

**ÉQUIPES NOTRE-DAME  
INTERNATIONALE**

**The Couple of the  
Teams of Our Lady  
on Mission**

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## INTRODUCTION

Pope John Paul II elaborated that each disciple is a missionary person.

*“This passion [to proclaim Christ and the kingdom of God] will not fail to stir in the Church a new sense of mission, which cannot be left to a group of “specialists” but must involve the responsibility of all the members of the People of God. Those who have come into genuine contact with Christ cannot keep him for themselves, they must proclaim him. A new apostolic outreach is needed, which will be lived as the everyday **commitment of Christian communities and groups.**”*

Apostolic Letter, “*Novo Millennio Ineunte*” 6 Jan 2001).

Since their creation, through the words of their founder and those of their different leading couples, the Teams of Our Lady have asserted the importance of the mission of the couples in the family, in the Church and in the world. This principle is also included in the 1947 constitutional Charter of the Movement and in the founding documents issued since (The Teams of Our Lady 1976, the Second Wind 1988, the Guide 2000).

### 1. WHAT IS A COUPLE ON MISSION?

In the Teams of Our Lady, each couple is on mission, as a consequence of their baptism and their marriage.

They as couples are entrusted with God’s love. They show God’s love to each other in their daily lives as a life-long challenge. This makes them witnesses of God’s love and this witness reaches out to others thus becoming the basis of their mission as a couple.

This love materializes within the sacrament of marriage through a life-long commitment, freely chosen, which finds its source in the sacrament of baptism of each one of the spouses. The sacrament of marriage over the years grows and develops in the love of the couple and in the love of God. It is the conjunction of these two loves which allows them to carry out their mission of baptized and Christian couple.

The couple participates in God’s creation through their married and family life through the spouses’ relationship with each other and with others. In sharing daily life, each spouse is affecting the other and can say to each other, “*I am who I am thanks to you*”.

Jesus gave us an example of life and love. After he had washed the disciples’ feet he said:

*'I give you a new commandment. Love one another. You must love one another just as I have loved you. It is by your love for one another that everyone will recognise you as my disciples.'* (John 13:34-35).

This new commandment of love is the basis of service and gives the couple the meaning of their mission, which is the heart of their marriage.

Recognizing their weaknesses and limits, some couples have made the choice of forming teams within the movement of the Teams of Our Lady and of acquiring the means for a life of married spirituality.

Therefore couples are called:

- ❖ To be open to the gift of faith, to recognise this gift in themselves and in others and to express it in their daily lives.
- ❖ To set aside time to pray and reflect together in order to find out what the Holy Spirit is asking them to do in their lives.
- ❖ To recognise the gift of marriage as a means of living out God's plan for them.
- ❖ To be open to growth and change and discover the potential within each person.
- ❖ To realise that accepting failure and crisis and overcoming them enables growth.

## **2. WHERE TO BE A COUPLE ON MISSION?**

For most couples their mission occurs in their families, at work, in their communities and in their leisure areas.

Every time they follow and put into practice the teachings and values of the Gospel by the way they live, they contribute to the quality of their life, to their happiness and to that of the members of their community. They are God's living witnesses and are called daily to imitate the life of Christ who promised justice, love, peace and forgiveness.

### **2.1. The couple**

Their mission of love is lived out day by day with their spouse.

The spouses exercise their mission towards each other by faithfulness to the commitments they make at their marriage. This constant care and mutual concern is a way to bear witness to their married love.

"Man and woman 'are no longer two but one flesh' and they are called to grow continually in their communion through day-to-day fidelity to their marriage promise of total mutual self-giving."

( Familiaris Consortio n.19).

They pray together as a couple, for themselves, their family and all the needs of the world and the church. They experience forgiveness and reconciliation. Their mission of love is lived out first of all with their closest neighbour, who is their spouse.

## 2.2. The family

Couples need to be continually learning to share God's love.

The family is a small Christian community where the children's faith is first lived out. This family, led by the couple, is witness to the families that live around it.

Human love is the image of God's love and is shown by:

- ❖ The way couples put themselves at the service of their families;
- ❖ The way they witness to families that live around them
- ❖ The way they welcome those who come to their home
- ❖ The way they share their bread

## 2.3. The team

The team, too, is a small Christian community where couples and families journey together. Here, the couple's mission is to reach out and support the other individuals or couples and to be looking for ways to better put into practice the endeavours.

In the team, couples share their experiences and encourage each other to reach out to others as witnesses of the Gospel. They thus strengthen each other and show their commitment in the movement of the Teams of Our Lady.

## 2.4. The Church

We are the sign and witnesses of God.

*"Modern man listens more willingly to witnesses than to teachers, and if he does listen to teachers, it is because they are witnesses."* Pope Paul VI, *Evangelii Nuntiandi*, n 41

How else will the world know of the beauty and values of Christian love and marriage, if they are not being conveyed by words and example?

*"This is the mission that the Church insistently and urgently asks of the Teams of Our Lady: Without the love of married couples, without the families that have learned to share, without communities of faith formed by couples, like the Teams, it will be difficult for the Church to convince our world that the Gospel is a calling for love and that love can be truly lived"*  
*(Second Wind, 1, 2)*

Team members may be called upon to share in the Church the talents received from God, by participating in the common effort to fully live in their communities, specially in their parishes, their dioceses, their movement, etc.

They are asked to give their support to those who accept responsibilities and to collaborate with the projects answering to the growing aspirations of the couples. “*No one is allowed to remain inactive*” (John Paul II). Therefore, all their activities, including the missionary ones, ought to be carried out in perfect harmony in faithfulness to the Gospel.

Couples need to be conscious of couples and individual who are outside the Teams movement and be generous in witness and in sharing its riches. (As per John Paul II’s speech to the Teams leading couples in January 2003).

## 2.5. The World

As members of the church, the couples are called to proclaim in word and in deed the coming of the Kingdom of God. They may do this in whatever way is applicable to their particular circumstances.

“Now the laity are called in a special way to make the Church present and operative in those places and circumstances where only through them can it become the salt of the earth. Thus every layman, in virtue of the very gifts bestowed upon him, is at the same time a witness and a living instrument of the mission of the Church itself ‘according to the measure of Christ’s bestowal’ (*Vatican II, Lumen Gentium n. 33b*).

“In collaborating as citizens of this world, in whatever pertains to the upbuilding and conducting of the temporal order, the laity must seek in the light of faith loftier motives of action in their family, professional, cultural, and social life and make them known to others when the occasion arises. Doing this, they should be aware of the fact that they are cooperating with God the creator, redeemer, and sanctifier and are giving praise to Him” (*Apostolicam Actuositatem. n. 16 e, 18 Nov. 1965*).

