



Newsletter

Teams of Our Lady

Irish Region



International Gathering



Brendan and Rosemarie carry the flag during the Opening Ceremony in Turin.

Autumn 2024

Issue 138

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From the Regional Couple



Dear Friends,

The Gathering of Teams in Turin this past July was, for us, the event of the Summer! It was long spoken of, long planned for and long awaited. As first-time Pilgrims to an International Teams Gathering, it exceeded all our expectations. Like the Emmaus disciples we came home, with burning hearts, with deeper insights into our encounters with Jesus along the roads of life and with a greater appreciation of our Teams Movement both at home and worldwide. **The Summer Picnic** on Sunday September 15th and the October 19th **Responsible Couples' Day** will be further opportunities to chat about Turin and touch that fire!

Continuing the Emmaus theme, the 2024/25 **Teams Study Topic** called “*On the road to Emmaus*” is now available online and in hard copy at the RC Day. Please see the link inside. Please chat with your Team as soon as possible and ask your RC to let the Sector Couple know how many copies you will require.

We are very much looking forward to welcoming Paul and Annette O’Beirne, Super-Regional Couple, to Avila for the **RC Day on Saturday October 19th**. Paul and Annette are entering their 5th and final year of service this year. We saw them in full untiring flight in Turin as they pulled out all the stops to serve each pilgrim.

The Regional Team are planning a prayerful and life-giving RC Day for you and your Team. Please be ready to respond to any requests for help, so that we can truly be a blessing for each other. Please also let your Sector Couple know as soon as possible, who will represent your Team at the RC Day - see inside for further details.

As we embark on this new year, the Leading Team call us to “**live in communion with Christ**”. The ERI Letter to Team Members in Turin 2024 continues... “It is easy to understand that all evangelisation is based on an experience of *encounter*, and it is in these encounters that an attitude of welcoming must be awakened. We *welcome* the Lord who has this deep desire to meet us. We also welcome the people we meet, from those closest to us to those furthest apart, and in the most diverse situations. We look, we listen, we talk to each other, we open our hearts so that we can begin to *communicate, act and serve*.”



Irish contingent at Turin. Missing, Pierpaolo and Ilaria



Report from Turin

Fr. Richard Sheehy, Regional Chaplain

I am deliberately writing these words while the memory of the recent International Gathering of Teams, which took place from 15th-20th July in Turin, is still fresh. *Torino 2024* brought together some six or seven thousand participants from all over the globe for six days; the majority were married couples, but some four hundred chaplains were also present, many of them clergy. Our Irish contingent comprised eight couples and two chaplains (Sr. Mary O'Dea and myself). The English-speaking group were definitely one of the smaller groups represented. There were 2000 from Brazil alone, and a large contingent from Poland. There are striking parallels with the Olympic Games currently taking place in Paris in terms of the mammoth organisation and

stewarding involved, the parade of national flags at the opening ceremony and the general sense of celebration. But it wasn't just a party. It was an opportunity to give thanks to God for the respective vocations of marriage and priesthood and to reflect together on the gift and call of life in Teams.

The International Leadership Team had structured the week thematically with great forethought. Drawing on the Road to Emmaus story (*Luke 24*), a different theme provided the backdrop for the talks and personal reflections of each day: *fragility – illumination – offer - communion – sending out*. Having spent the past year reflecting in our own teams on the proposed study topic inspired by the same Gospel text, we might have been forgiven for thinking that there was nothing more to be said about the Road to Emmaus.

We could not have been more mistaken. After a gathering song and opening prayer, each day began with a reflection on the Emmaus story by a wonderful professor of Italian literature, Marina Marcolini. Her half hour talks were most insightful, but it was her presence as much as her words that engaged. In her opening address she told us that there was nothing she would say that she had not embodied in her life, and that shone through.

After a brief pause for reflection, a different speaker gave the keynote address each day, while two couples from different continents shared a personal and often moving testimony related to the theme of the day.

The daily Eucharist at noon, celebrated in one of the five main languages of the gathering: French, English, Portuguese, Spanish and Italian, was an opportunity to give thanks for all that had been shared and to invite the risen Lord to '*stay with us*' on our journey.

