



The Worldwide Movement of Equipes Notre-Dame



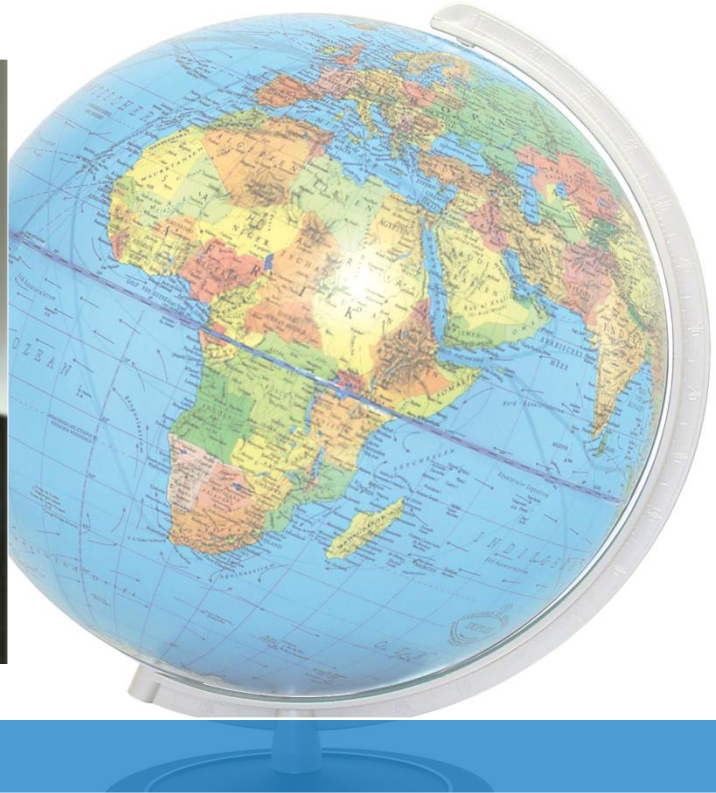
The Beginning of Equipes Notre-Dame



- Equipes Notre-Dame started in Paris in 1938 under the guidance of Père Henri Caffarel
- Some couples from his parish asked Père Caffarel for help to live and witness to their faith more effectively through their marriages
- Père Caffarel said, “Let’s journey together”
- From that time, Equipes Notre-Dame quickly spread around the world
- At 1 January 2016, there were 12,699 Teams comprising 140,580 members in over 80 countries