### 3. HOW DOES THE COUPLE EXERCISE ITS MISSION ?

#### 3.1. Introduction

Couples on mission are aware of the difficulties of married and family life, because they listen to the “signs of the times”; they are able to listen, to discern and to respond to the needs of others. They present marriage as a living community of love, as a rich source and expression of their spirituality.

For them, living out their sacramental marriage is a public witness to love, community and the commitment: “until death do us part”. This also encourages and challenges others to seek and follow Christ through the joys and sorrows of life.

*“The glory of God is the human person fully alive, and the glory of the human person is the contemplation of God.”*  
(St Irenaeus).

Couples may often decline accepting specific tasks because of feelings of inadequacy, because of busy lives or because the timing does not seem right.

Mission tasks are often viewed as heavy obligations to be fulfilled instead of recognising that God is inviting couples to use their talents and time.

It is up to the responsible couples to put into practice the trust in God, which leads to the conviction that He will provide all that is needed for the mission, if they can recognise that their talents have been given by the Holy Spirit for the benefit of others.

The couple is a “New Being”, as put by the Rite of Marriage, who must be ever changing, ever growing. Thus, the spouses will be able to face the challenges of the mission to which their baptism, their confirmation, their marriage have led them, to be lived out in the heart of the Eucharist, with a reconciled heart.

*« God said: ...Human couple, my beloved creature, my privileged witness, do you understand why you are so dear to me among all creatures, do you understand the immense hope I entrust upon you?  
You are the bearer of my reputation, of my glory, you are for the universe its great reason to hope... because you are love.”* (Fr Henri Caffarel, “Facing Atheism”, Rome, May 1970)

## 3.2. The challenges

As Couples on mission in the Church of today and the future, members of TEAMS and the Church face these challenges, among others:

- *The social and cultural environment in the world is changing. 'Teams of Our Lady' was formed in response to the expectations of couples living their married life. The Church and Teams of Our Lady must consider how to respond to the needs in the current world.*
- *The role of the laity and the status of married couples are changing to form a trusting partnership with the clergy. Couples feel encouraged to take active and responsible roles in their local Church.*
- *The Church and the Movement acknowledge the valuable gift God gives a couple in Marriage and recognize the physical union of married couples as an expression of deep physical and spiritual love.*
- *Members of the Teams of Our Lady establish and continue regular dialogue and two-way listening with Bishops and Priests. This provides a better knowledge of issues connected with marriage and family life and an exchange of experiences.*
- *Our world is becoming increasingly secular with less observance of organised religion, decreasing religious and priesthood vocations. Some people are rejecting organised religion but are still following Christ. Couples on mission have an opportunity to be the leaven within this secularized world*
- *The breakdown in marriage and family life in many countries asks for healing, mutual acceptance of people and support. Couples could make themselves available for Church initiatives which would allow for a deeper reflection on married life on the anthropological, psychological and spiritual levels.*
- *Couples can and often do make a commitment to a future life together prior to a formal sacramental marriage ceremony. Team members can be on mission to these couples and provide support by 'walking alongside' them as they prepare for marriage.*
- *Couples have undergone the ordeal of separation and divorce. Some do marry again. As baptized people, they are called to participate in the life of the Church, in the respect, however, for its rules. John Paul II said to us: "I wish to say again how spiritually close I feel to them. May they find on their road witnesses of the tenderness and mercy of God!" (John Paul II's speech to the Teams' leading couples on January 20, 2003)*

## 3.3. Vision

The actions of Couples on mission contribute to make possible the following visions:



- *Couples in TEAMS are aware of their mission in marriage.*
- *They carry out their mission by showing the human face of God.*
- *Families are living communities of God's love, bearing the fruits of the Spirit. These fruits are love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. (Galatians 5: 22-23)*
- *Society perceives the importance of family for its own future.*
- *All Christian committed couples can receive the support of TEAMS.*
- *The movement has become more missionary in reaching out to others.*
- *Through couples who give witness of their love and work in the service of others people perceive the love of God.*

### **3.4. Fields of action**

#### **3.4.1. Within the couple**

The mission within the couple is one of sanctification. In being Missionary to each other, couple partners are called to:

- *Deepen their married spirituality through prayer (Individual and Conjugal) and through faithfulness to TEAMS Endeavours*
- *Listen to the Word of God and be open to God's message*
- *Develop and enrich dialogue within the couple*
- *Live out every day the commitments of their sacrament of marriage.*
- *Reflect God's love in their married relationship.*

#### **3.4.2. Towards other couples**

Couples are also called to be on mission by reaching out to other couples by being Missionary Couples through witness/example of happily married spirituality

*“Christian couples also have a missionary duty to other couples and a duty to help them. They legitimately desire to pass on to them their experience and show them that Christ is the source of all married life.” (Letter of Pope John Paul II to the leading couples of the Teams in France, November 28, 1997)*

The role of the couple on mission towards other couples allows them to:

- *Declare the positive aspects of their marriage, whilst also being open and honest about difficulties and challenges and how these can be overcome*

- *Show the human face of God through their behaviour towards their neighbours*
- *Be hospitable and welcoming to couples and families*
- *Take opportunities to celebrate Marriage*
- *Always have your answer ready for people who ask you the reason for the hope that you have (1 P 3, 15)*
- *Provide practical, emotional and spiritual support to couples, particularly those undergoing difficulties, being merciful and non-judgmental.*
- *Participate in marriage programs for couples*
- *Reach out to and encourage couples to explore the benefits of belonging to TEAMS*

### **3.4.3. Within the family**

In today's society, families are not as close knit as they were in the past, with younger generations living at a distance to their parents and grandparents. Many children are rejecting the traditions of their parents including religious observance and marriage.

The concept of "family" is changing. Family nowadays refers to those people with whom the couple share a bond of love, acceptance and responsibility. In order to be faithful to the Gospel and to the Church's teaching, couples on mission must multiply their efforts of holiness.

Here are some of the actions that couples on mission can undertake:

- *Witness by showing love and demonstrating hospitality*
- *Love and accept our children without conditions, reflecting God's love for us*
- *Proclaim values of forgiveness, tolerance, understanding*
- *Strengthen prayer and spiritual life in the couple and the family*
- *Exchange ideas about married spirituality and talk about our relationship with God*
- *Provide a nurturing environment for growth.*
- *Include families in many TEAMS activities*
- *Promote family activities within Parish*
- *Pray for families and family members*
- *Work towards making society more family friendly*
- *Raise awareness of the effects of issues on families*

- *Counteract negative media representation of family and marriage*
- *Develop a respect for human nature within our own families*
- *Be active when families are unjustly treated (for example, asylum seekers, refugees)*

### **3.4.4. Within the Teams of Our Lady**

*“The Teams of Our Lady wishes to help married couples to live their lives more fully according to the Gospel, with the mutual support of the members of a team and the strength of the Movement as a whole.”* (Guide of the Teams of Our Lady. 2000)

The mission within the team is one of *“formation and Christian perfection”*. The couples support and share with one another in the way that they live out their spiritual and married lives.