One of the highlights of the week was simply the encounter with Teams members of various different nationalities. Conversations with people took place in the main arena where we sat each day, but also in the tram on the way to and from our hotels, and over meals. On three evenings after supper we broke up into mixed Team meetings in our hotel. In my particular mixed Team which included couples from France, Germany, Italy, Brazil and Poland, I was the only native English speaker! Although Teams might seem to be a relatively small community in Ireland, *Torino 2024* gave us a sense that we were part of a large and vital international fraternity, and that can only be encouraging, particularly for some of our younger and newer members.

Another memory that will stay with me is the courage of the couples who shared their experience of the challenge of living the sacrament of marriage and of being faithful to the invitation of Teams. Their honesty was both humbling and hugely encouraging to everyone.

On the International website many of the talks at the gathering are recorded or translated into English. Marina Marcolini's talks, which will be added on as an appendix to this coming year's proposed study topic, might themselves form the basis of a mini study topic.

At the closing Eucharist there was a moving ceremony, where the outgoing International Leadership Team handed over the baton of service to the new Leadership Team, comprising eight couples and a chaplain representing the different Super-Regions. Their task will be to chart the direction of the movement for the coming six years and to organise the next International gathering in six years' time. It reminded me how much we owe to all those who step forward at sector, regional and super-regional levels to cooperate with the Holy Spirit in providing momentum and guidance to our growth in Teams.

We were sent forth from Torino 2024 to return to our Teams with '*burning hearts*'. May all that we lived and encountered in Turin stay with us and bring nourishment and renewal to our life in Teams in the coming year.

Prayer Intentions

For those who have died:

Aisling Moore and Abbigael Tournié Moore,
niece and grand-niece of Anne O'Leary, Team 37

Anna Marie Leavy, Mullingar

Sean Brady, brother of Eileen Walsh, Mullingar

Máire Kelly, wife of Brendan, Galway

Manus Duggan, husband of Máire, Galway

Gerry Mulhern, husband of Margaret, Belfast

Frank Clinton – A tribute



Frank was born in 1926 in Inchicore, Dublin. He died on March 13th, 2024.

Frank and Pat joined Teams in 1991. They liked the idea of both of them keeping in touch with their faith. With two small children they felt a need to be in touch with other couples with similar interests. They liked especially studying Scripture.

Frank always had a great curiosity about languages and studied French, Spanish, German and others.

He travelled at every possible opportunity and was happiest when he could set off and see more of the world.

His family and their education meant everything to him. The Team was a very big part of his life. He was a man who respected others and avoided conflicts. Their team did its best to form a team for young people and enjoyed time spent with them. The problem then, as it probably is now, is that young people in their teens are spreading their wings, and with college commitments, find it difficult to attend regular meetings.

In Frank's final ten years of life, he suffered greatly with loss of both hearing and sight. He did not like to reveal his problems and kept them to himself. His spiritual life was also very much part of who he was.

We spent wonderful trips to Lourdes, Fatima, Spain and the UK with Teams of Our Lady and it still remains a big part of our lives.

Team 24, his loving wife Pat, Bernadette Blayney, David and Mary Orr, and Martine Donaghy.

Anna Marie Leavy – A tribute



Anna Marie Leavy (nee Moss) a native of Pettigo, Co. Donegal, was a wonderful person who spread love and joy in her surroundings throughout her life of eighty-five years. Though relatively slight in stature, Anna Marie had enormous talent and style which was evident in all her varied undertakings. First of all, Anna Marie was a wonderful wife to her husband, Ollie, who predeceased her (November 2022). The depth and breath of their love for each other and for their family was evident to all over the fifty-eight years of their marriage. Anna Marie was a wonderful mother to her seven children and the generous manner in which she and Ollie dealt with the awful loss of her son Ciaran was an example of Christian living to all who knew her, and led directly to

the setting up of Teams of Our Lady in Mullingar forty-six years ago. Anna Marie was a wonderful friend and neighbour; she was generous and hospitable to everyone she met and her gift for friendship held across time and distance, extending to fundraising to help people in need throughout the world.

Most people know of Anna Marie Leavy as a highly creative and prolific artist. Her nuanced attention to detail of colour and texture in the natural environment, and the distinctive manner in which she could render seemingly ordinary things in outstanding watercolour paintings has made her work famous not just in Ireland but as far afield as Japan and the USA.