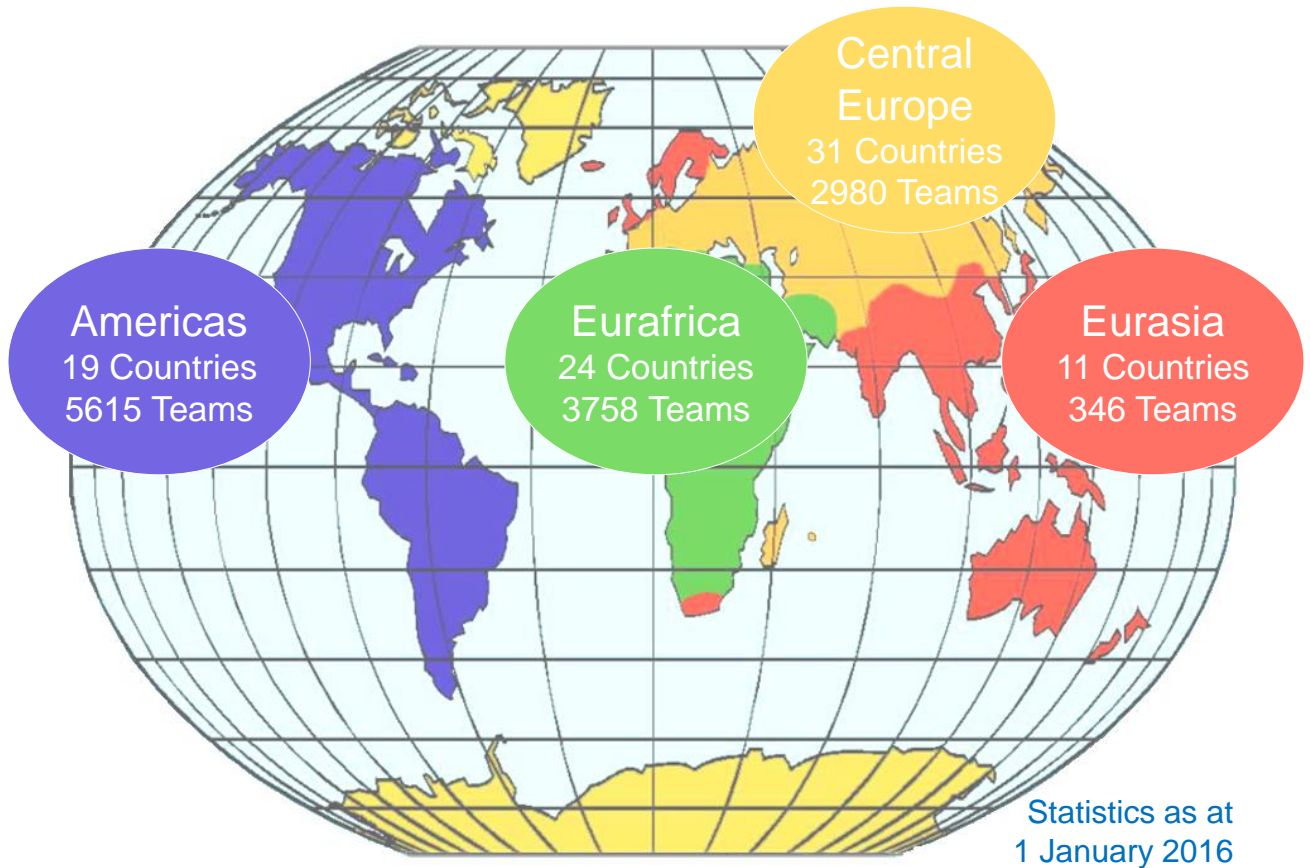
A Short History of Equipes Notre-Dame



Year	Event
1938	Equipes Notre-Dame begun at Paris by Père Henri Caffarel
1939	First meeting of Père Caffarel and four couples on 25 February
1947	Charter of Equipes Notre-Dame promulgated on 8 December
1960	Equipes Notre-Dame received its first official recognition in a letter from Cardinal Feltin, Archbishop of Paris, on 25 March
1975	Decree of Recognition of Equipes Notre-Dame as a Catholic Association by the Pontifical Council for the Laity
1992	Decree of Recognition of Equipes Notre-Dame as a Private Association of the Faithful by the Pontifical Council for the Laity on Easter Sunday (19 April)
1996	Père Henri Caffarel died at Troussures on 18 September, aged 93
2002	Decree of Recognition of Equipes Notre-Dame as an International Association of the Faithful by the Pontifical Council for the Laity on 19 April
2014	Closing of Diocesan Enquiry for Canonisation of Père Henri Caffarel on 18 October at St. Augustine's Church, Paris, Parish Church of Père Caffarel



