 Diary
- 2 Central Region Letter

## ■ Teams

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- 3 Teams Annual Review

## ■ Prayers, Commentaries & Study Topic

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- 4 Study Topic For June
- 9 Study Topic For July
- 11 Prayers & Commentary for June
- 13 Prayers & Commentary for July
- 15 Prayers & Commentary for August

## ■ Newsletter Editors

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Please send all contributions for the September 2013 - November 2013 edition by July 1st 2013 to

David & Avril Cockshoot,

## ■ Articles on the GB Web Site

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These are articles that would have been included in the GB newsletter in its previous form.

- Article by Father José Jacinto Ferreira de Farias, scj, Spiritual Counsellor for the International Leading Team (ERI)
- "Bearing Witness to Faith", article by the Liaison Couple for the American Zone, Grace and Roberto.

If you require further copies of the Newsletter, or have changed your address, please contact your local Newsletter Distribution Couple.

# Teams Diary

We list below future events throughout our Regions – some organised by Sectors, some by the Regions. We hope that, by advertising all events in this newsletter, if there is an event in a neighbouring area that you would like to attend, then you will feel free to do so.

<b>Jun</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>Surrey North</b> Ramble	Theresa & Howard Park
<b>July</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>North West</b> Picnic	Tony & pat Banks
<b>Jun</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>Teeside &amp; Yorkshire</b> Picnic at the Lady Chapel in Osmotherley starting with Mass at 12noon	Robert & amanda Toone
<b>Sep</b>	<b>TBA</b>	<b>West</b> Picnic to be held in Bristol mid September	Bill & Margaret Flynn
<b>Sep</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>Surrey North</b> New Responsible Couples Evening 37 Ashley Road, Epsom	Theresa & Howard Park
<b>Sep</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>Central Regional Gathering</b> 9.30am St Gregory's Primary School Northampton	Janet & Paul DeBoo
<b>Oct</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>Southern Regional Gathering</b> St John's Seminary, Wonersh	Teddy & Collette Totman
<b>Oct</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>Northern Regional Gathering</b> St John's Church, Warrington	Mark & Dympna Edwards
<b>Oct</b>	<b>21-24</b>	<b>West</b> Retreat at the Monastery of Our Lady and St. Bernard, Brownhill, Stroud, to be led by Fr. Kenneth Payne.	David Andrews
<b>Nov</b>	<b>1-3</b>	<b>Trinidad</b> Annual Retreat to celebrate 30 years of Teams	Shamagne & Gregory Bertrand
<b>Nov</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>National Lay Movements Day</b> "Many Streams, One River ", at Methodist Central Hall, Westminster, London, 10.30 - 17.30 with Mass at Westminster Cathedral 18.00	Antony & Janet Denman

Please note that the date of the next Super-Regional Gathering is now confirmed as 15th to 17th August 2014 in Dublin & will be a joint Gathering with the Irish Teams to celebrate 50 years of Teams in Ireland. Further details to follow in due course. Antony & Janet.

March 2013

Dear Friends in Teams,

As we write this we are eagerly awaiting both the election of a new Pope and the GB Province formation weekend in Northampton. Both will surely be highlights for March and we look forward to seeing some of you at the latter event.

We have just celebrated Marriage week and attended lovely special services in both Northampton Cathedral and Ealing Abbey. There has been so much written & spoken about Marriage recently that it was refreshing to be able to simply celebrate this wonderful gift given to us by God as married couples. One couple at the Northampton Mass were celebrating 70 years together!



It is perhaps fitting therefore that the study topic in this newsletter tackles Conjugal Spirituality. Whether you use this topic or another we hope that this Year of Faith is going well for you and your Team; please do try and make the effort to attend Teams events such as Mixed Teams meetings and the Regional Gathering date of 28th September can go in your diaries now.

Responsible couples please also remember that before May you will receive blue envelopes for the annual contributions.