While her creative talents were constantly at play in her painting, she was generous and successful in setting up Mullingar Art Enterprise to share her interests with others. Her loyalty and service to Teams of Our Lady involved not just whole-hearted and generous participation in Mullingar Team 1, but she and Ollie promoted the movement as Responsible Couple, Sector Couple, Pilot Couple as the need arose. Anyone who was blessed to sit at the Leavy family table will remember Anna Marie's catering and hospitality skills and the wit and joy she exuded when entertaining. Anna Marie will be sadly missed by her loving children, numerous grandchildren, her fellow Team members and her many friends and admirers. May she and Ollie rest in peace and rise in glory.

Mullingar Sector

Responsible Couples' Day 2024 – On the road to Emmaus

When? **Saturday, October 19th, 2024**

Where? **Avila, Morehampton Road, Donnybrook, Dublin 4.**

What? **An opportunity to begin our year of service with prayer, mutual help and reflection on the mission we are called to within our Team and beyond.**

How much? **Voluntary contribution.**

Attendance at the RC Day is a vital element in the responsibility of the RC for the upcoming year. Other couples from your Team are most welcome to attend with you.

Please mark the **19th October 2024** in your diary or appoint another couple to take your place if you are unavailable.

Ensure the register has been updated to include your correct contact details and those of your Team. Contact the Register Couple Marie and PJ Finn at mkeeganfinn@gmail.com to advise.

Activities of the Regional Team: June 2024 - August 2024

Mission to the International Movement

Collaboration with the Super-Regional couple in arrangements for the International Conference in Turin 2024.

Participation by two couples and a Chaplain from Ireland in an ERI Training Programme at Oropa, Italy, following the Turin Gathering.

Mission within the Region:

Sharing news from the Super-Region with Sector Couples and Teams.

Providing support for the team working on the new website.

Making known the daily experience of those who travelled to the Turin Gathering. This was an effort to engage the wider membership and nourish the links between Teams in Ireland and the International Teams Movement. The event was promoted by videos, messaging, photos and sharing of conference presentations by WhatsApp and email.

Mission within the Sectors:

Final Piloting meeting with and continued support for the new Team in Belfast.

Ongoing Piloting of Team in Cork.

Invitations to couples to roles of service and facilitating transfer of responsibility.

Attendance by the Regional Couple at the Mullingar Summer Outing.

Mission towards the Church:

Collaboration with Youth 2000 to make the Spirituality of Teams of Our Lady better known among 18-35 yr olds who take part in their activities. Teams were represented at this year's Summer Festival 16th-18th August by three couples.

News from the ERI - International Leading Team 2024-2030



New International Leading Team 2024-2030. Leading Couple Mercedes Gomez-Ferrer and Alberto Perez Bueno pictured with their Team of six couples and Spiritual Counsellor.



Of special interest to our Super-Region:

Ellen and T.J. Holt, USA - Incoming Liaison Couple, Trans-Oceanic Zone (formerly the Eurasia Zone, served by Faye and Kevin Noonan.)

Sector News

Dublin

Annual Sector Summer Outing – Sunday, 15th September 2024

The Annual Sector Outing will be on Sunday, 15th September 2024, from 2pm. The venue will be the very pleasant St Enda's Park, Rathfarnham. Full details are:

St Enda's Park, Grange Road, Rathfarnham, Dublin 16 - D16 Y7Y5

See the website www.pearsemuseum.ie for more information about St Enda's Park, the Pearse Museum (free entrance and well worth a visit) and the Schoolhouse Café!

Car parking is available in:

Main Car Park: accessible off Sarah Curran Road – 8 minute walk to our meeting point.

Disabled parking spaces available beside Pearse Museum – accessible from this car park.

2nd Car Park: situated on Taylor's Lane; access to St Enda's through gate in boundary wall – 9 minute walk to our meeting point.

Our meeting point:

Large green area beside Schoolhouse Cafe and Courtyard, adjacent to Pearse Museum.

Don't forget Sun Hat, Sun Glasses, Folding Chair, and a Picnic! In the unlikely (!) event of inclement weather: Join us in the covered area available in Schoolhouse Café / Courtyard!

The outing is not restricted to members of Teams. So, feel free to invite family members and friends. All are welcome.

Katriona and Donal Emer and Andrew Brigid and Gerard Anne and Mark
Dublin Sector Team

Sector Team “Get-Together”

In order to mark the approaching end to its 3-year term, the Sector Team had a “get-together” on Sunday, 18th August. Kindly hosted by Katriona and Donal, we all enjoyed a wonderful evening with lovely food and good time together. Of course, during our evening we remembered fondly our Sector Team’s late chaplain, Fr Paddy Dundon, who died during the 3-year term.

