



Equipes Notre-Dame

A dynamic Movement of committed couples witnessing God's love and joy in their marriage, encouraging spiritual growth that empowers them to help and influence others in their marriage spirituality.

QLD TEAMS SPIRIT NEWS – October 2023

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At this time of problems in Israel and Palestine and Ukraine where there is hatred and violence, let us pray for Peace with the full version of the Serenity Prayer.

***God grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change;
Courage to change the things I can;
And wisdom to know the difference.
Living one day at a time; enjoying one moment at a time;
Accepting hardships as the pathway to peace;
Taking, as He did, this sinful world as it is,
not as I would have it;
Trusting that He will make all things right
if I surrender to His Will;
So that I may be reasonably happy in this life and supremely
happy with Him forever and ever in the next.
Amen.***

September Retreat Report –

8th to 10th September, 2023, at Tallebudgera Valley, Gold Coast

In September, we had the privilege of coming together for our annual retreat at the home of Jerry and Nicole de Luchi at the Tallebudgera Valley, and what a memorable experience it was! Jerry is the vibrant brother of our very own, Sandro. Over three days, we embarked on a journey of introspection and enlightenment, one that left us with food for thought and hearts full of gratitude.

The first session was led by Alison Golden, whose insights challenged us to contemplate where we truly fill up our senses. Drawing inspiration from John Denver's timeless classic, "Annie's Song," Alison encouraged us to explore the profound connection between our senses and the world around us and our God. Alison's session was a gentle reminder to appreciate the simple joys of life and to nurture our senses with the love and beauty that the world has to offer.

In another impactful session, Sue and Tim Jones took us on a journey of empathy and compassion through thought-provoking videos about the Missionary Sisters of the Poor. These incredible Sisters dedicate their lives to caring for disabled children and adults, as well as pregnant mothers, embodying their love for God through tangible acts of service reminding us all of the immense impact that a single act of kindness can have.

Another one of the highlights of our retreat was the opportunity to spend time with Fr. Morgan Batt. His wisdom, knowledge and insight are a true gift, and we found ourselves captivated by his words. Fr. Batt's presence added a layer of depth and spirituality to our retreat, and we are immensely grateful for the chance to learn from him.

Claude and Meuris Gonsalves led us in a session where we looked at the Environment and our role in presenting the face of God to others. There was also lively discussion on the role of women in the church and the church's response to the evolving definition of a married couple, which includes same-sex marriage, a possible issue for Teams into the future.

On the Sunday morning, we embarked on a special spiritual journey together. We attended Mass at the picturesque Burleigh Heads Parish church, celebrated by Fr. Morgan. Behind the altar there is a breathtaking stained glass window. Bren and Sue Milson took us on a journey of exploration. The stained glass window, with its vivid hues and intricate details, served as a powerful reminder of the beauty and complexity of our faith.

We want to express our gratitude to all who made this retreat possible. To Fr. Morgan Batt Bren and Sue Milson, Nicole and Jerry de Luchi and to all our members who joined us on this retreat. Thank you for your presence and your willingness to explore and grow together.



Charter Mass

We are excited to announce our upcoming event that holds special significance for our community. The Charter Mass and Dinner is an occasion that brings us together to celebrate our faith, unity, and the blessings of having dedicated spiritual leaders by our side. Where would we be without Teams in our lives?

Last year, we were truly blessed to have celebrated a special Mass with Fr. Wrex Woolnough, Fr. Raf Racinski, and Fr. Fadi Salame. These priests have been a source of guidance, inspiration, and unwavering support for our Teams Movement. Alongside them, we are also fortunate to have Fr. Gary Walker as our Australian Spiritual Advisor, while Fr. Raf serves us as our Brisbane Regional Spiritual Advisor. Their dedication to our spiritual growth and well-being is truly admirable, and we are grateful for their presence in our lives. This year, we are excited to continue the tradition with the Charter Mass, and we extend our heartfelt thanks to Fr. Wrex Woolnough for graciously hosting us at **St. Ignatius Loyola Catholic Church in Toowong**.