God bless

**Dzidzia & Piotr Chodzko-Zajko**

Central Regional Couple

# Teams Annual Review

This table may help some teams to carry out their annual review.

## Team Review

Review – Led by: .....

Start time	
Day and calendar for meetings	
Opening Prayer Cards	
Meal	
Sharing	
Meditation	
Reviewing Endeavours Prayer	
Study Topic	
Events	
Retreat	
What else about our Team?	

**Giving a score of 1 to 5, as a couple, how would you rate Teams on how:**

- Teams helps you to build the Kingdom of Heaven
- Teams strengthens and supports your marriage
- Teams develops your personal relationship with Jesus

**What one word describes your life in Teams?**

**What is the one thing you would like to do differently, in Teams?**

# The Responsibilities of Conjugal Spirituality

## 1. To Prepare For The Meeting

- What is the role for a Christian couple in today's world?
- Are we aware of our evangelizing role today?
- What can we do about it?

## 2. Introduction

Christian life requires active participation in evangelization. Christ asked his apostles to: *"Go, therefore, make disciples of all the nations..."* (Mt 28, 19). The question is to know how to do it in today's world, because traditional means no longer seem to be very convincing. On the other hand, we must recognize that our individualistic world increasingly moves away from the Church, and modern culture rejects any kind of authority coming from institutions.

Faced with this reality, a number of questions arise: would it not be self-destructive to try to adapt religion to this new culture? How can we avoid losing our Christian identity? How, with a new form of expression, can we communicate our faith without changing the essence of Christianity? And we Christian couples, what precisely will be our evangelist role?

In this Chapter we want to draw your attention to those points we consider important for each Christian couple to engage effectively in spreading the Kingdom of God. Indeed, with the Teams of Our Lady, we have had the extraordinary opportunity to experience and live conjugal spirituality supported by a community of faith (the team). This is an incomparable treasure that we cannot keep for ourselves.

Fr. Caffarel introduced his article about "The Couple Apostle" by saying that: *"The sacrament of marriage makes the couple a community not only cultural, but apostolic. This means that the Christian couple must contribute in their own irreplaceable way to the building of the Mystical Body..."*

## 3. The Reality

Note: Here we ask you to do an exercise of discernment about the reality as you see and live it in your own country, your region, your parish, in other words, there, where you live. Try to analyze with clarity your situation, try especially to formulate everything that, within the domain of the foundations of Christian spirituality, troubles you and/or fills you with hope. To begin this reflection we offer a few points:

- In general, Christians, like non-Christians, persist in confusing the Church with the hierarchy by ignoring that it brings together all the baptized.
- Today, faith is one of several items, on the "the preference market". We can choose a few items and leave the others: we can be a believer and at the same time non-practicing, be an atheist and be married in the Church, a believer but living in a moral relativism. This

## Study Topic For June

mentality is one of the most serious problems facing Christianity today: a faith without commitment, a faith separated from life.



**'Do not seek the path to happiness at the market of your preferences!  
The only good direction is the one that was given to us by Christ.'**

- The younger generations are no longer educated and socialized into religion. Civil society is becoming increasingly secular. It becomes declericalised and therefore requires the Christian to witness their faith with more conviction. One is not a Christian by birth, one becomes Christian by conviction.
- The Magisterium has recognized the importance of the couple and the family in building tomorrow's world. It also recognizes the emergence of new charismas among laypeople as a manifestation of the presence of the Holy Spirit and as the emergence of possible new apostolates for the laity in the world today.  
(Write down your observations)

### 4. Reflections

**How can, Teams, as a living community of couples, give a convincing and appealing answer to the questions facing the world today?**

Today we have a situation which is not dissimilar to that experienced by the early Christian communities. The latter were immersed in an environment characterized by the predominance of a pagan culture. It is therefore no exaggeration to define our current situation as "neo-pagan".

