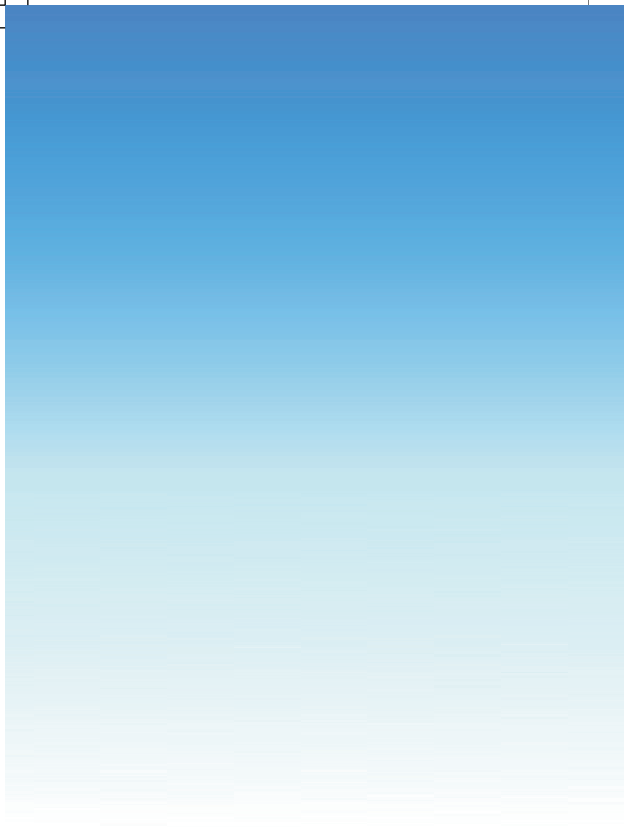




# The Team's Responsible Couple



International Leading Team





*The Responsible Couple in each Team is at the heart of the Teams of Our Lady's vocation. 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 the Eucharist.*

*This small guide is meant 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*

## Topic n°1 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 pagan world, and because they have unshakeable faith in the power of fraternal mutual help, they have decided to form a team."*

Charter of the Teams of Our Lady



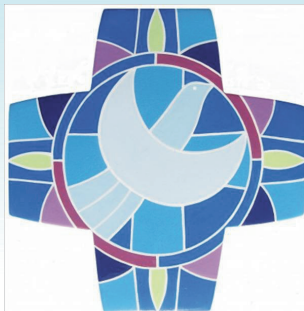
*The word 'team', preferred to any other, implies the idea of a precise objective, pursued actively and in common: the seeking of God.*

## Topic n°2

Responsible Couple =  
“Responsible for brotherly love  
& a Missionary Disciple”

*“t 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 accepting to be called  
upon and committing to the service of  
the Team and its members.*

They welcome

***The Responsible Couple  
creates a climate of  
fraternity***

They listen

They are watchful

They are benevolent

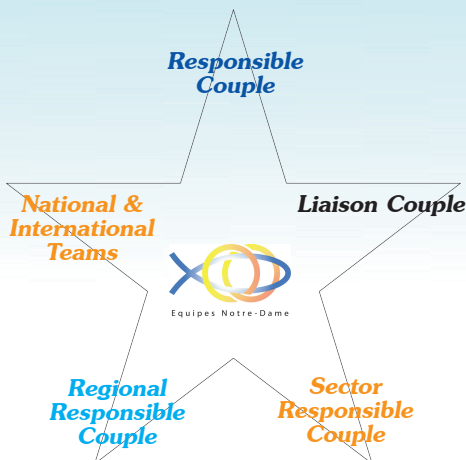
They do not judge

They are attentive

### Topic n°3

Responsible Couple:  
at the heart of the Movement

The Responsible Couple of the Team is an essential link between the Team and its members. It is also the essential link with the Movement.



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

**The service of the Responsible Couple is one of the corner stones.**

Topic n°4  
Responsible Couple:  
in contact with the Movement

*“...No branch can bear fruit by itself;  
it must remain in the vine...”*

Jn 15:4



Days organised by  
the Sector

December 8th

***The Responsible Couple  
maintains regular contact  
with the Sector through the  
various events it organises***

Mixed Team  
meetings organised  
by the Sector

Checking  
the website

Reading the  
Letter

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.

## Topic N°5

*"They endeavour to deepen their religious knowledge  
It is together, as a team, that*

The Responsible Couple is the shepherd of the Team. They  
Endeavours part at each meeting. The Sharing of the Word  
where they are in terms of their spiritual progress and  
what support they expect from the Team. Sharing of the Word  
of the Team

They bear witness.