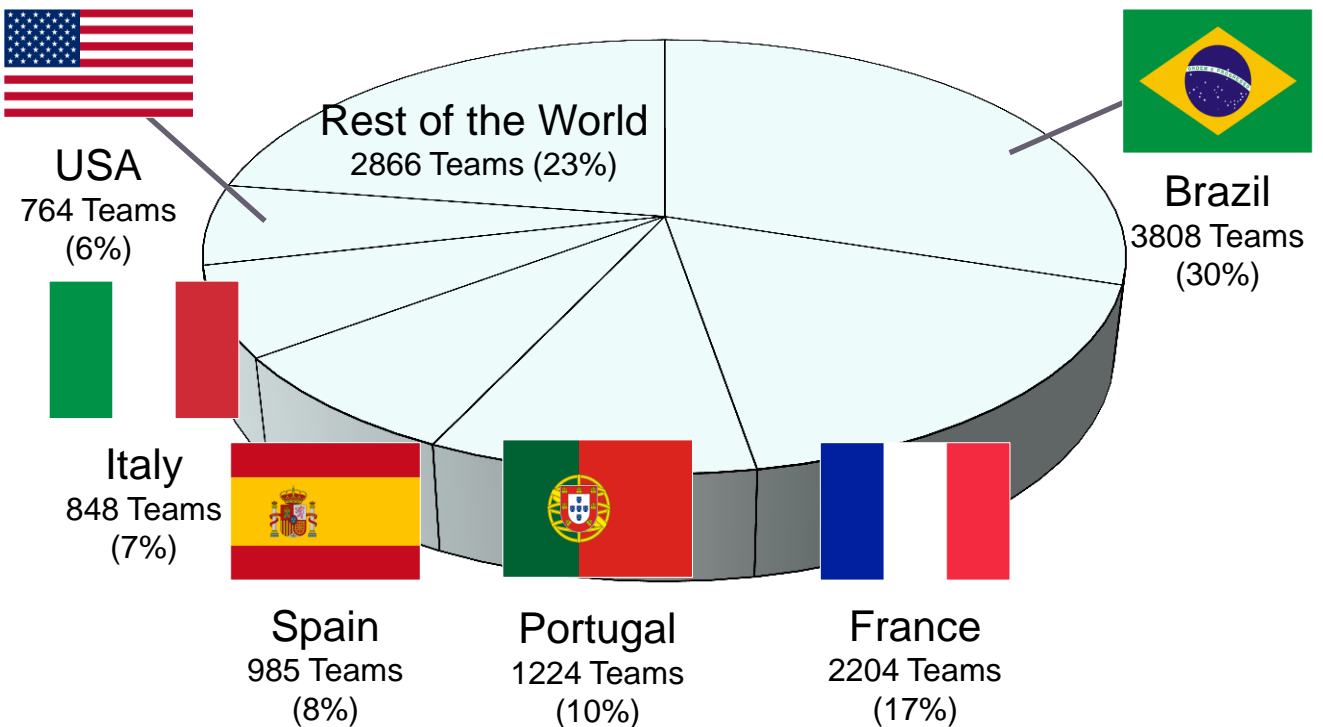
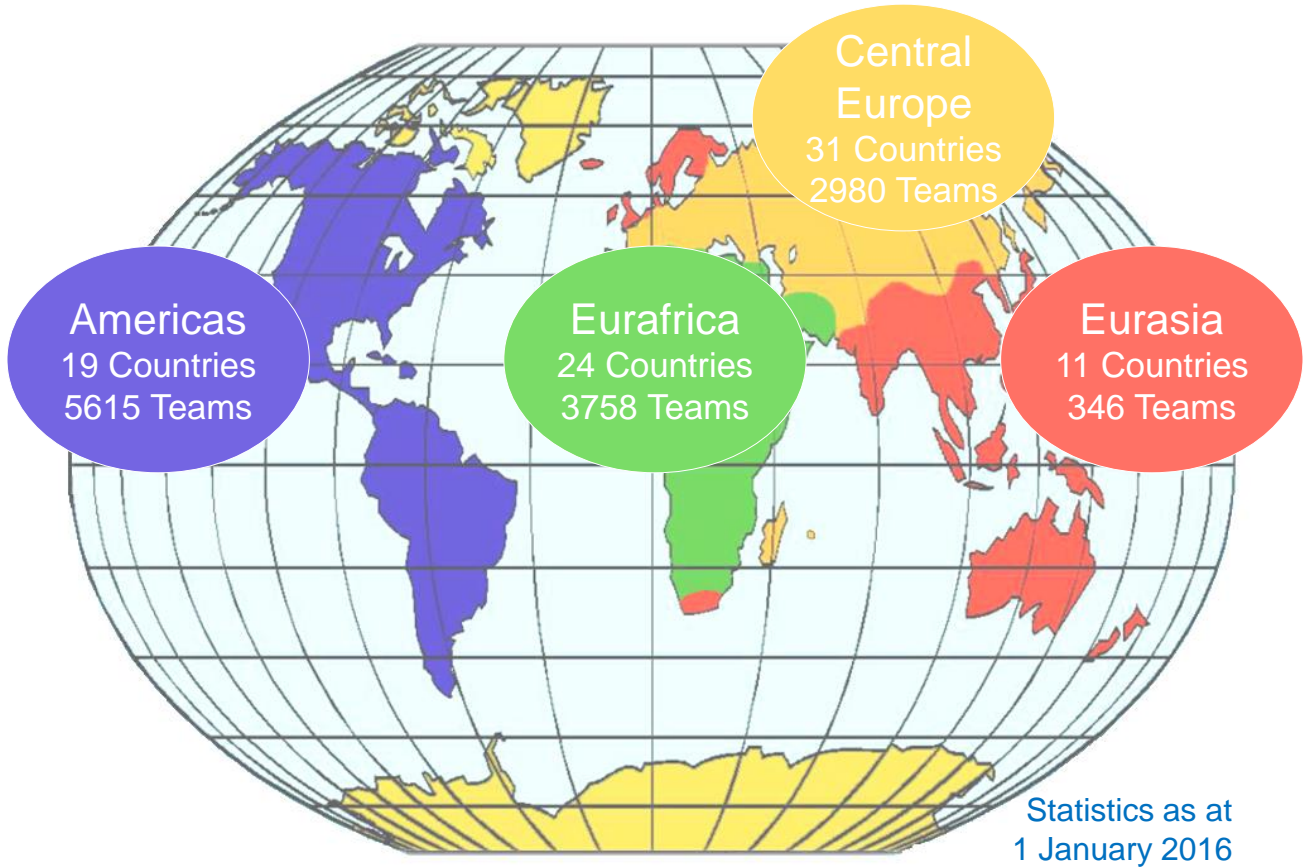
Equipes Notre-Dame: An International Movement