*"According to the Latin American bishops who met in Aparecida Brazil, one can only be disciple in community (Cfr. 278d). The disciple by nature is not isolated. He cannot live out his vocation privately. Even if current culture has a strong preference for subjectivism and consumer individualism, and even if the selfish strength of the human heart seeks to live for "self", Christ's disciple must live in community, that is to say, in Church, as part of the Body of Christ. They are a "member of the Body of Christ" with Christ at the head and the other members forming the body." (Col. 1,18)<sup>1</sup>.*

<sup>1</sup> Mgr. Héctor Cubillos P. 'The Missionary Disciple, according to the document from Aparecida'. Conference given during the First Meeting of the END of Colombia in Bogota, August 2011.

## Study Topic For June

Evangelists described the story of Jesus' small community with his twelve apostles. In reading the Acts of the Apostles, we see how Paul, who was expelled from the synagogues, was forced to insert himself somewhere else. First of all he went to the families of the believers and then he visited the pagan families, who transformed their homes into a place dedicated to the proclamation the Gospel. Note that Paul's main role was not preaching but the proclamation of his personal testimony as a person identified with Christ. Paul converted the family community by transforming the pagan values, both natural and human, into Christian values, in other words, transforming simple pagan families into authentic Christian communities.

Our strategy should not then be different to that used by the early Christians: inserting ourselves in the couples and families in order to permeate their culture of evangelical values. This spreading of the Gospel cannot be heavy, or discursive, it should be "alive". It is because of this that we need to "in-culture" the Gospel in the various fields of human life by transforming from within the consciences, cultures, customs with the strength and light of the Gospel.

In the Guide to Teams, we can read: *"The members of the Teams of Our Lady live in today's world. They are fully part of it and want to be the "yeast in the dough". This is why they must constantly discern the signs of the times, in order to discover the new realities and the needs of couples today."*

"Discerning the Signs of the Times", is to recognize and interpret the changing aspirations and needs of women and men of our time, discovering more precisely among people of each generation, their most worrying issues, their deepest aspirations and their most frustrating despairs. It is also important to take a hard look at the events that are taking place in society. We cannot remain indifferent to these realities since we are called to be "yeast in the dough." (Mt 13, 33).

The yeast in the dough is "minority", which does not mean marginality! If it is good, this yeast will allow the whole mass to rise. Similarly, the salt which is a very small minority in the bread, gives it its flavor!

Members of Teams, we must be aware of the urgency and necessity for our Christian vocation to respond quickly to Christ's call to be the salt of the earth, the light of the world and the yeast in the dough. We must be well aware that as Christian couples we are placed in the very heart of society. The family is recognized as the basic unit of society by most sociologists. We are called to bear witness to our faith, our love and our hope in this world that sails directionless in the waters of individualism. We cannot sit idly before announcing the Good News of Christian marriage to all couples, whether they are married, engaged, advocates for living together, or civilly married. We must give them the opportunity to discover Christian marriage as a way of love, happiness and holiness. These are "our people" in the words of Jean VANIER.

Let us not make our teams "nurseries of self-righteous adults" but free bodies at the service of the Church and society.

## Study Topic For June

On the other hand, it is clear that the number of divorces and separations increase exponentially. These love sick are the couples who are very often left at the roadside. We cannot exclude from “our people” those couples in difficulties, the divorced and the divorced and remarried. By vocation and because of our training, we are called to go to those who can also be on their way to witness God’s tenderness and mercy as expressed by John Paul II.<sup>2</sup>

In summary, we should give testimony to the fact that Christ is the only one who can give meaning to our life, both as individuals and as couples. It is by demonstrating this truth that we can effectively contribute to building the Kingdom of God in our society and become signs of the “new civilization of love!”

