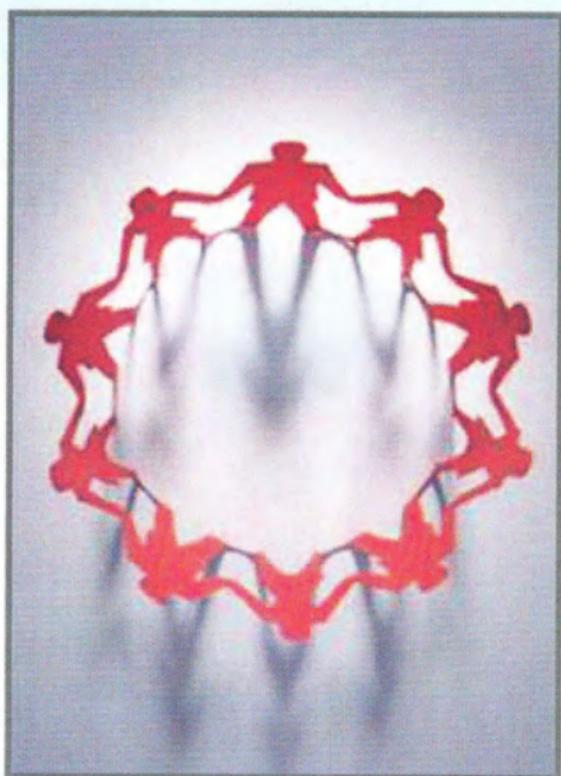




The Teams Responsible Couple



GB Province of Teams



The Responsible Couple in each Team is at the heart of the Vocation of Teams of Our Lady. They are attentive to every Team member, careful to maintain the balance of the Team, guarantors of the Movement's identity and an essential support for the Team.

This essential and demanding mission can only be envisaged within a close and regular relationship with the Movement and above all with the support of married prayer and regular spiritual guidance.

This small guide is intended to accompany you daily, to be used as both a support and a guide in your mission, alongside the study topic of the year.

Rest assured too of the support of the other Responsible Couples, the Liaison Couples, the Sector and Regional Couples, as well as that of the National and International Teams and do not hesitate to call upon them if necessary.

In prayer, we give thanks for your commitment and we entrust your mission and your Team to the intercession of Our Lady.

Fraternally,

International Leading Team

The Team

“Aware of their weakness and of the limits to their strength, if not of their good intentions, because they experience daily how difficult it is to live as Christians in a secular world, and because they have unshakable faith in the power of fraternal mutual help, they have decided to form a team.”

Charter of the Teams of Our Lady (1947)



The word 'team', preferred to any other, implies the idea of a precise objective, pursued actively and in common: the seeking of God

Responsible Couple:

Gives Loving Support

“It is important to know the others, otherwise it is impossible to love them with a true love and to help them properly . . .”

Father Henri Caffarel



Accepting the role of Responsible Couple means committing to the service of the Teams and its members.

They welcome

They listen

The Responsible Couple creates a climate of family & friendship

They are attentive

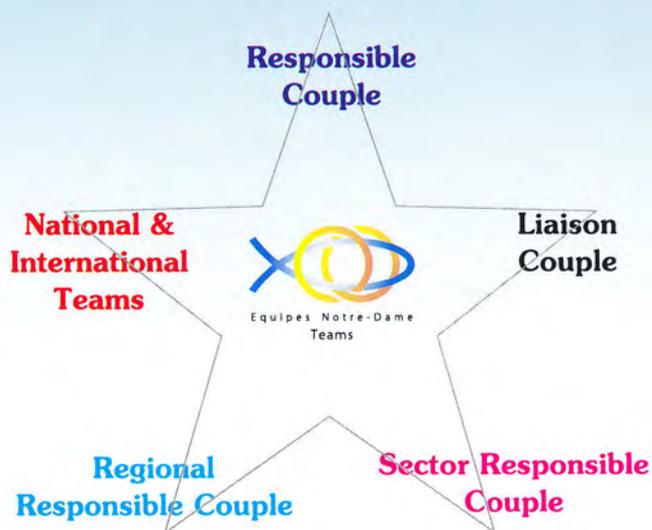
They are supportive

They are non-judgemental

Responsible Couple:

At the Heart of the Movement

The role of the responsible couple is an essential link between the Team and its members. It is also the essential link with the Movement.



Teams of Our Lady is a large movement with several levels of service. Each one operates to enable Team members to live fully the Christian life within their marriage.

The service of the Responsible Couple is one of the cornerstones of the Movement.

Responsible Couple:

In Contact with the Movement

“As a branch cannot bear fruit all by itself; unless it remains part of the vine.”