Teams of Our Lady, or ‘TEAMS’ is a movement within the Catholic Church and has been set up for sacramentally married couples.

Teams have the mission to *“help married couples”* and need to respond to the changes that are occurring in society with respect to marriage.

Married couples who belong to different Christian traditions may participate to Teams accepting its Charter and Guide.

The action of couples on mission is necessary at all levels in the Movement: in the individual teams, at the Sector, Region and Super Regional levels and in ERI.

Some of the actions indicated here refer to the Movement as a whole. Some others refer to specific functions within the Movement.

#### □ Team life

- *Encourage reflection on the couples’ mission to live the spirit of the Movement.*
- *Follow the Charter and the Guide of the Teams of Our Lady to permanently build a brotherly shared team life.*
- *Ensure Endeavours are lived and shared within the Team*
- *Encourage depth of prayer within the Team meeting*
- *Pray for members of the Team and Church*
- *Develop and share study topics.*

- *Encourage retreats as a couple and possibly as a Team, focusing on married spirituality*
- *Train couples as retreat leaders.*

□ **Communication between Teams**

- *Promote prayer and communication between Teams e.g. Team Twinning*
- *Use all available means to connect TEAMS couples from other countries (internet team)*
- *Harness modern techniques to improve communication, for use in Discussion/study groups, for raising issues and in education.*
- *Contribute to and produce publications for better animation and sharing Adapt these resources for local cultures and languages.*

□ **Service, Outreach and Support**

- *Provide practical Support for TEAMS Couples. E.g. Childcare*
- *Have older teams support new teams.*
- *Help couples to live the missionary spirit.*
- *Invite couples to experience the movement*
- *Help strengthen marriages of couples who are in TEAMS*
- *Invite couples to experience the movement and actively promote the establishment of new Teams*

□ **Strengthen Roles within the TEAMS Movement**

- *Accept responsibilities within the movement.*
- *Develop the mission of information couples.*
- *Strengthen the role of the Liaison Couples and the Piloting of new Teams*
- *Revise guidelines for spiritual counsellors*
- *Ensure that the timeframes of established terms of responsibility is respected*
- *Develop collegiality.*

### **3.4.5. Within the Church**

The mission within the Church is one of service. TEAMS is a movement within the Catholic Church and as such participates in the edification of the Church.

*“The Second Vatican Council....calls the family the Ecclesia domestica.... Many [single persons] remain without a human family, often due to conditions of poverty... The doors of homes, the ‘domestic church’, and the great family which is the Church must be open to all of them.” (Catechism of The Catholic Church <sup>1658</sup>)*

### □ **A Movement of Active Christians**

‘Teams of Our Lady’ (TEAMS) is a Movement of Active Christians.

- *Couples on mission can help people to be aware that they are church and have received at their baptism a mandate to evangelise.*
- *Couples on mission can offer the Church their talents and services by taking up responsibilities as couples as well as individuals.*

Teams’ couples have a specific vocation for :

- *Assist in the preparation and formation of teenagers and young adults for marriage*
- *Help couples to better celebrate their marriage and to be more aware of the meaning of the sacrament;*
- *Cooperate with other marriage organizations;*
- *Reach out, welcome and support couples in difficulty, separated, divorced etc.*
- *Sponsor younger TEAMS*
- *Provide a source of prayerful support for the church*

### □ **Presence in the Church**

*We must help the Church deepen her vision, theology and mystique of the couple as the summit of creation” (Second Wind)*

The Teams of Our Lady may:

- *Help the local church become more relevant and more supportive to married couples and families.*
- *Promote marriage in the life of the Church.*
- *With the Church, read the signs of the times.*
- *Inform Church leaders on issues affecting Marriage and families*
- *Engage in joint work, dialogue and consultation on issues relevant to marriage within the Church*

- *Highlight for Church authorities in participating countries, the aims, contribution and value of the Teams of Our Lady Movement within that country.*
- *Develop a Theology of Marriage in conjunction with other marriage organisation ensuring input from couples*
- *Pray for the Church;*
- *Encourage formation programs for couples within and outside the Movement.*
- *Support Widows and Widowers*
- *Participate in family pastorage, mainly with regards to co-habiting young couples;*
- *Listen with the Church to the anxieties of the young;*
- *Help the Young Teams of Our Lady to develop on the international level;*
- *With the Church, protect children and vulnerable persons.*

### **3.4.6. In the world**

*“We are called to be a yeast of renewal, not only in the Church, but also in the world. Through our witness, we are called to show that:*

*Marriage is at the service of love;*

*Marriage is at the service of happiness;*

*Marriage is at the service of holiness;*

*Marriage is at the service of proclaiming and showing that Jesus Christ is the source of all life.” (Santiago, International Formation Session, 2000)*

The mission in the World is one of evangelisation, to be the *“salt of the earth and the light of the World.”*

Teams of Our Lady’ or ‘TEAMS’ is an International Movement with membership in 66 countries. As such its members have opportunities in much of the world to proclaim that Christ is the source of love, and through our marriages to witness to the world that marriage is a way to live this covenant with Christ.

In living such a relationship with Christ, TEAMS couples have the mission of following the way of Christ – to love one another; to love others; to offer service to others; to proclaim the message of Jesus; to stand up for justice and to speak for those who cannot speak for themselves.

A major role for TEAMS Couples and for the Movement is to inspire and lead others, through prayer, sharing, witnessing, discussion and formation, to develop a greater understanding of God.

TEAMS couples are called to be evangelists in the modern world and a major aspect of this evangelisation is to promote sociological, social and political support and recognition for Marriage through

- *Everyday evangelisation through people the couple meet*
- *Witness of their marriage to young people*
- *Engage with media to promote marriage*
- *Promote the value of marriage at the political levels*
- *Establish an exchange of information concerning initiatives related to marriage throughout the world.*

## **4. CONCLUSION**

Being a couple on mission is to proclaim by word and action that Christ is the source of love, happiness and holiness found and experienced in marriage..

Being a couple on mission is to pray for the conversion of the world and for those to whom the couple is sent.

All TEAMS couples are concerned by mission : they must always look for the development of new practical ways, in order to accomplish their mission suited to their own locality/region and time.

