



## **Vocation and Mission of TOL couples**

### **Called and sent**

It is true that through baptism, all believers experience the call to follow the Lord Jesus and receive the mission to be bearers of his Word and to be his presence in the world. Through the sacrament of marriage, spouses are also called to love in God's way. They are sent to become witnesses of the profound unity between Christ and the Church and between God and the universe. Therefore, to speak of Christian marriage is to speak of a vocation and a mission, specific to spouses united in Christ.

For couples belonging to the Teams of Our Lady, we can say these realities are multiplied in a double commitment: the sacrament of marriage and life in the Movement.

Those who have chosen to join Teams as part of their Christian married life, commit themselves more strongly to a life of witness and apostolate. In addition to the formation of their own family and their dedication to the integral growth of their children, couples in Teams are called to participate in the mission of the Church, especially in those realities that concern marriage and family life. Each couple must seek and find the environment in which they can serve in their parish or diocese. This is to discover those pastoral areas where they can be present as baptised, married team members.

Throughout this year, which Pope Francis wanted to dedicate to *Amoris Laetitia*, it is very important to not lose sight of what he presents to us about those human situations in which couples feel fragile, sick, and wounded. It is there, in these complex, difficult and often painful environments, that this commitment can manifest itself most visibly. There are: young people in love who need to know the beauty and grandeur of sacramental life; young couples preparing for marriage; married couples seeking accompaniment; couples in crisis of various kinds; those who are separated or divorced; couples in a new non-sacramental union; people with difficulties in their sexual identity; and so on. These are situations that yearn for a compassionate and merciful presence.

We have the valuable document, 'Vocation and Mission at the dawn of the third millennium', issued by the ERI in July 2018, which encourages and pushes us to an authentic and coherent living out of what it means to participate in a concrete vocation and mission.

Likewise, Clarita and Edgardo, the couple responsible for the ERI and the Movement, set out the path to follow during this six-year period. They called all team members to a calm but serious commitment to go out into the contemporary world, where we must be present with the strength of the Spirit and the experience of sharing God's grace in married life.

We can never overemphasise the need for a continuous re-reading of these documents which offer us clear paths for living out the vocation and mission to which we are called.

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