At the dinner we have a Guest Speaker, Bob Dixon, who has been a long serving Team Member in Melbourne. Bob and Cath Dixon are in Teams in Melbourne and have had different leadership roles in Teams in Victoria.. He has also edited a book called

“Encountering God, a Practical Theology and the Mission to Heal”

Bob and Cath live in Melbourne and have a daughter here in Brisbane and they plan to visit her around the time of our Charter Mass and Dinner.

Charter Mass and Dinner Details:

- **Date:** Friday night, November 10th, 2023. Mass at 6:30 pm
- **Mass Venue:** St. Ignatius Loyola Catholic Church, 30 Kensington Terrace, Toowong
- **Dinner Venue:** Parish Hall (Following Mass)

Please mark your calendars for this special occasion. It's a time for us to come together as a community, to celebrate our faith, to strengthen our bonds of unity and to express our gratitude for the wonderful spiritual leaders who guide us on our journey.

We will be doing things “on the cheap” so the dinner costs (still to be worked out) will be very reasonable.

If you have any questions or need further information, please do not hesitate to reach out to us. Together, let's make this a memorable and spiritually enriching experience.

Please contact Annette and Sandro (0431 560 383)

or Alison and Michael on 0421 449 167 to advise if you are coming for catering purposes.

Turin 2024 International Gathering.

Our upcoming Gathering in Turin, Italy, promises to be an enriching and spiritually fulfilling experience, and we are all invited to consider participating in this remarkable event. Claude and Meuris Gonzales are diligently coordinating this gathering.

These Gatherings have seen exceptional attendance in the past, and for a good reason. They provide a unique opportunity for us to connect, learn, and be inspired by one another. Through our collective efforts, we can help spread the importance and significance of Marriage within the Church.

Gathering Details:

- **Dates:** 15th to 20th July, 2024.
- **Location:** Turin, Italy (Pronounced "Turino," as our dear Sandro can confirm)

Turin is a city steeped in history and culture. It offers a magnificent backdrop for our gathering. We encourage you to consider joining International Teams on this journey. It's an opportunity to deepen your faith, connect with fellow members of Teams, and contribute to our mission of promoting the role of Marriage in the Church. Your presence and participation make a significant difference.

If you have any questions or require more information about the Gathering, please do not hesitate to reach out to **Claude and Meuris Gonzales. (Phone 0419 271 910)** They are more than happy to assist.

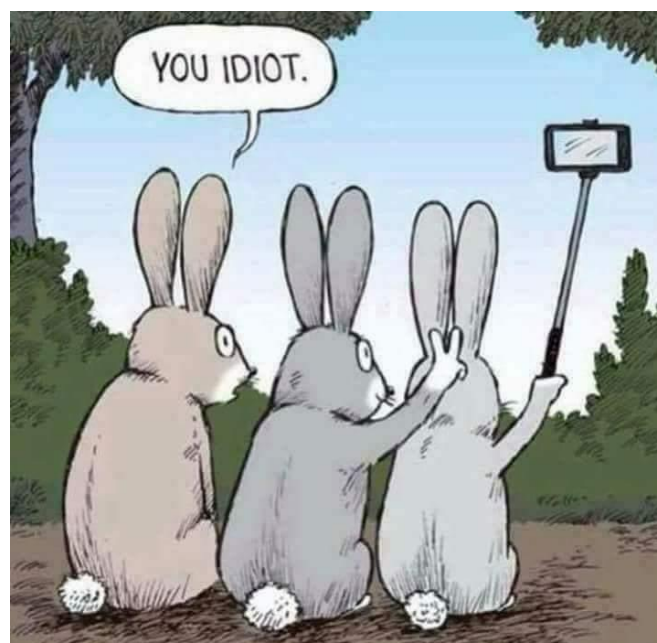


As we get older, the important thing to remember is that we are probably going to forget.

First you forget names, then you forget faces, then you forget to pull your zipper up, then you forget to pull your zipper down.

The older we get, the more clearly we remember things that never happened.

Wisdom doesn't necessarily come with age. Sometimes, age just shows up all by itself.

