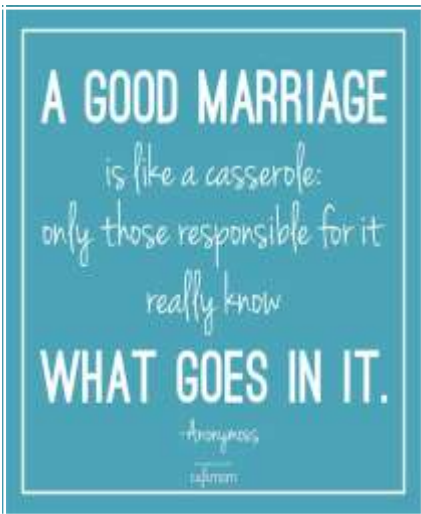


TEAMS GB Newsletter April- June 2023



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Could you write a Reflection?

We are looking for more spiritual counsellors and teams members to write a short reflection on the reading for the team meeting. Would you be able to do this about once a year? Contact the editors.

Tell us about your team

Send us a profile of your team, any news photos or reflections for the April to June 2023 edition to us by 1st June to: editors@teams.gb.org.uk

Changed address? More newsletters needed each time?

Contact your regional couple for any change of postal address or any ongoing change in the number of newsletters your Team needs.

Front cover: Brimham Rocks, North Yorkshire.

Letter from Regional Couple

Dear friends in Teams,

These reflections are prepared a little before you receive the Newsletter; we are writing this in late February when everywhere seems full of snowdrops. We have learned that snowdrops are not British native plants but introductions to this country. We also found they are associated with various Christian symbols Candlemas, the Trinity and the Purification of Mary as well as being a herald of spring.

So this small delicate looking flower which is not a native to Britain has inculcated itself into our gardens, woodlands and our cultural life. People have looked at it and transplanted it into their own gardens and spaces because they have seen and admired its beauty.



Teams are like snowdrops. It is a small and beautiful movement transplanted into Britain. For it to spread, we need to nurture and strengthen our existing teams and create new Teams in new areas. We must expand.

We can strengthen and nurture our Teams by meeting, sharing and praying together. The upcoming Re-Gathering in Swanwick is an excellent opportunity to do this. Teams from all over the UK will be represented. It will be a time to meet old friends and make new ones, to share what is great in our marriages, the role of God in our marriages and our lives. We can learn from each other how to strengthen our marriages and our relationships with God.

Having learnt how to strengthen our relationships as couples and with God through Teams, we can take this out into the world and plant the idea of Teams into areas where it can grow and flourish. This does not mean we have to evangelise by giving pulpit talks or writing letters etc., but this could be part of the process. No, we can find other ways to announce Teams to the world. Like the small snowdrop we can attract couples by letting them see what Teams is doing in our marriages.

Then like the small and beautiful snowdrop Teams will be transplanted into their lives and be given to grow in a new place. This scenario needs one thing, that we make others aware that we are in Teams and what it means to us. So we need to celebrate our lives in Teams so that the world can see the gifts God offers through us to the rest of the world.



Paul & Sue Rowney,

Responsible Couple, Teams GB Northern Region

North West Mixed Teams Meeting

Couples from the Warrington, Formby and Wirral teams met on 18th February for the North West Sector mixed team meeting. We enjoyed exchanging our news and caught up on each other's lives over a shared lunch.

We then had three mixed team meetings in the church. Our study topic prepared by Pat and Tony Banks explored paragraphs from Lumen Fidei, Pope Francis' encyclical on the light of faith. We left the afternoon enriched in so many ways.

**Mark and Dympna
Edwards, Formby Team**



Update from Friends of Fr Caffarel

Asking God for a Miracle

Father Henri Caffarel's Cause is moving ahead. The drafting of the Cause, the *Positio*, was submitted to the Dicastery for the Causes of Saints. Theologians and cardinal will now examine it. On their advice, the pope could sign "the decree of the Heroic Virtues," which would then make the Servant of God a "Venerable", thus recognising that Father Caffarel led an exceptional Christian life and that his teachings on marriage and prayer are in conformity with that of the Church.



What can be done, now at the moment? Two answers: it is up to God to act. It is up to us to ask.