As Pope John Paul II said in his message for the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Charter:

*“We must respond to the call of the Church for a new evangelisation based on human love and family life. The Church has most need today of lay married people who have received a formation in which faith and life mutually feed each other.”*

## 5. APPENDIX

### 5.1. TABLES FOR REFLECTION AND WORK

The elements shown in the tables below are given as a sequence to the document on the couple's mission in the Teams of Our Lady, in order to complement the reflection of those couples or teams who would wish to do so as well as to nurture their project of mission.

Some of the elements which are taken up hereafter may seem redundant. Nevertheless, by respect for the work accomplished by the Mission Satellite Team, the International Leading Team (ERI) found it useful to attach these tables.

### 5.2. MISSION AS COUPLE

Vision:

- ***Couples in TEAMS are aware of their mission in Marriage***
- ***They carry out their mission by showing the human face of God***

Who	Action	How	Outcome
Couples	Investigate, discern, practice and spread the way of living conjugal spirituality	<p>By continually developing their coupleness through conjugal prayer and through the gifts of the Spirit and being aware of the gift of grace that has its source in the Sacrament of Marriage.</p> <p>By devoting themselves to the study topics related to married spirituality.</p> <p>Take all your decisions having in mind that you are married. Know that Jesus is the third person present in the Sacrament of Marriage that you live together.</p>	Better witnesses and better marriages based on the love of God.
Couples	Emphasize the missionary nature of TEAMS	<p>The sit-down is one of the means for decision of the couple</p> <p>Share at monthly meetings how they have lived out their mission and how it can be expanded.</p> <p>Practical missionary activity could include hospitality, day-to-day interaction or work with couples or young people</p>	Couples will be more focused on living out their mission



<b>Who</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>How</b>	<b>Outcome</b>
<b>Couples</b>	<p>Respect each other and have concern with each other's growth within the couple.</p> <p>Live a married life even when working on individual missions</p>	<p>Give each other the freedom to become who they really are as an individual within a married relationship</p> <p>Through the "sit down" discern together ways to live out their relationship as a couple as well as ways to nurture and develop their gifts as individuals at all times, in every activity, whether in couple or individually.</p> <p>Demonstrate that one is married and that marriage is a road that leads to happiness.</p>	<p>To be fully alive both as individuals and as a couple.</p> <p>The spouses are, either as individual or as a couple, the missionaries of married spirituality.</p> <p>Marriage will be a community in which each one has his own place.</p> <p>Each spouse can fully develop his/her talents and use them with confidence in outreach to others</p>
<b>Couples</b>	<p>Live out the love of God in the couple's relationship and witness to this by showing that human love is a reflection of God's love</p>	<p>Everyday examples which inspire other couples</p> <p>Living out the commitments of the Sacrament of Marriage</p> <p>Be aware of the presence of the Holy Spirit in marriage</p> <p>Pray together regularly and seek the guidance of the Holy Spirit in decision-making and direction</p> <p>Witnessing to other couples by giving talks</p> <p>Incorporate witness talks into courses for parents of children on pre-Baptism courses, couples on pre-marriage courses, seminarians</p> <p>Help them to see marriage as it is, a sometimes-difficult path, but a real vocation through which couples grow in grace through generous, willing self-sacrifice and love.</p> <p>Demonstrate that spouses have to work through problems together</p>	<p>This will show others the love of God lived out in everyday married life: That this love is possible and desirable</p> <p>Couples loving and being loyal to each other regardless of the circumstances of their lives. The couple will gain confidence in the outcome from decisions taken after prayer and discernment.</p> <p>Couples and individuals will realise that true love doesn't count the cost or depend on idyllic conditions, but rather on commitment</p>

<b>Who</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>How</b>	<b>Outcome</b>
<b>Couples</b>	Help and encourage couples to develop ways of dealing with changing balances in relationships that occur over times.	<p>Witness both romantic love (e.g. signs of affection) and committed love (e.g. working through problems).</p> <p>Recognize that marriage is an ongoing commitment and that over time people change and grow. Everyone has both joys and difficulties in relationships. By acknowledging this, and witnessing to our own marriages we can help couples work through the issues that challenge them and not to give up hope.</p>	Better relationships in couples both within and outside the movement.
<b>Couples &amp; Teams</b>	<p>Welcome others</p> <p>Couples to be animated to give witness of their love and spirituality and to reach out to others.</p> <p><i>Hospitality is also part of the mission to families, the Church and the world</i></p>	<p>Be genuinely interested in others. Invite couples of your parish or your neighborhood to your home, share a meal etc</p> <p>Let others see how God is vital in your life. Have a sense of fun.</p> <p>Welcome TEAMS couples from other areas and countries to your home.</p>	<p>Living witness of the presence of God in marriage.</p> <p>God's love is visible in the welcome to others.</p> <p>The experience of the Team as a family is real.</p> <p>Larger horizons. Awareness of the global dimension of the faith community, as well as of the situation of the world.</p>
<b>Couples</b>	Celebrate marriage in the church and in the world.	<p>Public witness of marriage celebration within parish e.g. renewal of marriage vows.</p> <p>A Sunday could be set aside to celebrate the anniversaries of couples in the Parish</p>	A witness to marriage and God's love in action
<b>Couples</b>	Celebrate couples and families based on the principle of " <i>Where there is Love there is God</i> "	Recognize that God is in these relationships even if they are not sacramental.	A living of, and witnessing to the Word of God

<b>Who</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>How</b>	<b>Outcome</b>
<b>Couples</b>	Develop the preparation of civil marriages. Become civil marriage celebrants.	As God is not mentioned in Civil Services in some countries, Team members who become Marriage Celebrants can share Christian values with couples preparing for marriage.	A better start for couples entering into a committed relationship of a civil marriage.  Opportunity to evangelize by example.
<b>Couples</b>	Support all couples regardless of whether they are within church or not.	Promote and reveal the joys of marriage to those who do not wish to commit themselves. Invite them to family outings and retreats etc.	Witnessing to Gods Love.  Better relationships with deeper love, stability and support for couples..
<b>Couples</b>	Practical support	Support families who have no support from their extended family. Helping with childcare for other couples within the TEAMS and Movement.	Better relationships and support within couples and Teams.  Build the "TEAMS Family"
<b>Couples</b>	Provide spiritual, psychological and practical support in times of need and crisis  Be aware and recognize that couples do go through tough times and provide practical support  Make resources and contacts available for couples in marriage difficulties.  Be aware of the differing needs of couples e.g. couples without children.	By being accepting, loving and supportive.  Give time to listen to people with problems  Take the time to follow up  Pray for people and let them know that you are praying for them. It is a great source of comfort. Be sympathetic Be accepting not judgmental Be compassionate  Refer them to appropriate counsellors where possible Marriage Counsellors can draw from the riches found in their own marriages and through this support other couples. Fellow Team members help to support Marriage Counsellors.  Tell them about programs run by church/parish organizations which might help them  Provide practical support where possible.	They will feel accepted in the Church.  Couples will have a sense of belonging and of being loved.

