



On 25th February 1939, Father Henri Caffarel met together with some couples for the first time to reflect with them on marriage. Could marriage also be a path to holiness?

We can consider that, in a way, this was the very first meeting of a Team of Our Lady, even if our movement was not yet instituted or organized. Subsequently this gradually happened, especially with the promulgation of the Charter on 8th December 1947 at St. Augustine's Church in Paris.

Over the coming days we are celebrating the eightieth anniversary of the founding event. It is good to remind ourselves of this event, to commemorate it. Indeed, it is an opportunity to remember why we became involved in the Teams of Our Lady Movement; it is an opportunity to re-visit our journey and to continue to recharge our batteries on the path to holiness.

Some aspects of this prophetic event are very important:

The Desire to follow Christ

The participants in this first meeting had a burning desire to love and follow Christ while continuing to love their spouse and through living love in their sacrament of marriage. How to reconcile these two loves: the love of Christ and the love of one's spouse?

Christ leads us to God the Father. This is the base, the bedrock upon which we rely. Without this firm intention to follow Christ, to find our source in Him, our commitment to the Teams of Our Lady is futile and will lead us nowhere. It is God who loved us first, and our love for Him is a response to this call. Let us always remember this, because otherwise we will run the risk of going our own way, and not Christ's that leads to God.

Holiness, a Path

This first meeting was a starting point on a long road to God; and on earth, we will never reach the end of this road. No one could say on 25th February 1939 where this would lead them. Everything that was going to occur would be with the help of the Holy Spirit and is still ongoing. This is true for all of us, for each couple, for each team, and for the Movement as a whole.

Father Caffarel said, "Let's search together," which certainly indicates that we must not imagine that we will be able to stop when we have found the truth. It is rather a question of seeking the truth, and when one has glimpsed a piece of it, to continue searching. Christ is a person. And we know very well that we never completely know a person, there are always new aspects to discover and that's good! So, if we think we know everything about Christ thanks to Teams of Our Lady, let us take a moment of silence, a time of prayer to enable the desire to continue on along the road to grow within us.

Christ inhabits our Lives

It is in our ordinary life as baptised, married couples that we meet Christ. Sometimes we tend to want to escape from our daily lives, to consider that God is too big, too perfect to be able to find or meet Him in our limited little lives, in our spouse with all their qualities but also with all their imperfections. Of course, God is vastly greater than our lives, but He came to live in it. He sent us His Son Jesus, who became man, who shared our life. The whole of the Teams of Our Lady pedagogy helps us to open our eyes to discover how God is present in our lives, how God is present in our spouse, how He stands beside us and accompanies us. He is there to help us make our lives more beautiful, even more infused with Him. This was already so in the first team meeting: the married couple, nourished by the sacrament of marriage, could discover Christ through their conjugal life, and also that the two loves, the love of Christ and the love of one's spouse, were compatible.

Being a Team

It was not yet called Teams of Our Lady, but from the very beginning, it was a matter of walking together in the name of Christ. It starts in the couple with married prayer, the Sit-Down, preparing for the team meeting; it continues with the team meeting where we listen, exchange and share. It is because we trust one another, because we are willing to receive from the other person, that we can listen to what Christ tells us.

And in this team, may we mention the richness of the presence of the Spiritual Counsellor. In this diversity of couples, stages of life, sacraments (marriage and holy orders), we discover the whole wealth of the Church.

Thank you, Lord, for sending us Father Caffarel, who opened up the way to us and who has sketched out a path to holiness for couples.

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