John 15:4



The Responsible Couple maintains regular contact with the Sector through:-

The Sector Events

Keeping up with the News through the Movement

**December 8th
Birthday Mass**

Responsible Couples meetings and Mixed Team Meetings organised by the Sector

The Responsible Couple is in close contact with the Liaison Couple, with whom they talk a couple of times a year. They also invite the Liaison Couple to attend their meeting at least once a year.

Responsible Couple:

“Responsible for mutual spiritual help”

“They endeavour to deepen their religious knowledge and to discover the demands of Christ. It is together, as a Team, that they pursue this effort”

Charter of the Teams of Our Lady

The Responsible Couple is the shepherd of the Team and is responsible for the sharing on the Endeavours at the monthly meeting. Sharing Endeavours allows everyone to see where they are on their spiritual journey and what support might be helpful within the Team.

This sharing on Endeavours is a special feature of the Teams Movement.

They bear witness.

They encourage everyone at the meeting to share the progress they have made spiritually.

They listen



They encourage everyone to share truthfully their life of faith.

They help everyone maintain a balance between their desire to follow Christ, and the means to achieve it.

They may suggest focusing on a particular Endeavour in the month ahead.

During the month they communicate with, and pray for, their Team.

The Responsible Couple of the Team will find the necessary strength in prayer and attending the Eucharist in order to accomplish their mission

Responsible Couple:

A firm Relationship with
the Movement

The Responsible Couple attends formation sessions organised for them by the Movement. Such sessions develop a better understanding of the charism of the Teams of Our Lady within their own Team



The Responsible Couple emphasises the need to participate materially in the Movement by asking each couple in the Team to contribute annually the equivalent of one day's income as their circumstances allow.



"This contribution has an evangelic meaning, because it is the sign of belonging to the Movement. Mutual help is one of the pillars of the Teams of Our Lady mystique".

The Responsible Couple looks after the administrative details. They inform the Sector Couple if there are any changes in the Team (births, marriages, deaths...), as well as the contact details (address, telephone, email ...).



Responsible Couple:

Animators



They carefully prepare the next meeting with the host couple and if possible with the Spiritual Counsellor.



They organise fun moments for the Team during the year.

Between meetings, they remain in contact with Teams Members and support couples in times of difficulty or need.



They ensure the smooth running of the meeting and help develop the prayer life of the Team.

They organise an annual retreat.

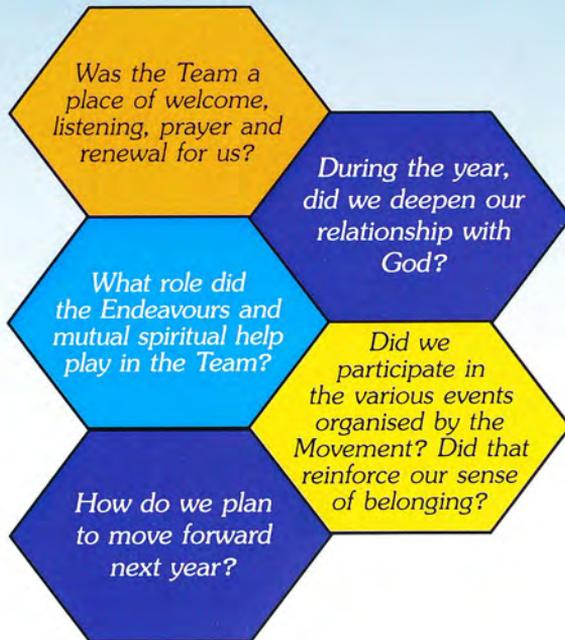


Responsible Couple:

The Annual Review

Vocabulary

The aim of this meeting is to review the year in a spirit of prayer, truth and fraternity.



Let us renew our commitment to the loving support of our Team and the charism of the Teams Movement

Team Meeting: *"A team is more than a human community: it meets 'in Christ's name' and it wants its members to progress in the love of God and in the love of one's neighbour in order to respond better to Christ's call."*
(Charter of the Teams of Our Lady)

At the monthly meeting, the exchanges of points of view are only interesting if everyone prepares them. The Responsible Couple gives clear details about the date and place of the next monthly meeting as well as the prayer text, study topic chapter and Endeavours to focus on. They may designate another couple to run the meeting, except the Sharing moment, which is run by the Responsible Couple for the whole year. After every meeting, the Responsible Couple keeps notes about dates and administrative points made. These can be sent to all the Team members.

Election of the Responsible Couple: The Team's Responsible Couple organises the election of their successor. It may be a secret vote or by mutual agreement but it needs thought and should not be an automatic, systematic rotation of couples in this role. Indeed, if it is considered to be good for the wellbeing of the Team, it is possible to ask the Responsible Couple to prolong their mission for a further year.