### 5. Texts To Study In Depth

**“Man and woman, united in love, are the living parabola of the divine community.”**

For Fr. Caffarel, four components characterize the mission of Christian couples:

#### **Reciprocal Sanctification**

*“It is primarily with your spouse that God wants you as his collaborator!”*

*Remember that Pius XI in Casti Connubii wrote: “This mutual moulding of husband and wife, this determined effort to perfect each other, is the primary reason of matrimony, provided matrimony be looked at not in the restricted sense as instituted for procreation.”*

*The happy initiative of a young couple inspiring this spiritual care for their spouse one for the other, is therefore not a luxury. Through the sacrament of marriage, you become responsible for the sanctification of your spouse, following Christ’s example of becoming incarnate and making himself responsible for the salvation of humanity”.*

So do you feel responsible for the spiritual progress of your spouse?

#### **Procreation and children’s education**

*“About your procreative and educative activities, the great word of ministry should be incorporated. [...] This is a major ministry.”*

*“This mission, that is yours already on the natural level, was confirmed and highlighted by Christ. He has given you power and graces in order to sanctify your children. He entrusted you with the task of being witnesses and prophets to them of his saving love.”*

*“Your first way of contributing to the sanctification of your children is to love them with great tenderness, wanting them to develop and working with them to achieve it. Nevertheless, parents, you have to convey the Word of God to your children. Give as much importance to the education of the couple as such but also to that of your family. To lead a child to be a fully spiritual adult, the father and the mother should work together to give birth and to raise them.”*

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<sup>2</sup> The Teams Movement has a defined orientation in this regard. Teams is intended for couples engaged in the sacrament of marriage. However, the Pope’s call was not made to the Movement but to us, team members. Therefore, this support from team members can take many forms and following various initiatives. It is up to us, team members to answer them!

## Study Topic For June

*"Hear what Christ says to you: 'It is with you and through you, parents, that I want to multiply and develop new children for the Heavenly Father.'*

Can you give a testimony of your experience in this matter at the team meeting?

### **The apostolate of the couple**

*"You have two kinds of richness: human richness and richness of grace.*

*Firstly, the human richness. The first source of all other richness and the most precious: your conjugal love — but it must be alive. [...]*

*"The Christian couple is not satisfied just to offer their human richness, to show through them the fundamental truths: they bestow on their hosts the richness of the grace they are living. Their great spiritual richness is the presence of Christ who makes this family community a "little church" in the words of St. John Chrysostom. "When two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them" said the Lord." [...] "After this quick inventory of your human and spiritual richness, you know that we can say that the Christian couple is "an exceptionally effective instrument of apostolate." "Anyone who welcomes you, welcomes me; and those who welcome me, welcome the one who sent me." (Mt 10, 40).*

### **The apostolate outside the home**

*But apostolate is not only to give testimony and enlightenment, it is also a task. It is the apostolic activities that husband and wife can undertake and develop together. Some of them even require the participation of both: preparation of engaged couples, welcoming catechumens, helping the newly married, supporting couples in trouble.*

You are also invited to share your experiences of apostolate in the field of family ministry.

## **6. Tips For Reflection**

- What have you particularly discovered in this chapter?
- Share your reflections made during your discussion as a couple.
- Jointly share the experiences that you have had in the context of your work, your neighborhood, your city, and your circle of friends.
- Consider as a team what the role of the Christian couple should be in today's de-Christianized world.

## **7. Suggested Questions For Growth In Spritual Maturity**

Based on the findings of this Chapter, can you establish a rule of life that helps you to engage effectively in the evangelization of the world around you?

# The Review Meeting

*“The last meeting of the team year is a review meeting. It gives the team the opportunity to reflect and review its life openly and in a Christian spirit. It looks back on its progress during the past year and prepares for the following year.”*  
(The Guide to Teams)

## 1. To Prepare For The Meeting

The following proposes questions to prepare for the review meeting. We suggest you prepare for this meeting with a review of life in the spirit as suggested by the extract from the Guide above.

