



The Charism of Teams of Our Lady

The Catholic Church and Christian couples have very good reasons to thank God for the gift and life of Father Henri Caffarel.

The Lord inspired him to found the Teams of Our Lady movement with four young couples and gave him a long life that allowed him to step back and look at the road travelled forty years later.

The members of the Teams of Our Lady, with long hindsight, know that their movement does indeed come from inspiration of the Holy Spirit.

The Teams of Our Lady movement was given to the Church for the good of couples and the family, the domestic church.

Otherwise, how else can we explain the rapid development, in just a few years on all five continents, of a movement started by a small group of four couples and a priest without modern means of communication?

How can we explain its influence in the life of couples and the pastoral care of the Church, if not by a sign of the Holy Spirit?

The Teams of Our Lady movement is a charism for the Church, a gift to rediscover the value of the sacrament of marriage as a path to love, happiness, fidelity and holiness.

The journey of Father Caffarel and the first couples, enabled them to understand the need to lay the foundations of the conjugal spirituality that all the members of the movement live today.

"At the origin of conjugal spirituality, there is a call from Christ. Our vocation as a couple is to go together towards Christ, one and the other, one with the other, one through the other". (Father Henri Caffarel)

Thus Father Henri Caffarel and the first couples of the Teams of Our Lady proposed to couples the concrete means to live, in marriage, the evangelical ideal that Christ proposes to his disciples.

These endeavours are one of the pillars of the conjugal spirituality that couples in Teams of Our Lady live today.

As a movement of couples and families in the Catholic Church, the Teams of Our Lady have, since 1959, always met with the various Popes, to receive the teaching of the Church and to follow its orientations.

The members of the Teams of Our Lady are happy to align themselves with the teaching of the Church. It is an encouragement to continue our mission as couples responsible for promoting conjugal spirituality. "It is clear that a movement of conjugal spirituality such as yours, is fully within the care that the Church wishes to have for families, as much by the growth in maturity of the couples who participate in your teams, as by the fraternal support given to the other couples to whom they are sent". (Pope Francis)

Pope Francis therefore considers our movement as one of the instruments that the Church places at the service of the spiritual growth and accompaniment of couples.

Pope Francis therefore recommends and encourages all couples to put into practice the spirituality followed by the Teams of Our Lady, thus making the teaching we receive the teaching of the Church.

"I therefore encourage all couples to put into practice and to live in depth, with constancy and perseverance, the spirituality followed by the Teams of Our Lady. I think that "the endeavours" proposed are truly effective aids which enable couples to progress with confidence in married life in the way of the Gospel". (Pope Francis to the Teams of Our Lady, September 10, 2015)

A charism is given by the Holy Spirit for the common good.

The Teams of Our Lady must therefore confidently continue their mission in the world by helping people to rediscover, through the sacrament of marriage, the path of happiness, fidelity and holiness that God has traced out for them.

This mission of the Teams of Our Lady continues through the actions of diffusion, information and initiation undertaken by the Regional and Sector leaders and the team members throughout the world.

As team members and those with responsibility, let us give thanks to God for the gift of Teams of Our Lady to his Church.

Thanks to the Teams, the Lord has revitalized our spiritual life by leading us to make progress as a couple, as a team and as a movement. How can we give thanks to the Lord for the good he has done for us?

We can do this by praying with the whole of our movement for the beatification of the Servant of God, Father Henri Caffarel; and also by taking part in the movement's mission to support the dissemination, initiation and accompaniment of couples in the movement or around us.

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