Training of the Responsible Couple: Since the mission of the Responsible Couple is primarily spiritual, it is in prayer as a couple and regular spiritual guidance that they will find the graces necessary to carry out their role. However, they must not neglect the material dimension of their mission. An information session is necessary in all cases in order to ensure that this mission remains within the spirit of the Teams of Our Lady. Every year therefore, the Responsible Couple and Spiritual Counsellors are invited to participate in a weekend session, which should concentrate on the orientation of the year, chosen by the Responsible Team. Other meetings or gatherings are sometimes organised by the Sector and/or the Liaison Couple.

Information and the Responsible

Couple: The Responsible Couple should keep up-to-date with the life and news of the Teams Movement. To this end, they should attend sessions organized by the Movement, read the Teams 'Newsletter' and check the Teams websites (National and International). They read various documents produced by Teams so that they understand the duties and range of the different Responsibilities. Close contact with the Liaison Couple supplements this information.

Endeavours: The Teams of Our Lady do not impose a specific spirituality on their members. They simply wish to help them to commit as a couple to following the path laid out by Christ. "Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and obey it." (Lk 11:28)

That is why the Teams of Our Lady suggest that its team members:

1 / **Regularly Listen to the Word of God**

2 / Turn to God daily in a silent 'heart-to-heart' (**Personal Prayer**)

3 / Pray together daily as husband and wife (and if possible as a family) (**Prayer as a Couple**)

4 / Make time every month for a true dialogue together and with the Lord (**the Sit-Down**)

5 / Decide upon a '**Rule of Life**' and review it every month

6 / Make time every year to attend a 2-day **Annual Retreat** as a couple and review their lives with the Lord.

Financial Contribution to the Movement: Each couple should participate financially to the Movement to which they belong and from which they receive so much. The Charter established in 1947 by Father Caffarel set out that every couple was to contribute the equivalent of a day's wages. The Responsible Couple encourages every couple in their Team to meet this requirement as circumstances allow.

Spiritual Counsellor: The Team members choose the Spiritual Counsellor and may consult the Sector Team and their Spiritual Counsellor for advice. The latter may refuse a candidate for justified reasons. The Spiritual Counsellor remains with and in the Team for as long as they and the Team wish. If the desire to change Spiritual Counsellor is expressed, the Responsible Couple for the Sector is consulted. The Spiritual Counsellor helps the Responsible Couple take complete responsibility for the spiritual growth of the Team. The Spiritual Counsellor participates fully at the meetings, sharing the Team's joys and sorrows and speaking up at all moments during the meeting (prayer, sharing, pooling on the Endeavours, study topic). They share their doctrinal knowledge as well as their pastoral and priestly experiences. Thus they invite the Team to live its larger dimension as a cell of the Church, a member of the Mystical Body, of which Christ is the head. Father Caffarel insisted on the complementary nature of the sacrament of marriage and the sacrament of orders.

Liaison Couple: The Liaison

Couple is the closest link to the rest of the movement for the Team. No Team can live for a long time isolated and cut off from the larger community. The role of the Liaison Couple is to set up a confidential relationship with the Team and to help them in their progress towards God, by highlighting the meaning of the Movement's propositions and the importance of adhering faithfully to these essential characteristics.

Responsible Team for the Sector: A sector is made up of ten to twenty teams in a given geographical area. The Responsible Couple for the Sector has responsibility for co-ordinating the events in that area and is supported by a Sector Team and a Spiritual Counsellor.

Responsible Team for the Region: A Region is made up of three to eight sectors on average. The Responsible Couple for the Region coordinates and organises events in the various sectors of their geographic zone.

Province: Each country, depending on its size, may be divided into a few provinces that are made up of various regions (on average three to eight). The Responsible Couple for the Province coordinates the activities of the regions and serves on the Responsible Team for the Super-Region.

Responsible Team for the Super-Region: This team is run by the responsible couple for the country or countries concerned. It is made up of those responsible for its constituent Provinces and Regions, a Spiritual Counsellor and may also include some other couples in charge of specific tasks (secretarial duties, communication, research and reflection, etc...) Its mission is to keep alive the charism of the Teams.

International Movement: The world is divided into four zones (Americas, Eurafrica, Central Europe, Eurasia) with a Liaison Couple for each zone.

International Leading Team (ERI): This team comprises a Leading Couple, together with couples from the four zones, a couple in charge of Satellite Teams, a couple in charge of Communications and a couple who deal with administrative details.

The administrative office is located at:

49 rue de la Glacière, 75013 Paris.

Tel: +33 1 43 31 96 21

Site: <http://www.equipes-notre-dame.com/en/>

Email: end-international@wanadoo.fr

Satellite Teams: The International Leading Team designates the Satellite Teams to reflect and work on the big subjects, which impact the life, growth and development of the Teams of Our Lady. The focus of their reflections and their work-in-progress can be seen on the website.



Magnificat

And Mary said:

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.

Amen.