### As a couple

- What does spiritual maturity mean for you?
- Do you feel that you have progressed in your conjugal spirituality this year?
- In what area do you feel that you have made the most progress?

### As a Team

- How do you rate the quality of Sharing in the team as a means of progress in conjugal spirituality?
- What have you received from the other couples?
- How has the Spiritual Counselor been able to contribute to this growth?

### In the Movement

- Has the Movement (Sector, Region, Province, Super-Region and ERI) offered you opportunities to meet, for formation, sessions on the Endeavours and Sharing?
- Have you taken advantage of those opportunities? How?

## 2. Introduction

When a life project between a man and a woman is born, they try to get to know themselves better to create links for greater collaboration. It is therefore clear that there will be no conjugal spirituality possible without looking for a greater intimacy with the person and message of Christ. Conjugal spirituality, like any project of love, begins with a shorter or longer period of initiation.

Loving Christ, adhering to his Gospel, represents the entrance of God into the life of a human being and thus also into the life of a couple. This entrance, does not take place as an idea but as the very real presence of a living person. Divine love can therefore participate directly in our conjugal love. That is conjugal spirituality.

Team life and especially, the team meeting, are valuable tools to grow in conjugal spirituality. We arrived at the end of this year working as a team, so it is a good opportunity to take stock of your spiritual progress as a couple and as a team.

### 3. The Objective

The team should seriously and calmly review the past year, regarding, in particular, our progress in conjugal spirituality, that is to say, in the love for Christ and adherence to His Gospel. As its name suggests, this is an evaluation and projection meeting. It concerns of course the various aspects of the life of each couple. But it focuses on evaluating the life of the team, what needs to be done to protect, strengthen and, if necessary, to correct.

### 4. Texts To Study In Depth

*"(...) It is not my intention here to offer you an extensive examination of conscience: at home, in my parish, in my profession, in the country, in the Church; am I a parasite or a good servant? It would not be serious to address this important issue superficially. More modestly, I would like to invite each couple to question themselves: Why did we join teams? To take, or to give?*

*Then, I ask each team: Why did you join the Movement? Was it only to find the work themes already done, to receive a newsletter, to benefit from the experiences of others? If so, you are in the wrong place.*

*(...) But if your answer me: "We want to participate in the great mission undertaken by Teams of Our Lady, we want to establish the kingdom of God in our homes, to immerse holiness in the midst of the modern world and not remain a privilege for monks, we want to train good Workers for the City, robust Apostles for Christ", then you are on the right track for your spirituality, your team will be useful to all.*

*(...) Being imbued with the spirit of Teams, you will have no difficulty in accepting its discipline. Your reaction will not be: that rule bothers me, I protest! But, since this obligation is useful for the smooth running of the Movement, I accept it!"* (Father Henri Caffarel - Love and Grace)

*"We cannot confront the Movement – as a tenant against the owner or an employee against the employer, we need to feel like a member of a "whole", responsible for everything, in solidarity with everyone. We cannot set ourselves apart regardless of the progress or regression of the Movement.*

*A living movement is a movement that is being built every day, thanks to the action of each of its members. In construction, each one takes responsibility for their own tasks, according to their particular capabilities, resources, time, generosity...*

*A movement declines and dies when its members abandon the mentality of "builders" to adopt a mentality of "tenants"!*

*All you members of Teams of Our Lady, are you contributing to building the Movement? I invite you to put this issue on the table."* (Father Henri Caffarel - Builders or Tenants)

### 6. Tips For Reflection

During the meeting, each couple will share what they consider especially important in their evaluation. This will allow us to deepen the progress of conjugal spirituality for the other couples and that of team life.

**Meditation** A reading from the Gospel according to St Matthew 28: 16-20

Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. When they saw him they worshipped him; but some doubted. And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.

