

CHRISTIANITY NEEDS YOUR WITNESS

May 1949 editorial

A few months ago, a Dutch couple came across an article on the Teams of Our Lady in one of their country's publications. It proved to be a turning point in their life. Their longstanding spiritual isolation weighed heavily on them. They yearned to find other couples like themselves desirous to strive towards holiness in and through their marriage and to 'team up' with them in their search for God. This article showed that, precisely what they were dreaming of for Holland, already existed in France and Belgium.

They immediately got into contact with us and even spent a major part of their summer holidays among us so as to meet Teams couples, to acquire a deeper understanding of their ideal, to establish bonds of friendship with them and, perhaps one day, start Teams in Holland.

On returning home this couple wrote to us. The following is an extract from their letter. It is right that we should share it with you since it concerns you as much as the Leading Team:

"France has a special vocation within the Catholic revival that is irresistibly occurring throughout the world and is affecting all aspects of life. Divine grace has chosen your country to undertake certain initiatives in this spiritual renewal. One of these initiatives of worldwide interest is the creation of Teams of Our Lady, a veritable movement of numerous couples on a journey to God, a movement of divine grace that transforms family life. It would be a mistake, however, to pretend that the Teams of Our Lady are first and foremost a manifestation of French minds. It is the spirit of the Gospel that animates the Movement.

In the words of Charles Péguy, 'you have a role and a responsibility: it is a rebirth of Catholic marriage that is taking place through you. You must be aware of it and persevere'. The initiative, the courage and the life of countless couples throughout the world depend on your initiative, on your courage and on your life."

Am I wrong in thinking that reading this passage will awake in you - not a sense of futile self-satisfaction - but rather will trouble you and awake your sense of responsibility?

Being troubled: I find, indeed, that there is nothing like receiving a person's thanks to make one aware of how little we have given, there is nothing like an expression of esteem to highlight our lack of enthusiasm, of generosity of spirit.

Sense of responsibility: if it is true that "*the initiative, the courage and the life of countless couples throughout the world depend on your initiative, on your courage and on your life*", what an obligation this is for you - for us - to make our Teams something clear, strong, radiant! What an obligation it is for us to belong to Teams not to take, but to give!

Rest assured that I would not go back so frequently to the necessity to play the game fully, to study earnestly, to practise unfailing fraternal charity, to persevere in prayer within your teams, if I did not think that your efforts have a worldwide impact.

Christianity needs your witness; the above letter from Holland proves it. I am very pleased about it and I take advantage of this opportunity to say again to each of you: you must feel responsible and want to be responsible for our Movement and its mission. You must believe in what you are doing and do it with enthusiasm.

When we work for God, we need to think big.

Henri Caffarel