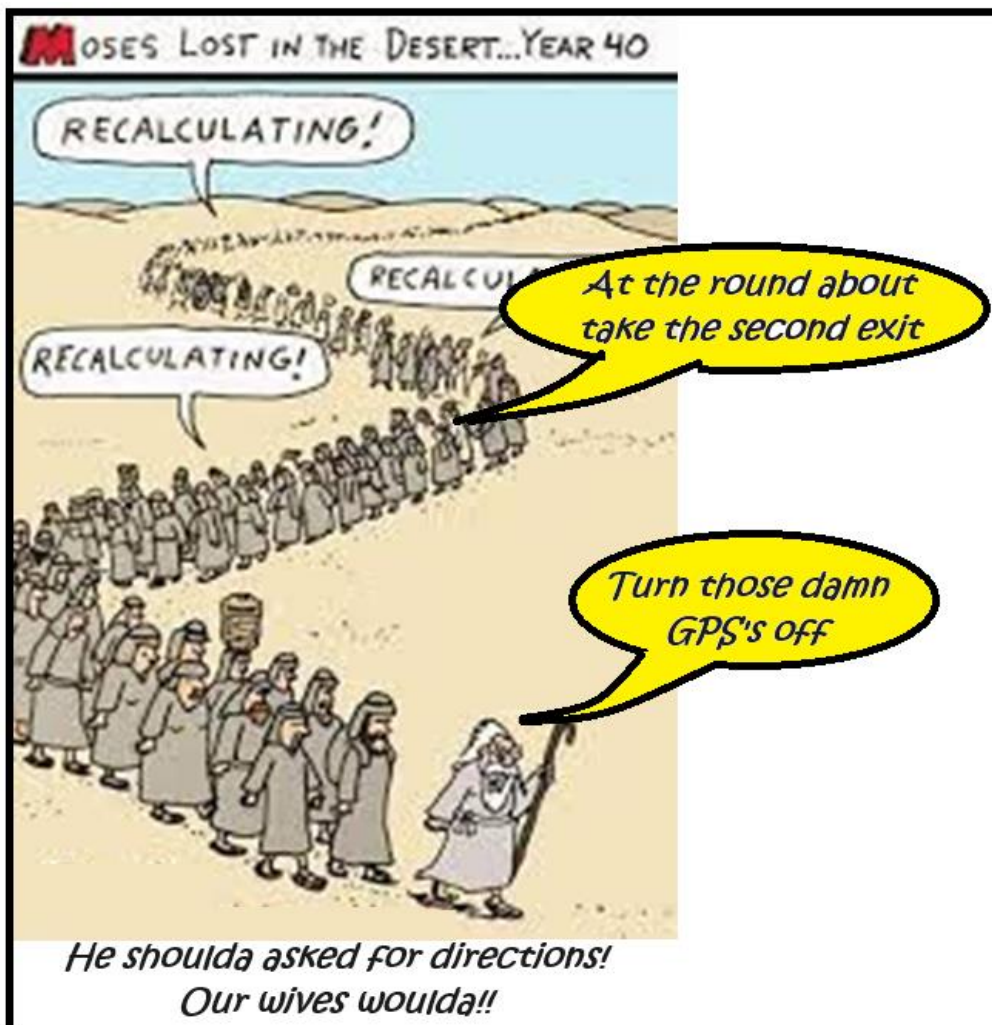


Teams may be getting older, but we have a

Brand New Team!!

Six young couples have been meeting, with Lynda and Paul Roberts as their Pilot Couple, for several months now . These new Team Members are from Anstead, Brookfield, Kenmore and Bellbowrie. Welcome to Teams **Sonia and Patrick Arendse, Therese and Nev Hunt, Jenifer and Craig French, Elizabeth and Marco Petroni, Liz and Quentin Sherratt and Tina and Vivek Maranda.** We look forward to meeting you in person and sharing our experiences of Teams and its effect on our lives as Married couples in the Church. It would be great if you could come to the Charter Mass at Toowong in November. (More info in this Newsletter)







Q: Why was Noah the best businessman in the Bible?

A: He floated his stock while everybody else was being liquidated.

If the pope isn't a prophet ... Then the Catholic Church must be a non-profit organization.

A Catholic priest, a Baptist preacher, and a rabbit walk into a blood bank. The rabbit takes a look around and says, "I think I'm a typo."