<b>Who</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>How</b>	<b>Outcome</b>
<b>Couple</b>	<p>Support through specific programmes.</p> <p>This applies to all couples whether they are experiencing difficulties or not.</p> <p>This mission also applies to the section on "Families" and the "Church"</p>	<p>Encourage couples to attend and support programs on Marriage to enrich, develop and support their relationship.</p> <p>Topics could include:            Communication            Active listening            Working through and facing life changes. Preparation for major changes e.g.            Marriage, pregnancy,            Parenting,            children leaving home, grandparenting,            retirement,            sickness, ageing,            bereavement, widowhood etc.</p> <p>(E.g. SOS marriage program or "Espérance et Vie")</p> <p>(If no programs exist couples on mission could instigate the organisation of these groups)</p>	<p>Couples will be better able to deal with changes that come throughout the life of the marriage</p>
<b>Couples</b>	<p>Couples on mission to do all they can to help couples in difficulty to rebuild their relationship and avoid separation</p>	<p>By loving and supporting them and by helping them to love each other. Not siding with anyone but showing the importance of forgiving            "Retrouvaille" program            By praying for them and with them</p>	<p>Sacramental value of of marriage is stressed</p> <p>Separation may be avoided.</p> <p>In case of failure, there will be a continuation of the giving of love and support to both persons, and clearly witnessing that the grace of the sacrament may still bring them back together..</p>

<b>Couples</b>	Be compassionate and affirming to couples that have separated	<p>Listen to people. Ask how you might be able to help.</p> <p>Be accepting of person and don't be judgmental</p> <p>Tell them about programs run by church/parish organizations that might help them.</p> <p>Inform couples on the various procedures of annulment within the Church. Often people are not aware of these procedures and have isolated themselves from the Church. They feel that they are not welcome in the Church and cannot receive the Sacraments</p> <p>Introduce these people to a Priest who is well skilled in this area..</p>	<p>People will feel accepted by the church and not rejected.</p> <p>Couples can be strengthened to try again. The process of separation can be put off.</p>
<b>Couples</b>	Support couples when they are undergoing breakdown of their marriage and civil divorce.	<p>Love and support these people during and after the divorce.</p> <p>Recognizing difficulties, asking how we can help and just being there can sometimes be the most help.</p> <p>If people being divorced are willing, encourage them to pray through this process.</p> <p>Going to mass alone can be difficult for some people following separation and divorce. Being with them can help.</p> <p>Develop in the Church support groups for separated or divorced Catholics.</p>	<p>Wounds may begin to heal and the return to wholeness begun.</p> <p>Divorce can be a very a painful process with people wounded and often feeling a failure and rejected by the church. These are wounded people, in need of compassion, healing and acceptance.</p>
<b>Couples</b>	Support couples who are suffering as a result of either their own actions or the actions of their children on issues such as Adoption and Abortion	<p>Pray for and with these people. Suggest professional counselling. If there are no relevant support groups in the area set up support groups.</p> <p>Propose to conduct a ceremony to help these people e.g. a naming ceremony for the adopted child.</p>	<p>They will experience the love of a caring community and thus the love of God.</p> <p>Minimize the suffering of those who carry the wounds of love</p>

## 5.3. MISSION IN THE FAMILY

*Vision. In ten years' time:*

- ***Families are living communities of God's love bearing the fruits of the Spirit. These fruits are love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. (Galatians 5 22-23).***
- ***Society perceives the importance of family for its own future.***

Who	Action	How	Outcome
Couple	Family Prayer	<p>Simple prayers for small children and as the children grow develop the prayer time when the family meets together e.g., mealtime.</p> <p>Children to take turn preparing and leading prayers. Pray for each other within the family.</p> <p>Invite whoever is present at the time of prayer to join with the family.</p> <p>Have different types of prayers, bible stories, scripture, rosary, meditation and praise as well as petition.</p> <p>Talk about your relationship with God and how you maintain it</p>	<p>Prayer will become a natural part of life for all members of the family.</p> <p>Family members will grow in knowledge and love of God's Word through familiarity with Scripture.</p> <p>They will become accustomed to turning to God in all situations in life, and to praying for and loving others.</p>
Couple	Maintain relationships with adult children, especially if alienated from official church.	Love children with the unconditional love God shows us. Accept adult decisions – choices of partners, co-habiting etc. and be a conduit for their relationship with God with the condition of not giving up on expressing how we feel as parents.	Children will feel loved and supported even when they make mistakes..

<b>Who</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>How</b>	<b>Outcome</b>
<b>Couples</b>	Foster Christian values towards family and life.	<p>Meet regularly as a family to set values as to how the family will operate.</p> <p>Involve children in decision-making and family life.</p> <p>Meet regularly with each child to discuss all aspects of his/her life</p> <p>Practice tolerance, respect and forgiveness in the family situation</p> <p>Care for old people, welcome new life and celebrate life events</p> <p>Respect and interact with people regardless of age, mentality, socio-economic or cultural situation</p> <p>Decide as a family what to contribute to as an act of charity to someone in need – let children participate by donating their own money/time</p> <p>Participate as a family in community activity for others – e.g. St Vincent de Paul or other welfare agency</p> <p>Discuss issues such as family chores, study routines, Balancing times for leisure and school, curfews etc.</p>	<p>Children will learn to understand their responsibilities in life.</p> <p>Children will learn about unselfish love and generosity, both prerequisites for a happy marriage and functional society.</p>
<b>Couples</b>	Provide a nurturing environment for growth within Families	<p>Setting family traditions e.g. by celebrating significant moments in life. – e.g. anniversaries, weddings, births, baptism, confirmation, graduation etc.</p> <p>Make these occasions special by having significant celebrations.</p> <p>Celebrate the Liturgical Seasons – Advent, Christmas, Easter etc</p>	<p>Witness that religion and religious practices can be joyful.</p> <p>The spiritual nature of our lives and the significance of these events in the journey can be shown to and appreciated by others.</p> <p>Such celebrations can become a tradition which helps tell the story to each generation</p>