It is up to God to act. It is God who proclaims who is holy. The Church, after having declared Father Caffarel "Venerable," which we do not doubt it will do, will wait for God to confirm his judgment by a miracle, due to the intercession of Father Caffarel. The miracle is God's signature, an approval clearly given to the Church of Father Caffarel's holiness.

It is up to us to ask for a miracle. We can ask God for everything through the intercession of Father Caffarel: the simple things and the important things.

Asking for a miracle has an apostolic goal. It signifies asking God for Father Caffarel to shine more and more in the Church and in the world. It is urgent to get to know this priest who was filled with God's love, was open to the love of couples, and who led so many people on the path to private prayer (*oraison*). Asking for a miracle therefore means entering into the will of God, who wants men to receive his love; it is therefore also the Church's mission.

Concretely, what should you do?

1. Ask God for a miracle through the intercession of Father Henri Caffarel. Say the prayer for his canonisation, the first step of which is his beatification.
2. When a cure seems miraculous, notify - without delay: - the correspondent of the association "The Friends of Father Caffarel" in your Super-region or Region; - the postulator: postulator@henri-caffarel.org They will be able to tell you what to do. Do not delay! The authenticity of a miracle must be checked quickly.

In conclusion, what is at stake with the beatification that starts with a miracle, is Father Caffarel's influence and, through him, the influence of the sacrament of marriage, of love in couples, companions for eternity. What is at stake is also the strength of private interior prayer (*orasion*).

These challenges are central to God's purpose for the future of humanity. Let us ask the Lord to respond to our requests, which are for the glory of his Name: God is Love.

Father Paul-Dominique Marcovits, o.p.
Editor of the Cause of Father Henri Caffarel

Prayer for Fr Caffarel

**God, our Father,
You planted deep in the heart of your servant, Henri Caffarel,
A fountain of love, which bound him totally to your Son
And inspired him with a wonderful capacity to speak of Him.**

**A prophet for our time,
He revealed the dignity and beauty of the vocation of every person.
In the words Jesus addresses to each of us: "Come follow me."
He made couples enthusiastic about the greatness of the sacrament of marriage,
The sign of Christ's fruitful love for the Church and of His union with her.**

**He showed that priests and couples are called to live a vocation of love.
He was a guide to widows: love is stronger than death.
Prompted by the Holy Spirit, he accompanied many Christians on the path of prayer.
Seized by a devouring fire, he was a dwelling place for you, Lord.**

**God, our Father, Through the intercession of Our Lady,
We ask you to hasten the day when the Church will proclaim the holiness of his
life, So that people everywhere will discover the joy of following your Son
In accordance with their particular vocations in the Holy Spirit.**

**God our Father, we invoke the intercession of Father Caffarel for.....
(Indicate the particular favour being sought)**

Remembering Maura Morley

Maura Morley 1.3.49 – 12.2.23

Maura was the second child of Pat and Denis Murphy after her brother Denis. She studied at Seafeld school and then St Andrew's University where she studied medicine. She graduated in 1973, fifty years ago, and started working in the Royal Hospital in Liverpool. In 1978 she became a GP in Liverpool and then Sefton before retiring in 2011.

In 1987 Maura met Dennis in SS Peter and Paul's choir; in 1988 they married and a year later Maura gave birth to Patricia, who has also gone on to become a GP.

Maura and subsequently Dennis and Patricia, accompanied HSPC pilgrimages to Lourdes almost every year from when she graduated to 2006, when she transferred to the Liverpool archdiocese pilgrimages, in both cases as a senior medic.

Maura was highly musical; she was an accomplished pianist and in retirement learned to play the organ, achieving grade 3. She was also a member of the Capriol singers as well as the church choir.

Although I had known Maura from school, we became friends when we met again at Ince Benet where we helped Father Tom Cullinan every Thursday morning. Rosemary and John Turner were part of our work force and they introduced Raymond and me and then Maura and Dennis to Teams. That was about twelve years ago.

In 2013 Maura was diagnosed with the blood cancer myeloma. She received excellent treatment from the Royal Clatterbridge team and although she was almost certainly suffering a degree of constant pain, she never complained. Her determination and strength of character were rewarded by seeing daughter Trish married and then welcoming grandson Joseph.

Sadly she couldn't beat the cancer forever and died peacefully at home in February having just survived for the feast of Our Lady of Lourdes.