They listen.



The Responsible Couple of the Team will  
prayer and attending the Eucharist in order

*"But the natural man does not receive the Word of God*



Responsible Couple =  
“Responsible for mutual  
spiritual help”

*knowledge and to discover the demands of Christ.  
n, that they pursue this effort.”*

Charter of the Teams of Our Lady

er of the Team and runs the Sharing on the  
haring on the Endeavours allows everyone to see  
progress thanks to the Endeavours and to verbalise  
. Sharing on the Endeavours is the special feature  
the Teams.

They invited everyone to share the  
progress they have made spiritually.

*They encourage everyone to share  
truthfully their life of faith.*

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

They make suggestions, for example, the  
choosing a commitment that the Team  
adheres to for the month, praying during  
the month so that everyone progresses on  
the road to conversion, telephoning during  
the month as a friendly reminder...

Team will find the necessary strength in  
Christ in order to accomplish their mission.

*receive the things of the Spirit of God...”*

(1 Cor 2:14)

## Topic nº6

### A Concrete Relationship with the Movement

The Responsible Couple attends the training sessions organised for them by the Movement. Such sessions are essential for they ensure a better knowledge 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.



*“This contribution has an evangelic meaning because it is the sign of belong to the Movement. Mutual help is one of the pillars of the Teams of Our Lady’s mystic.”*

Charter of the Teams of Our Lady.

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



## Topic n°7

The Responsible Couple  
is therefore a watchman,  
an awakener and a goad!



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

They write up the minutes of the monthly  
meetings, detailing the essential points and  
send them to the Liaison Couple.



They organise a couple of fun  
moments for the Team during  
the year.

Between two meetings, they  
remain in contact with the  
Team members (phone,  
email...).



They run the Sharing of the  
Endeavours part of each  
meeting.

They organise an annual  
retreat.



## Topic n°8

### Organise the Assessment Meeting

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



*“Teams are not nursery schools for respectable adults but ‘commando squads’, made up of volunteers. No one is forced to join, or to remain in it.”*

Charter of the Teams of Our Lady

**Do you wish to renew your  
commitment for next year?**

## Vocabulary

**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 point of view are only interesting if everyone prepares them. The Responsible Couple is in charge of giving clear details about the date and place of the next monthly meeting as well as prayer text, study topic chapter and Endeavours to be worked on. They 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 writes up the minutes, emphasising the highlights and areas where progress has been made. These minutes are then sent to all the Team members as well as to the Liaison Couple, who then get to know the Teams that they liaison and can be a source of help to them.

**Election of the Responsible Couple:** The Team's Responsible Couple organises the election of their successor by means of individual secret votes. The Spiritual Counsellor, who does not vote, is in charge of counting the votes. He gives the result of the vote without specifying the amount of votes received and by merely giving the name of the couple, who received the highest amount of votes.

It is very important to respect this procedure because it represents a 'calling' to a mission that is mainly spiritual within the Team. It is not a good idea to settle for a systematic rotation of couples in this role. Indeed the dynamism of the Team depends on not doing this! It is possible, if it is considered to be good for the wellbeing of the Team, 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 and the Eucharist that they will find the graces necessary to carry out their role. However, they must not neglect the material dimension of their mission. A training 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 concentrates 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 is meant to keep up-to-date with the life and news of the Teams' movement. To this end, they attend sessions organised by the Movement, they read the Teams' Letter; they go on the various Teams' websites (national and international); they read various documents produced by the Teams that have to do with the methods and presentation 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)

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 ought to participate financial in the Movement to which they adhere 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 ensures that every couple in their Team meets this requirement.

**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 side of things in 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 relationship of confidence 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 propositions.

**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 is in charge of coordinating the events in that area and is supported by a service 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, is divided into a few provinces that each are made up of various regions (on average three to eight). The Responsible Couple for the Region coordinates the activities of the regions and belongs to the Responsible Team for the Super-Region. All the provinces make up 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 the Province, 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." (Charter of the Teams of Our Lady)

**International Movement:** The world is divided into four zones (Americas, EurAfrica, CentrEurope, Eurasia) which are managed by a Responsible 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.

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

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**Satellite Teams:** The International Leading Team designates the Satellite Teams to reflect and work on the big subjects, which impact the life and evolution of the Teams of Our Lady. The state 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. Amen.