<b>Who</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>How</b>	<b>Outcome</b>
<b>Couples</b>	Strengthen the value of family within the Movement.	Promote functions to include families in TEAMS events wherever possible TEAM Picnics, quiz nights, social nights, team anniversaries.	Strong witness of faith to children of all ages.  Dispel the myth that “religious” organisations are stuffy and don’t enjoy life!
<b>Couples</b>	Strengthen the value of family within the Church	Promote family activities at Parish level. Parish picnics, car rallies, sausage sizzle, concerts	Strong witness of faith to children of all ages.  Helps create happy associations for young people within a community of faith
<b>Couples</b>	Strengthen the value of family within Society	Work towards influencing society to be more “Family friendly”. Be aware of facts and events that will affect a couple and family life Be pro-active. Contact media. Be positive about family life. Affirm and defend the value of human life and dignity whatever the situation e.g. Illness, handicap, physical or mental impairment etc.	The values of marriage and family are protected  People are encouraged to continue when the going gets tough.  Vulnerable people protected from exploitation
<b>Couples</b>	Fight against counter values that weaken the family.	Encourage couples to be active in support groups e.g. drug addiction, gambling, alcoholism, refugees, asylum seekers Organize prayer support for these groups.	Families affected will feel supported and be given strength to cope  Solutions may be found  We will be disciples of Jesus, doing what He told us, “Ask and you shall receive”.
<b>Super Regions</b>	Promote World Family Day	In conjunction with other Family Organisations, contact UNESCO for their support.	Society aware of the importance of the family.



## 5.4. MISSION IN TEAMS

### *A community of couples on mission*

*Vision. In ten years' time :*

- ***All Christian couples committed to live the sacrament of marriage, can receive the support of TEAMS.***
- ***Teams of Our Lady is a movement of the Church, developing an important missionary activity to promote marriage.***

<b>Who</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>How</b>	<b>Outcome</b>
<b>Couple</b>	Participate in Movement at Sector, Regional and International level.	Accept responsible Roles in Movement. Accept the role and develop the gifts the Holy Spirit has given. Be generous in the service of others. Step out of the comfort zone Participate in Crossroads, Regional & National Conferences and International Gatherings.	Greater understanding and commitment of the couple. Stronger movement with in the church and world
<b>Teams</b>	Promote and organise Team twinning.	Teams from different areas develop a relationship and share life. Teams from different countries/Regions could keep in regular contact, support each other.	Increased knowledge, understanding and unity within Movement.
<b>Sectors/ Regions</b>	Use the Internet to connect Teams from other countries and cultures	Internet based prayer and discussion groups Set up Internet based Teams: Couples from different countries form an internet Team and follow the TEAMS meeting procedure. Satellite Teams are a good example	Increased knowledge, understanding, friendship links and unity within the Movement. Increased appreciation of diversity within Movement

<b>Who</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>How</b>	<b>Outcome</b>
<b>Sectors/ Regions</b>	<p>Use modern media to improve communications for TEAMS</p> <p>Provide links to different websites from a central point.</p> <p>Work on the translation and adaptation of TEAMS resources into all languages and adapt for local culture..</p>	<p>Articles, letters and editorials on mission and marriage be put on local websites.</p> <p>Sharing resources e.g. piloting literature, study topics, guides to prayer.</p> <p>Ask for expressions of interest from other Teams. Be aware of different IT access in other countries</p>	<p>Increased access to the resources of the Movement. Recreate the Movement every day.</p>
<b>Teams in general</b>	<p>Encourage other couples to accept leadership positions in Teams.</p>	<p>Through formation understand the gifts from the Holy Spirit given to each couple.</p> <p>Acknowledge that these gifts are meant to be shared and used.</p>	<p>Overcome the existing problems of couples reluctant to accept positions of responsibility in TEAMS.</p>
<b>Couples</b>  <b>Regions/ Super-Regions/ ERI</b>	<p>Commitment to practical support for TEAMS</p> <p>Provide Practical support for Teams in other countries</p>	<p>Offer skills and resources of the team members to support young couples.</p> <p>Provide care for children and other dependants of couples while they attend Team Meeting and Retreats</p> <p>Provide financial support for TEAMS in poorer countries.</p>	<p>More couples able to join the Movement.</p> <p>Couples able to be more active within movement.</p> <p>Love in action demonstrated</p>
<b>Sectors</b>	<p>Form and develop couples to be on Mission.</p>	<p>Reference to Mission should be a component of Piloting.</p>	<p>TEAMS couples seen as active not passive in Church</p> <p>Couples on mission will be inspired to expand the movement.</p>

<b>Who</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>How</b>	<b>Outcome</b>
<b>Sectors</b>	Promote the marriage of couples not in TEAMS.	<p>Promote programmes and activities for couples who do not belong to TEAMS.</p> <p>Give people an insight into what TEAMS is.</p> <p>In some countries small groups of couples (8 to 10) are coordinated by a Leading Couple from TEAMS, and meet for a period of 1 – 1.5 years to learn about Christian values and marriage. They can then choose if they want to join TEAMS</p>	<p>The marriages of couples outside the Movement are strengthened.</p> <p>Couples Participate in Pre-Team experiences</p>
<b>Sectors/ Regions</b>	Teams to co-operate with other marriage organisations at regional/national levels.	<p>Motivate couples.</p> <p>Cooperate with marriage movements within the Church for dialogue, sharing of resources and support.</p> <p>Maintain an open dialogue with all marriage organisations – in the respect for each other and without any dominant organisation.</p>	This will strengthen marriage, and organisations which promote marriage.
<b>Teams in general</b>	<p>Actively promote the establishment of new Teams</p> <p>Broaden socio-economic membership of TEAMS.</p> <p>Liaise with other Christian denominations.</p>	<p>Establish concrete information and recruitment goals in each sector.</p> <p>Target people outside current mix of members.</p> <p>Each team couple at least once a year invite a couple to be part of the movement</p> <p>Establish links with people and invite them to experience TEAMS.</p>	More couples will share the life of a diversified community of couples
<b>Teams in general.</b>	Invite couples to experience the movement.	<p>'Hospitality Night' in the Team</p> <p>Each Team once a year invites a couple they think would be interested in joining the movement.</p>	<p>More couples experience and join the movement</p> <p>Couples are active in their mission</p>