Maura and Dennis always came to our Teams meetings, whether in person or on



Zoom. Even when Maura wasn't well she made an effort to be with us and was always cheerful and engaging.

She knew so many people from different walks of life and she kept in touch with them, always finding time to hear their news and to ask how they were. If there were ever any problems Maura would inevitably ask what she could do, promising to keep them in her prayers. She never talked about her own problems, insisting that she was "fine, thank God – I'm still here- but how are you and how are the family?"

Maura was great company with lots of amusing anecdotes and she had the gift of making each of us feel special. Her smile was a ray of sunshine and although we will miss her, she will be remembered with love and gratitude.

May she rest in peace.

Brenda Prescott, Formby Team, North West Sector

Remembering John Traynor

1st December 1948 – 23rd November 2022

Deacon John Traynor was our Spiritual Counsellor for almost twenty years, joining us during our Piloting. He was a most remarkable man; a great entrepreneur who started many a project and then left you to complete it.

Everywhere you visited in church circles they knew John, even in Aberdeen. Known throughout the Diocese for his work in training new Deacons, he was known, even to the Archbishop, as the 'Archdeacon'.

John's faith, determination, stoicism and good humour in the face of his illness and the loss of his beloved wife June, was an inspiration to us all. How he carried on with his Deaconate Ministry to the end, was admirable.

He was passionate about the 'Word of God' and his scripture talks and retreats were memorable. He enjoyed reading the great theological writers of the church, such as St. Augustine, and was still studying theology just before his death.

His Baptism Services were wonderful, and the oils flowed. With six children and four grandchildren of his own, he had great empathy with the young families.

Two abiding memories of John are his singing of the Exultet at the Easter Vigil and as our Teams Chaplain, stressing that what was important was our relationship with Jesus Christ. He told us that our Team was an inspiration to him and his last written question when visited before his death (he was unable to speak at this stage), was "How is our Team?"



On the fifth Anniversary of his beloved wife June's death, and after a day spent with family, three days before he died, he wrote the following 'Goodbye' to be printed in our Parish Newsletter:

"Another! His days are calling. There is no more swanning around in this life for me! God has created me for some definite purpose. I am a link in a chain, a bond of connection between people. In all my sickness and perplexity, it may serve him more than in my health. In trying to serve God among you, I have been struck by your friendship, your openness, your love.

I am in awe as you live your faith so cheerfully. I want to say the theology of God's incarnation and the death of Jesus have increasingly, led me to believe that God's love for us is so great he could only show this to us through these great acts of love. At the heart of our relationships and of that between God and

man is a sublime relationship of love. Many have come to this conclusion.

It seems however, we take a lifetime to understand. St Irenaeus of Lyon, in his reflection on man in Genesis, imagines our falling away from God, from love, as a naughty child kicking over the traces. What a great way to think of love's touching grace.

The broad sweep of the scriptures show God's relationship with man as one of whirlwind romances, falling in Jove, murder, bias, and jealousy. Only in the passions of man seeking to understand His Father do we see life. Whatever we see of man in the scriptures, we see all that is lifegiving, all that makes us man, all that seeks to understand emotion. God became man so that we might become God. Over the centuries man has tried to define himself and I suppose our present definition is as a rational, tolerant being. What God saw in us is that spark of passion that makes us sinners and saints. He sees human passions that test out before Him - all the love, the family quarrels, a relationship of true personal love. The utter sweetness of true reconciliation.

In our weakness we see our nature, a nature second only to God and beyond the angels. God's love for us is so complex he has almost seemed to confront us with suffering!!!! So, I hope you don't mind my call."

God Bless John. RIP,

Warrington 3 Team, Northwest Sector

Remembering Michael Adams



Michael, 84, Worcester Park II, was the most cheerful, friendly, down to earth person one could hope to meet; comfortable in his Catholic faith, happy and settled with Mary, his wife for nearly 50 years, their 5 children and 2 grandchildren.

After a church open evening they joined Teams of Our Lady with 3 other couples, to show their children that there was more to their faith than attending Mass on Sunday. They enjoyed the Teams' events over the years and made lifelong friends

whom they would not otherwise have met.