## Prayer For Peace

**St Francis of Assisi**

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace,  
Where there is hatred, let me sow love,  
Where there is injury, pardon,  
Where there is doubt, faith,  
Where there is despair, hope,  
Where there is darkness, light,  
And where there is sadness, joy

Grant that I may not so much seek  
To be consoled, as to console,  
To be understood, as to understand,  
To be loved, as to love  
For it is in giving that we receive  
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned  
And it is in dying that we are born to Eternal life

## Concluding Prayer

Lord, you have entrusted us with the job of teaching the world to know your love and compassion. May the light of your love always shine through us in all that we do and say.  
**Amen**

## Commentary

### On doubts and distractions

'Some doubted ...' Did you notice some of those medal winners at last year's Olympics 'biting' their medals at the awards ceremonies? They seemed to be affirming for the cameras that they had the 'real thing'; and, given their extraordinary efforts, they also confirmed for us that they were the 'real thing' themselves. Occasionally, in the sacrament of reconciliation, someone will raise with me their anxiety that they have doubts in their faith and distractions in their prayer. Doubt can be one of the best tests and proofs of faith. Faith and doubt seem to be two sides of the same coin; very rare is the person whose faith has no complementary doubt. Distractions in prayer can be a reminder of the immensity and the complexity of our minds. It would be good to pray without ever worrying about whether or not we turned off the gas; but that little nag at the back of our minds is a reminder of how well adapted our minds are to the immensely complex demands of life. (And maybe a reminder to incorporate gas checking into a fitting preparation for prayer!) Blessed John Paul II wrote about the gifts that we have of faith and of reason and of how the two work together:

Faith and reason are like two wings on which the human spirit rises to the contemplation of truth; and God has placed in the human heart a desire to know the truth — in a word, to know himself — so that, by knowing and loving God, men and women may also come to the fullness of truth about themselves. (*Fides et ratio*; Papal Encyclical)

When we find ourselves doubting, like some of those first disciples, it is good to read, reflect, discuss and pray about it ... and then to respond with love and faith in Christ and to know that we have the 'real thing.'

**Gerard Flynn, a priest of Portsmouth Diocese**

## **Meditation** A reading from the Gospel according to St Luke 13: 6-13

Then he told this parable: "A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. So he said to the gardener, 'See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?' He replied, 'Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig round it and put manure on it. If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down'".

Now he was teaching in one of the synagogues on the Sabbath, when there appeared a woman with a spirit that had crippled her for eighteen years. She was bent over and was quite unable to stand up straight. When Jesus saw her he called her over and said, "Woman you are set free from your ailment." When he laid his hands on her, immediately she stood up straight and began praising God.

## **Prayer of Saint Augustine**

"Lord my God, my only hope, hear me!  
Do not let lassitude stop me from searching for you,  
But make me seek your face ardently.  
Give me the strength, you who made me find you,  
And who has given me the hope to find you more and more.  
Before you are my strength and my weakness:  
Keep my strength, heal my infirmity.  
Before you are my knowledge and my ignorance:  
There, where you have opened, receive me;  
There, where you have closed, open yourself to my call,  
That I may remember, understand and love you!"

## **Concluding Prayer**

Oh Lord, it is easy for us to allow the burdens of our everyday lives to weigh us down, and the fruits of our spirits to become small and ineffectual. Help us to turn more and more to you for nourishment, that we may grow and become the people you want us to be.  
**Amen**

### Commentary

'Lock 'em up and throw away the key!' I have actually seen that simplistic approach to criminal justice in one of our popular newspapers. It's a vengeful way of saying that there is no such thing as redemption. Jesus subverts that attitude right up to his death on the cross. He asks his Father's pardon for his executioners, and, to the criminal on the cross next to him, he promises paradise. Even at the final moment, he tells us, it is never too late to repent and be redeemed.

Human time is not God's time, as we constantly read in the Gospel. Jesus warns against our making such hasty judgments as that vineyard - owner; he prefers the wise counsel of the gardener, that we should wait patiently and make everything as right as it can be to allow fruit to grow.