Congratulations!

We offer our congratulations to Paolo and Paola Batori (Team 43), who have agreed to serve as Dublin Sector Couple for the coming three years. They have already served energetically as the Finance Couple for the Region! We ask you for the support of your prayers and involvement in the months ahead to assist them in the role.

Appreciation

We would like to express our sincere thanks to those who answered the call to be part of the Dublin Sector Team 2021-2024 and gave generously of their time: Katriona and Donal O’Keeffe (Team 42), Emer Sinnott and Andrew Fanthom (Team 36), Brigid and Gerard McQuaid (Team 40), and, lastly, but by no means least, the late Fr. Paddy Dundon, CSSp, RIP (Team 11). Their hard work and enthusiasm was much appreciated.

Thanks also to the Responsible Couple for the Region, Rosemarie and Brendan Gavin, and the rest of the Regional Team, for their support during the past three years. Finally, we acknowledge Our Lord and his Blessed Mother for the guidance received and, in particular, for the new shoots which have appeared in the Teams Movement in Ireland over the last few years. We pray for their ongoing guidance and support for the growth of those shoots!

Cork – Pilot Team

The Pilot Team in Cork has started back after the summer break. Meeting 7 (out of 10) took place recently. The meeting went well, with great participation by the couples and chaplain. They will be “flying solo” for the September meeting! We will re-join them for the following meeting in October. Please remember them all in your prayers.

International Gathering – Torino 2024

The Gathering in Turin, our first time attending an International Gathering, has left us with many lasting memories. One of the biggest impacts was the daily celebration of Mass and, in particular, the first Mass on the Tuesday, when all the concelebrants (between 350-400 priests and bishops) processed into the arena and made their way to the altar. Daily Mass was celebrated with such incredible reverence and joy.

Just being part of such a large gathering is a lasting memory in itself. It was truly wonderful being in the same place with up to 8,500 other Teams’ members from around the world.

The mixed Teams meetings were also memorable – a truly enriching experience, meeting with couples from so many other countries.

It was also wonderful for us to meet all of the other 6 Teams’ couples who had participated in the “Geppetto” Course in Rome. (The 6 couples are from Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Lebanon, Poland and Spain). Two of these couples (Carmen and Ricardo from Spain; Cristiane and Luiz Antonio Brito from Brazil) are now members of the International Leading Team (ERI).

International Formation Session – Oropa 2024

The Formation Session in Oropa was very different from the Turin Gathering! There was a much smaller number of couples and chaplains in attendance – about 140 people in total. It was held in the wonderful setting of the Sanctuary of Oropa, c.1,000 metres above sea level in the pre-Alps, about 2 hours by bus from Turin. The sanctuary is famous for the statue of the Black Madonna of Oropa.

The Formation Session, from the Saturday evening until Wednesday morning, was presented by the new International Leading Team (ERI). What was particularly striking about the presentations and testimonies was the genuine humility of each of the couples. None of them was seeking the new role, but each saw the invitation to serve as a calling from God. When discerning a response to this invitation, it was viewed in that light.

We also had a mixed Teams meeting each day in Oropa – again, these were an enriching experience.

Mark and Anne O’Leary

Mullingar

As the new Teams year begins we would like to thank the outgoing responsible couples/person and welcome those who have accepted the role for the year ahead and we wish you every blessing.

Responsible Couples’ Day:

19th October 2024

Avila, Morehampton Road, Donnybrook, Dublin 4

Cost: Voluntary contribution.

Summer Outing:

We were delighted that Rosemarie and Brendan joined us in Fore on the 29th June and thank them for their thoughtfulness and all their support. We enjoyed the afternoon together and managed to dodge the summer showers.

Condolences:

We send our condolences to all who have lost loved ones during the summer.

We remember especially those who have died:

Aisling Moore and her daughter Abbigael Tournié Moore

Anna Marie Leavy (Mullingar)

Sean Brady (brother of Eileen Walsh, Mullingar)

Máire Kelly (Galway)

Manus Duggan (Galway)

Gerry Mulhern (Belfast)

Mullingar Sector



Dublin Sector Team
get-together.
Photographer Donal
O'Keeffe



Summer Outing Mullingar at
Fore Abbey

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We would like to receive contributions for the Winter Newsletter by Sunday, 1st December