They said the rosary together each day and had long walks in the countryside which started with the Ramblers Association of St Francis of Assisi, which is how they met, and continued with the Kingston Ramblers. These were the subject of many of their "highs" and their form of "sit down". Michael changed his allegiance from Arsenal to AFC Wimbledon to follow Mary and the family, attending AFC's away matches led to exploring local churches and monasteries which Michael loved to visit. He had started life joining the monastic Order of St John of God caring for the sick and deprived but had to give up, due to an intermittent health problem. He eventually worked as a groundsman and finally as a gardener, close to the soil and creation.

For 22 years Michael went to Lourdes each summer as a volunteer, helping the sick and disabled pilgrims on and off the trains, making several international friends, even if they could barely converse.

He was ecumenical and interested in interfaith dialogue on a personal level.

6 months after a devastating stroke, he embraced death gladly, and died peacefully with the sacraments on 10.11.2022. He will be missed. May he Rest in Peace.

Suzanne Kavanagh

Worcester Park 2 team.

Remembering Richard Heron

Northampton St Ann Team would like to pay tribute to one of their founding members, Richard Heron, a much-loved husband, father, and supportive friend. He passed away on 1 November last year, aged 65, following a short illness. He had recently celebrated spending thirty years with Stagecoach, driving buses in the Northampton and Kettering area.

Richard had touched the hearts and lives of so many people that there was standing room only in St Gregory's Church for the funeral service. The cortege was a fleet of heritage buses, guided by a team of motorcycle outriders, which transported mourners to and from Kingsthorpe Cemetery, stopping at Northgate bus station for two minutes applause from staff and passengers.

Richard will be warmly remembered for his humour, positivity, and sincerity. He was blessed with an unshakeable faith, and would always see the silver lining and let clouds pass him by. He would always take the time to listen to friends and strangers, and he made everyone who spoke to him feel that they were the centre of attention.

He is survived by his devoted wife Lorna and his beloved children, Timothy, Joseph, Patrick, and Anna. All of us will miss him dearly and remember his kindness forever.

Keith Dyke, Northampton St Ann Team



7 SECRETS TO A HAPPY MARRIAGE

1. Smile.
2. Focus on the positive things your spouse does.
3. Practice humility.
4. Think before you speak.
5. Show appreciation for things big or small.
6. Do a random act of kindness.
7. Make spending time together a priority.

April Team meeting

Colossians 3:1-4

Look for the things that are in heaven, where Christ is

Since you have been brought back to true life with Christ, you must look for the things that are in heaven, where Christ is, sitting at God's right hand. Let your thoughts be on heavenly things, not on the things that are on the earth, because you have died, and now the life you have is hidden with Christ in God. But when Christ is revealed – and he is your life – you too will be revealed in all your glory with him.

Psalm 117(118):1-2,16-17,22-23

This day was made by the Lord: we rejoice and are glad.

Give thanks to the Lord for he is good,
for his love has no end.

Let the sons of Israel say:
'His love has no end.'

The Lord's right hand has triumphed;
his right hand raised me up.
I shall not die, I shall live
and recount his deeds.

The stone which the builders rejected
has become the corner stone.
This is the work of the Lord,
a marvel in our eyes.

Concluding Prayer

Lord, thank you for your victory over evil and death and the hope and new life that you offer to us. Let us lift our eyes to heaven to ponder your glory rather than be downcast. Amen.

April Reflection

This month's brief reading sums up the Easter message and grounds our hope in the Lord's Resurrection. Our life here on earth, with its joys and its difficulties, is but a foretaste of our true life.

The life we are called to is "hidden with Christ in God". This means that it's not something that's only in the future, but something which already exists, although in a way that's not immediately obvious to us until faith illumines our sight. Its perfect fulfilment is in the future, but here and now it is already a reality because Christ is risen, and we, as members of his body, already share in his glory. For the moment this glory is something hidden or veiled, but if we know how to see it with the eyes of faith, then it can transform our lives on earth, filling them with hope and love.

When Paul tells us to concentrate on heavenly things and not on earthly things, he's not advising us to forget about the necessities of our daily lives. We can't all live like monks (and even monks have to work in order to eat!) But what we are called to do is to see our life on earth as a gift, beautiful but transitory, while keeping in mind that we are on the way to something better still.

We can and should enjoy the good things that we have here below – and Teams members should be aware that marriage and family life are the greatest of the blessings bestowed upon mankind in this life – and that should fill us with joy as we think that what is in store for us is immeasurably more wonderful.