<b>Who</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>How</b>	<b>Outcome</b>
<b>Sectors &amp; Individual teams</b>	Celebrate & Share 'TEAMS' with others .	Celebrate what has been achieved through TEAMS. Celebrate 10/20/30 year anniversaries in the life of Team.  Hold a function where all children, grandchildren, single and married, can celebrate what TEAMS has meant to their parents. Celebrate wedding anniversaries.	Possible expansion of Movement..  Witness to the value of marriage.
<b>Sectors/ Regions</b>	Liaison couple role to be strengthened by inviting couples to perform these as a mission. The role of Liaison Couple is essential in the Movement – the role is not always clearly understood.  The Liaison Couple has a positive and vital role in the Movement	Organize formation activities to strengthen role of Liaison Couple. ; Liaison couples are provided with suitable documentation on their duties and roles within the movement.  Super Regions want to give more emphasis to this role.	Liaison couple role to become more active thereby strengthening the Movement and guaranteeing on-going communication between <i>Responsible &amp; Liaison Couple</i> , and between Sector and Team  Teams are less likely to become isolated and not introverted.  Prevent some Teams from becoming just friendship groups.
<b>Sectors/ Regions</b>	Motivate couples to take on Piloting role as a mission  Strengthen role of pilot couple  Provide formation at Sector/Regional level, and help ERI/Super Regions place more emphasis on this role.	Use experienced couple with appropriate skills to facilitate  Invite couples to sessions for prospective piloting couples  Regularly revise and update piloting materials and study topics for new Teams and offer alternative sections to be chosen by team –depending on circumstances – e.g. older or younger couples.	Piloting couples will bring enthusiasm to the task and inspire new teams.
<b>ERI</b>	Strengthen the spirit of mission within the Movement.	Team couples to receive formation to be aware of the importance of mission. Couples could share at each Team meeting, in an optimistic, positive and open spirit, on their mission as a couple during the previous month.	Movement will enrich the world by being missionary.
<b>Couples &amp; teams</b>	Couples to have a retreat focusing on developing their married spirituality.	Retreat to focus on married spirituality and help to strengthen and develop concrete spiritual life of couples.	Deepening of married spirituality in couple.

<b>Who</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>How</b>	<b>Outcome</b>
<b>Regions/ Super Regions</b>	<p>Train couples to be retreat leaders.</p> <p>Share good practice – share with other Teams what has worked</p>	<p>Retreats can be led by priests or by the TEAMS couples themselves.</p>	<p>Deepening of married spirituality in couple</p> <p>Couples will have the opportunity to share with others the riches of their spiritual life..</p>
<b>Couples and Movement as a whole</b>	<p>Ensure TEAMS is relevant to current society</p>	<p>Be aware of the signs of the times and respond to them.</p> <p>E.g. More people seeking spirituality; fewer people joining or staying faithful to religious practices. More couples living together without formal marriage ceremony Many second marriages</p> <p>Explore the charisma of TEAMS in today's context</p>	<p>Help Team members to become aware of the signs of the times.</p> <p>Teams will be able to offer support to couples who live realities different from the sacrament of marriage and who wish to live a couple's spirituality outside the Movement.</p>
<b>ERI</b>	<p>Work on new mission proposals.</p>	<p>Set up a parallel program, outside the Movement, focused on the development of married spirituality, for couples who cannot at this time join the Movement (e.g. teams of couples of non-catholic religions, non-married, divorced or remarried couples).</p> <p>Make it possible for non-catholic couples, interested in married spirituality, to join the Movement in the respect of their freedom and of the Charter of Teams.</p>	<p>Best response of the couples of the Teams Movement to the expectations of people who live by different realities from those of sacramentally united catholic couples.</p>

## 5.5. MISSION IN THE CHURCH

*Vision. Ten years from now :*

- ***Couples have a more important place in the Church, thus increasing their effective participation.***
- ***The movement has become more missionary and outreaching to others.***

<b>Who</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>How</b>	<b>Outcome</b>
<b>Couples</b>	<p>Actively share in the life of the church</p> <p>The laity to take responsibility and become more involved in Church activities.</p>	<p>Encourage couples to see what is needed in the Parish in regards to lay ministry.</p> <p>By taking on specific roles and ministries as suited to each one's particular gifts and expertise</p> <p>Formation on mission and ministries.</p> <p>In preparing couples for mission, where possible, and by sharing resources and the formation sessions provided within and for Catholic school teachers and catechists..</p>	<p>A priestly, prophetic people carrying out its mission as followers of Jesus Christ</p> <p>Couples taking responsibility of our church.</p> <p>Eucharistic Ministers in Church and for the sick and elderly</p> <p>Readers at Mass Help in preparing Children's liturgies</p> <p>Pray for and support the clergy. Assist with Pre-Marriage Courses and ongoing Marriage support programmes.</p>
<b>Couple</b>	<p>Couples offer themselves for ministries and Church missions..</p>	<p>Training of Deacons and their wives to promote mission as couples .</p>	<p>Support for the clergy with their workload and for lay parishioners in need.</p> <p>Couples would take their rightful place as co-workers in the church and witness to this.</p>

<b>Who</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>How</b>	<b>Outcome</b>
<b>Teams</b>	Help people be aware that they are the Church and have a mission to evangelise.	By formation and personal witness. Encourage the clergy to preach on how people can be missionary..	Formation of couples for mission. The examples of couples can inspire others. Promote stories in Church Bulletins, magazines on life experiences of Couples being missionary in reaching out to others.
<b>Couples and Church</b>	The Church could encourage married couples to be involved in the Church as a couple	In a Parish it is often hard to get couples with young children to be involved in parish life because of their family commitments.  Encourage married couples to be involved on committees etc. as a couple.	Greater involvement and commitment of couples within the church and greater ability for young couples with family commitments to be involved.  Couples would participate in areas where they have expertise and offer a dimension not available to single people.  <i>A TEAMS couple share roles and tasks as a couple. E.g. they are a joint member of the parish council based on the concept that in marriage 'they become one'. Either or both of them could attend Parish Council meeting but would only have one vote between them. This demonstrates in a practical way the importance of marriage in the church. It allows couples to become involved in the life of the church as a couple rather than as individual members.</i>
<b>Teams in the Parish</b>	Help local church become more missionary and more supportive to married couples and families.	Make the Sacrament and the commitment of the couples more relevant in Marriage celebrations.  Have special Sundays to celebrate marriage.  Married couples to prepare a liturgy for Sundays celebrating marriage.	More meaningful liturgies.  Higher profile of marriage as a vocation within the church with equal status to vocations to religious life..  Propose to join teams to couples after marriage preparation courses..
<b>Sectors/ Regions / Super Regions</b>	Promote 'Marriage'	Have special liturgies at Mass, prepared by married couples and have Team couples share their life stories.	More realistic vision of marriage when you hear stories
<b>The Movement</b>	To improve dialogue and joint work	Inform about what inspires members of TEAMS.	Meilleurs rapports de travail entre les laïcs et le clergé.