I remember from my teaching days that you could wait a seeming eternity for a youngster to understand something ... and then see the light dawn bright in their eyes as it all finally clicked! But were there also youngsters for whom understanding might never dawn because of an impatient teacher who had put fear between the child and their understanding?

With infinite patience Jesus waits on us, looking to see how fruitful our lives will be, knowing that we need time and gentle tending. If we could show the same patient, forgiving love to our neighbours how might we free them, and ourselves, from vengeance and help to open the doors of redemption?

**Gerard Flynn, a priest of Portsmouth Diocese**

There is no Study Topic for August since most teams do not meet during this month. Instead we offer a short reflection based on our Team Retreat at Douai.

**Our mission as followers of Jesus is to develop the Kingdom of Heaven within our community. Jesus instructed us by many parables how we are to go about this mission:**

## **1. The parable of the Mustard Seed (Matthew 13 13-32)**

We have the mustard seed planted within us – it is the Kingdom of Heaven and it is our role to nurture it so that it grows into the largest bush which shelters the “birds of the air” and produces seeds that go on to propagate the kingdom. The kingdom is to be created here on earth not “in some heaven light years away”.

## **2. The parable of the hidden treasure (Matthew 13 44-45)**

The pearl of great price is the future we have to look forward to when we become more than God’s creation and become His begotten. All of our life is to be devoted to this aim; we should “sell everything to buy the field”. The path to achieving this most precious goal is made up of our actions bringing the kingdom of heaven to our community (right now).

## **3. The parable of the talents (Matthew 25 14-30)**

We are given the grace to achieve the kingdom of God where we are and if we do not we are the third person in the parable who simply buried the talent and failed to increase its worth. The mustard seed remained a seed and did not flourish in this poor wretch.

**Building the kingdom of heaven means that we must minister to the poor, the sick, the lonely, the homeless, the unbelievers and the bereaved who are around us in where we live. Blessed Mother Teresa of Calcutta has written plenty about this – our neighbours give us the need to create the kingdom of heaven here.**

Our Catholic faith gives us the sustenance to do this work, especially our regular attendance at Mass and the sacraments, but they are not in themselves an end – we do not reach heaven by ticking the box of attending Mass each Sunday and doing nothing else.

To attain the Pearl of Great Price we must dedicate our lives to bringing the kingdom of heaven to our own town and that pearl is nothing less than our own spiritual future with Jesus and His Father, united by the Holy Spirit. (“Mere Christianity”, C S Lewis).

**David & Avril**

# notice board

Literature Couple

Gordon & Marie Wratten

N.B. Not responsible for supply of Teams Newsletters - please contact your local distribution couple (see foot of Contents page)

XOD Regional Gathering 2013



## Is Marriage Out of Date?

Today, across the world, the meaning of marriage is challenged and debated.

What can Teams of Our Lady bring to this debate and offer society through our Christian faith?

Saturday, 28 September 2013, 09:30 am to 16:30 pm  
St Gregory's Catholic Primary School  
Grange Road, Northampton NN3 2AX  
Mixed Team Meetings follow until 20:00 pm

- £12 per person
- Childcare provided

## Team Prayer      The Magnificat

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord  
and my spirit exults in God my saviour;  
because he has looked upon his lowly handmaid.  
Yes, from this day forward all generations will call me blessed,  
for the Almighty has done great things for me.  
Holy is His name, and His mercy reaches from age to age  
for those who fear Him.  
He has shown the power of His arm,  
He has routed the proud of heart.  
He has pulled down princes from their thrones and exalted the lowly.  
The hungry He has filled with good things, the rich He sent empty away.  
He has come to the help of Israel His servant, mindful of His mercy  
- according to the promise He made to our ancestors,  
of His mercy to Abraham and to his descendants for ever.

Our Lady of the Home, pray for us.

final thought . . . . or two

A soft answer . . . . .

. . . . turns away anger