

MESSAGE FROM REGIONAL COUPLE

Dear ACT/NSW Team Members,

We trust you are all keeping well at this difficult time. Obviously, it is particularly concerning that the Covid-19 Virus has made a resurgence in Sydney and elsewhere, with the associated restrictions that have been imposed. We hope and pray that you all stay safe.

We are very pleased to inform that Lois and Gary Parker (Team C14) have agreed to take up the Canberra Sector Team Responsible Couple role, replacing Sarah and Mark Stooze (Team C11) following the completion of their term. We are very thankful of Sarah and Mark guiding Teams in the Canberra Sector over the last 3 years.

We also advise that Petra Ball and Terry McDevitt (located in Adelaide) will replace Chris and John Dighton as Oceania Responsible Couple at the end of this year. We are grateful to Chris and John for their dedicated service over the last 5 years. We are also thankful to Petra and Terry for embarking on this new challenge in their life.

Included in this newsletter is an update on the **cost-free 2021 Teams Gathering**. To assist us in the final planning stages, **it is important that you register for the Gathering now** if you intend to participate.

Blessings and Peace to you.

Genevieve and Tim
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2021 TEAMS GATHERING

The ACT/NSW Region has been prominent in organising Oceania Teams Gatherings in the past and they have been an inspiration for Team members from all the Australian Regions and the isolated Sectors of the Philippines and New Zealand. Over the last 40 years the ACT/NSW Region has been responsible for organising the following Gatherings of Team members from all Regions:

- 1985** *We are the Body of Christ* (Australian Regional Conference)
- 1994** *The Family in Team Life* (Australian Regional Conference)
- 1998** *That Your Joy May Be Complete* (1st Australasian Super-Regional Gathering)
6-8 June 1998
- 2008** *Trusting in the Future*

And now, this Region has taken a leading role, with the assistance of other Regions, in organising

- 2021** *Teams Supporting Couples: Connect, Communicate and Commit*

Planning is well underway to make the **cost-free 2021 Oceania Teams Gathering** a great success. Not only will there be a stimulating, well-informed and thought-provoking range of presenters, there will also be feedback from individual participants and follow up in “virtual discussion groups”. In these groups you will be able to meet and exchange views with Team members from across Oceania.

Now is the Time to Register

You would have recently received an email from Chris and John Dighton (Responsible Couple Oceania) providing information on the ‘virtual’ Oceania Teams Gathering to be streamed live on Saturday 18 September 2021. To assist us in the final planning stages, **it is important that you register for the Gathering now** by going to the following link

- <https://www.registernow.com.au/secure/Register.aspx?E=43655>

In late June, we forwarded a document ‘Living a Christian Faith’ which individual Teams could read and discuss at a Team meeting or two over the months leading up to the Gathering – this link will take you to a copy

- www.teamsoceania.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/Pre-Gathering-Discussion-topic-2021.pdf

Highlights of the Program

to be streamed into your homes

10 am. Welcome and Opening Liturgy

10.30 am. Opening Address:

Bishop Stephen Lowe, Diocese of Hamilton, New Zealand

Amoris Laetitia – Hope and Support for married couples

11.15 am. Phil Billington:

The beliefs and values in the relationships of young people as they navigate the changing context in a time of upheaval in the world.

12.10 am. Lara & Tim Kirk, with Genevieve & Tim Power:

The importance of supporting married couples: a personal experience

12.45 pm. *Meeting Teams from across the Oceania Region*

1.30 pm. Sr Clare Condon:

Pope Francis' Vision for the Church – Cause for Hope

1.45 pm. John Warhurst:

The changing landscape in our Church communities & the Synod process – the voice of lay Catholics

3 pm. Msgr John Woods:

Reflections and Insights from the perspective of Teams Chaplain, Marriage Tribunal, Diocesan Priest & fellow pilgrim

3.15 pm. Phil Billington:

Outcomes of the 2021 Gathering - Moving Forward Together as Teams

3.45 pm. Closing Liturgy and Farewell

There will be ample opportunity during the talks for feedback from all participants and meeting other Team members in breakout chat rooms – and there will be lunch and tea breaks.