At the same time, when we are in pain or in difficulty, we should console ourselves with the knowledge that "the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us." (Romans 8:18) As followers of the Risen Christ we are called to have our feet solidly grounded in the present life, while our inner eye is continually focused on our hope for the life to come.

Fr Mark Drew
Warrington 3 Team

***"When the eyes of the soul looking out,
meet the eyes of God looking in,
heaven has begun right here on earth."***

Aiden Wilson Tozer

May Team Meeting

1 Corinthians 12:3-7,12-13

In the one Spirit we were all baptised

No one can say, 'Jesus is Lord' unless he is under the influence of the Holy Spirit. There is a variety of gifts but always the same Spirit; there are all sorts of service to be done, but always to the same Lord; working in all sorts of different ways in different people, it is the same God who is working in all of them. The particular way in which the Spirit is given to each person is for a good purpose.

Just as a human body, though it is made up of many parts, is a single unit because all these parts, though many, make one body, so it is with Christ. In the one Spirit we were all baptised, Jews as well as Greeks, slaves as well as citizens, and one Spirit was given to us all to drink.

Psalm 103(104):1,24,29-31,34

Send forth your spirit, O Lord, and renew the face of the earth.

Bless the Lord, my soul!
Lord God, how great you are,
How many are your works, O Lord!
The earth is full of your riches.

You take back your spirit, they die,
returning to the dust from which they came.
You send forth your spirit, they are created;
and you renew the face of the earth.

May the glory of the Lord last for ever!
May the Lord rejoice in his works!
May my thoughts be pleasing to him.
I find my joy in the Lord.

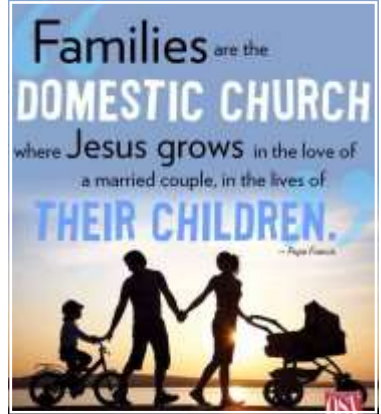
Concluding prayer

Lord, thank you for the life of your spirit and the different ways in which we see the Holy Spirit at work. Let us be open to the prompting of your Holy Spirit, even when we are called out of our comfort zones. Help us to recognise the calling that the Holy Spirit gives to others, especially when it is different to our own. Amen.

May Reflection

Given the significance for all of us of our experience of home and family life, it is beautiful that in our Catholic Christian tradition the home is called 'the Domestic Church'.

The Catholic Church sees the importance of marriage and family life in the home as the foundational environment in which our Christian life is first encountered and then nurtured. St Paul tells us that the Church is the 'Body of Christ', with each of us being a vital member. This must also be true for the 'Domestic Church' that is each home. Every home is therefore called to be a 'Mini-Body of Christ'! However, for this to be true each home needs to be able to acknowledge that 'Jesus is Lord'. St Paul tells us that it is the Holy Spirit who enables this to happen.



Who is the Holy Spirit? The Holy Spirit is the love of God which has been poured out on us through the death and resurrection of Jesus. Each home is destined by God to be a place where that love, the love of the Holy Spirit, the love which Jesus has brought to us, comes to help us in all our needs.

All the sacraments are given to us to help to build the Domestic Church in each home; Baptism, Confirmation, Confession, Holy Matrimony and the Eucharist, also the help of the Priest, in Holy Orders and the Anointing of the Sick, to help in infirmity.

The home can also be a place of hurt and division, a place where reconciliation and healing have to come and bathe the wounds of our hearts, so that we can rediscover the beautiful plan of God for ourselves and each other.

Jesus wants to truly be Lord of each home, so that we can learn to love one another and help each other discover God's everlasting and infinite love in our lives. Let us pray this month for the gift of God's Holy Spirit, to let Jesus be Lord of our hearts and our homes and to come where his love and help are most needed for ourselves and for our world.

Fr Martin Plunkett

June Team Meeting

Matthew 10:26-33

Do not be afraid of those who kill the body

Jesus instructed the Twelve as follows: 'Do not be afraid. For everything that is now covered will be uncovered, and everything now hidden will be made clear. What I say to you in the dark, tell in the daylight; what you hear in whispers, proclaim from the housetops.

'Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; fear him rather who can destroy both body and soul in hell. Can you not buy two sparrows for a penny? And yet not one falls to the ground without your Father knowing. Why, every hair on your head has been counted. So there is no need to be afraid; you are worth more than hundreds of sparrows.

'So if anyone declares himself for me in the presence of men, I will declare myself for him in the presence of my Father in heaven. But the one who disowns me in the presence of men, I will disown in the presence of my Father in heaven.'

Psalm 68(69):8-10,14,17,33-35

In your great love, answer me, O Lord.

It is for you that I suffer taunts,
that shame covers my face,
that I have become a stranger to my brothers and sisters,
an alien to my own mother's children.
I burn with zeal for your house
and taunts against you fall on me.

This is my prayer to you,
my prayer for your favour.
In your great love, answer me, O God,
with your help that never fails:
Lord, answer, for your love is kind;
in your compassion, turn towards me.

The poor when they see it will be glad
and God-seeking hearts will revive;
for the Lord listens to the needy
and does not spurn his servants in their chains.
Let the heavens and the earth give him praise,
the sea and all its living creatures.

Concluding Prayer

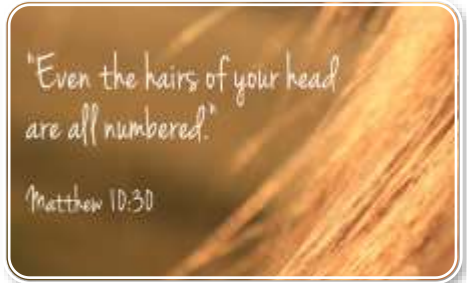
Lord, thank you for your constant love. We remember all who suffer doubt, anxiety and depression, when your love may seem distant. May we always show your love and be a comfort to others in times of difficulty. Amen.

June reflection

Throughout my life I have found myself having to assess situations and make a sensible and Christlike contribution whilst feeling utterly unprepared. It is then that the depth and quality of my prayer and my faith and my love take over and the Holy Spirit comes to my rescue. One of my fall back contributions is the sentence of Jesus which occurs in our Scripture for the Twelfth Sunday of the Year of St Matthew which falls on June 24/25 this year. "Every hair on your head has been counted"

As a young priest I used it regularly with young people who often have luxuriant heads of hair but needed to know that God knows about their hopes and anxieties and loves them as they are.

Then I was appointed to the staff of our Junior Seminary where the tidiness of the haircut was seen to be a matter of discipline. Stupidly I never questioned the principle but acted on the requirement. This led to many stand offs with the adolescent boys in my care. It also called into question my fall back spiritual message from Jesus that God knows and loves us as we are because He has counted every hair on our heads.



Then as time passed I came across more and more people who did not have the luxuriant hair of their youth and God's count seemed a much easier job. But the job of finding words to underline God's love and care amidst all the hopes and anxieties of life remained, and remains a challenge to this day.

How is that challenge playing out in your everyday support for each other, for your children, if you have been blessed with children, but maybe especially in your own self care and spiritual growth?

It is then that I invite you to turn to our Responsorial Psalm. It is also given to us when we read the Parable of the Good Samaritan on the Fifteenth Sunday in the Year of St Luke.

Here is a sentence which is left out but maybe resonates with you.

"More numerous than the hairs on my head are those who hate me without cause". That message of hate often comes from our own head, underneath our hair. We need to hear loud and clear within that same head of ours "In your great love, answer me, O God with your help which never fails".

**Rev John Buchard,
Formby team**

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GB Website: www.TeamsGB.org.uk

Superregional: www.Teams-transatlantic.org

International: www.Equipes-Notre-Dame.com

Last notes...

The Magnificat (Lk 1: 46-56)

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 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 forever.

Our Lady of the Home, pray for us.

Secrets to a long happy marriage



A old woman was sipping on a glass of wine, while sitting on the patio with her husband, and she says, "I love you so much, I don't know how I could ever live without you"... Her husband asks, "Is that you, or the wine talking?"... She replies, "It's me... talking to the wine."



*We look forward to seeing you
at the Teams regathering in
Swanwick on April 21-23rd*



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