<b>Who</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>How</b>	<b>Outcome</b>
	between TEAMS and Church Highlight what the Movement actually does in the Church	. Set up regular dialogue sessions at Diocesan level to support work on marriage at a local Parish level and on family pastorage.  Distribute Teams documents – Charter/Second Wind/Guide/Study Topics	Improved working relationships between the Laity and the Church.  Couples have an effective voice in the Church, particularly in matters relating to marriage. Lay people to have an input on matters regarding Marriage by meeting regularly with local Bishops.
	Church life	Participation in the Universal Church's missions.	Work in cooperation with movements and services of the Church, its Councils, dicasteria, etc.
<b>ERI</b>	Give support to married couples to raise profile of the Sacrament of Marriage within the Church and in the world. .	Under inspiration from ERI promote the writing of a Theology of Marriage.  This could be done in conjunction with other marriage organisations in the church e.g. INTAMS.	The Sacrament of Marriage is recognized in its complementarity with the other Sacraments  Sponsor a study of verses Genesis 2: 15-25, which, as a study topic, will be a valuable resource for future preparation and post marriage support. This could be used ecumenically
<b>Teams</b>	Support newly married couples.	Each newly married couple could have a Team missionary couple “walk” with them for the first 3 years of their marriage.	Newlywed couples have support. The couple on mission to meet with the newly married couple once a month to listen and share.
<b>Sectors/ Regions</b>	Encourage formation programs for couples within and outside the Movement.	The program to include all aspects of marriage – spiritual, physical, finance etc. This needs to be practical and not just theoretical.	Couples will have realistic expectations of marriage.  Fulfilling marriages that will last.



<b>Who</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>How</b>	<b>Outcome</b>
<b>Team</b>	Moral and spiritual Support for Widows/Widowers and Divorced people.	Set up support groups within the church and world to offer positive support. Need also to support Teams members when one spouse dies..	People are able to come to terms with their loss and find out where God is leading them in their lives.  Support Groups could be run along similar lines to TEAMS: prayer, meal, sharing, study topic
<b>Couples</b> <b>Sectors / Regions</b> <b>Super-Regions</b> <b>ERI</b>	Meet regularly with the Bishops and Clergy to discuss how we as Church can help co-habiting couples that have made a commitment to each other, belong to the Church. Couples on mission to seek out and visit co-habiting couples..	Many co-habiting couples are genuinely using their living together as a preparation time for marriage and in their eyes how they are living is not sinful. They however feel rejected by the Church.  Co-habiting couples with a view to marriage could make a formal commitment to preparation for marriage. A Team couple could walk with each couple as they prepare for marriage..	The couple would have a greater awareness of God in their lives and of the commitment to marriage. For many couples this would lead to marriage within the Church.  The couple would feel supported and not rejected by the Church.
<b>Teams</b>	TEAMS to reach out to young people. Couples from Teams to accompany Young Teams Groups	Promote TEAMS for single young people  Give also financial support.	Increase the number of Young Teams Groups in the world.

## 5.6. MISSION IN THE WORLD

*Vision. In ten years' time :*

- *God's love, gives life through the couple who gives itself in the service of others.*
- *Throughout the world people see and value this love, which is present in the married couple.*

<b>Who</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>How</b>	<b>Outcome</b>
<b>All couples</b>	Live out their mission to people they meet each day..	<p>Day to day inter-action between people – listening and acting – witnessing through their every day lives.</p> <p>Using techniques that are developed in TEAMS.</p> <p>By being genuinely interested in people, by friendship and by acceptance of different views.</p> <p>Formation to develop greater understanding of the Holy Spirit.</p>	<p>Active people surge, creating a new brotherly world.</p> <p>Creating in others less judgmental attitudes of mercy and an awareness and desire to further explore the spiritual dimension in life. Through passive witness just being who we are as a couple</p> <p>Active witness – speaking to others about our spiritual life when and wherever possible and appropriate.</p> <p>Participate in World Day of Prayer</p> <p>Listen to and learn from the views of people from different religious or spiritual backgrounds..</p>
<b>Couples</b>	Witness through involvement with young people in schools.	<p>Many young people assume that marriage and faithful relationships cannot be expected to last.</p> <p>Through teaching and sharing personal experience to demonstrate that the Church's view of marriage can be lived out and that love can be enriched in a lifelong commitment.</p>	<p>We show that Marriage responds to a life long commitment which is attainable and desirable as proposed by the Church.</p>

<b>Who</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>How</b>	<b>Outcome</b>
<b>Couples, Regions, Super Regions</b>	Engage with media to promote marriage as a vocation.	Set up a group of writers at Super-Regional level who would write positive statements on marriage for TV, newspapers, magazines etc Stories to be written about the life of couples who have had successful marriages and submitted to magazines to witness that marriages can and do work.  Advise on production of TV documentaries, Videos Write articles for magazines and newspapers, Write letters to "Readers Columns"	Couples going into marriage will understand the attitudes and requirements that are necessary for a successful marriage. Show how virtues of faithfulness, forgiveness, steadfastness, compassion etc. are relevant in marriage. Depict examples of couples who do unsung heroic deeds Show couples dealing with issues within the family and how it affects them as a couple e.g. Handicapped children, ageing parents, dependent relatives.)
<b>Super Region</b>	Be active on the internet; create specific websites to promote marriage and marriage spirituality.	Super-Regional level – organize teams to create and update marriage based websites or chatrooms.	
<b>Super Region</b>	Promote value of marriage through the political arena.	Be aware of issues affecting marriage and disseminate to couples for action. 'TEAMS' is a movement of active Christians.	Promote and Protect marriage and family life in society
<b>The Movement</b>	Establish a catalogue of activities related to marriage practiced by couples around the world	Obtain from all Super-Regions a list of all such missionary activities .	Better information to Missionary Couples on possible ways of acting as such.
<b>Regions, Sectors</b>	To promote and support marriage in the world.  Give witness to priests, seminarians and clergy in general to have a better understanding of the couple and of marriage.	Work together with other marriage organizations which promote marriage (and not only family life)	To strengthen existing good marriages Work with existing marriage and family institutes. In many countries there is very little support for the formation of couples for marriage and for the upholding of married life and spirituality

Who	Action	How	Outcome
<b>Regions and Super-Regions</b>	Provide on-going support for couples (not to be confused with broader issues concerning families.)	Providing pre-marriage, post-marriage and future support for elderly, retirees etc Provide positive formation for couples by periodically giving presentations/work shops on: Marriage as a vocation Couple and Personal growth Material/finance, Research, Witness, Communication, Listening, Spirituality, Sexuality, Retirement Parenting skills, Grandparenting skills Widow/widowers and those facing death.	Couples have access to professional services, as they need it during the progressive stages of their marriage.  Access to guidance - prevention is better than cure.  Couples who often nowadays are living away from other family supports systems have access to a wealth of experience and advice The traditional family is actively supported by political systems as the basis of a functional society.

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