A detailed program and other information is available on the Teams website, go to

www.teamsoceania.com.au

Further details will be provided in the lead up to the Gathering.

Sydney Teams Dinner



Sydney Teams members came together for dinner on 13 June at the Concerto Restaurant at the Plaza, Wentworth Point. It was a great evening with good cheer, excellent Lebanese cuisine, and wonderful entertainment provided by Ziad, Lara and Ghadi (Fellowship of the Ring Team members) who encouraged everyone to participate in the proceedings.



Couples discussed the importance of Teams in their lives, such as bringing families together, strengthening the bonds between spouses, improving the prayer life of spouses/families, strengthening the support for couples in Teams, and a variety of other comments.



Adrian & Sue and Tim & Genevieve from the NSW/ACT Regional Team also attended the dinner. Adrian gave an outline of the upcoming 18 September 'virtual' Gathering and Tim provided some comments on Oceania Team matters.



The Sydney Sector is planning an October Crossroads with the theme 'Live, Laugh, Love'. The source of this saying is Bessie Anderson Stanley's 1904 poem, "Success" and the



inspiration for it can be found in the first line 'He achieved success who has lived well, laughed often, and loved much'.



Commissioning Mass for Responsible Couple of the Canberra Sector Team

We are very pleased to advise that Lois and Gary Parker (Team C14) have agreed to take up the Canberra Sector Team Responsible Couple Role, replacing Sarah and Mark Stooove (Team C11). We are very thankful of Sarah and Mark guiding Teams in the Canberra Sector over the last 3 years.

Lois and Gary were inducted into the Canberra Sector Team Responsible Couple position at a Commissioning Mass lead by Fr Bernie Pattinson on Wednesday 7 July at the home of Genevieve and Tim. Present were other members of Team C14 as well as Sarah and Mark Stooove and Faye and Kevin Noonan.

Fr Bernie said Mass and then led the 'Basin and the Towel' Commissioning Service – he washed the hands of Sarah and Mark, representing all previous Responsible Sector Couples. Sarah and Mark then washed the hands of Lois and Gary, as a sign of transfer of responsibilities in the service of the Teams Movement. Lois and Gary then read the Commitment Prayer, promising to represent and serve all Team members in the Canberra Sector



and to reach out to others in the ACT/NSW region. Lois and Gary then washed the hands of all those present as an act of service to the Teams Movement.

We ask all Teams members to support Lois and Gary in undertaking their Canberra Sector responsibilities.

PATRIS CORDE: WITH A FATHER'S HEART

Pope Francis' Apostolic letter 'Patris Corde': 'With a Father's Heart' was given in Rome on 8 December 2020 – enter [*Apostolic letter Patris Corde*](#) into your search engine -

The aim of this Apostolic Letter is to increase our love for Saint Joseph, to encourage us to impleore his intercession, and to imitate his virtues and his zeal. Pope Francis shares some personal reflections on this great saint who was a lowly carpenter living in the tiny and obscure village of Nazareth in Galilee. He writes about St Joseph as:

- A beloved father
- A tender and loving father
- An obedient father
- An accepting father
- A creatively courageous father
- A working father
- A father in the shadows

Announcing a year dedicated to St Joseph, the Holy Father presents St Joseph as an example of the type of father so sorely needed in the world and in the Church today. At some time in the future, you may wish to use this Apostolic letter as a discussion topic. Following is Pope Francis' prayer to St Joseph –

*Hail, Guardian of the Redeemer,
Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary.
To you God entrusted his only Son;
In you Mary placed her trust;
With you Christ became man.*

*Blessed Joseph, to us too,
Show yourself a father
And guide us in the path of life.
Obtain for us grace, mercy and courage,
And defend us from every evil. Amen.*