- Equipes Notre-Dame is organised geographically in four Zones steered by an International Leading Team (Equipe Responsable Internationale) or ERI:
 - The Americas Zone
 - The Central European Zone
 - The Euraffrican Zone
 - The Eurasian Zone
- Great Britain belongs to the Eurasian Zone



Equipes Notre-Dame: Worldwide Distribution of Teams





Equipes Notre-Dame: International Organisation Structure



- As an International Movement, Equipes Notre-Dame needs an organisation structure that supports its grass-roots Teams
 - A nurturing community to avoid Teams feeling isolated
 - Ongoing formation of members in Equipes Notre-Dame ways and values
 - Developing the Movement's understanding of its mission
 - Planning and preparing for the future of the Movement
 - Representing the Movement in interactions with the Church at every level of Church hierarchy
 - Representing the Movement in interactions with other organisations and groups



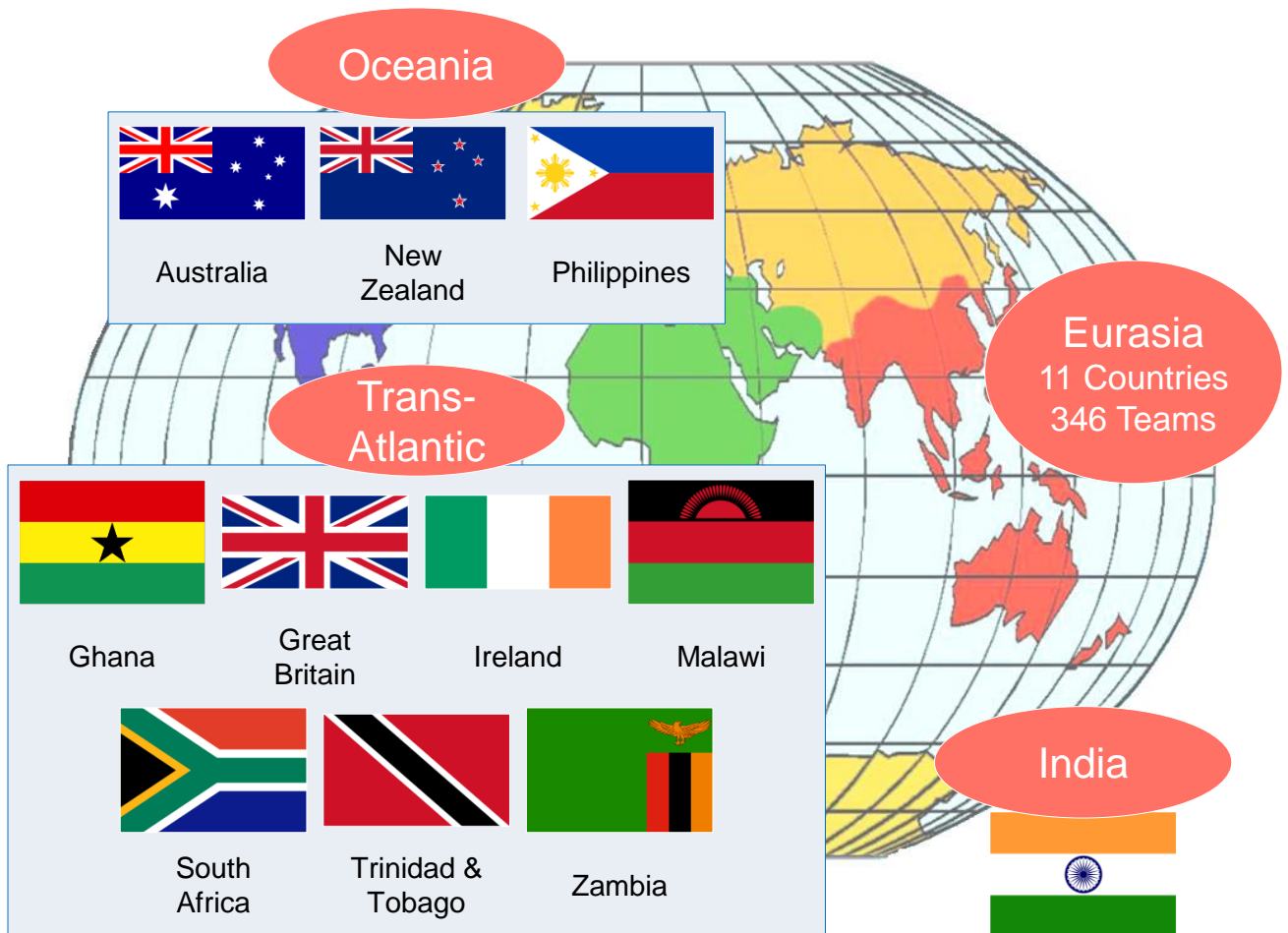
International Gatherings of the Movement

International Gatherings of Equipes Notre-Dame		
Lourdes June 1954	Rome May 1959	Lourdes June 1965
Rome May 1970	Rome September 1976	Lourdes September 1988
Fatima July 1994	Santiago de Compostela September 2000	Lourdes September 2006
Brasilia July 2012	Fatima 2018	

- From an early stage in the development of the Movement, International Gatherings have taken place at intervals of six years
- At International Gatherings, the International Leading Team is re-commissioned, and the ethos and heritage of the Movement are celebrated
- The new International Leading Team establishes orientations for the Movement for the coming years, and decides projects for the Movement's growth and formation



The Eurasian Zone



- The Eurasian Zone comprises European, African, and Asian countries such as Great Britain where English is predominantly or officially spoken
- The Eurasian Zone is structured as two Super-Regions, Oceania and Trans-Atlantic, and the Region of India



Equipes Notre-Dame in Great Britain

- Equipes Notre-Dame reached Great Britain through Harry and Clotilde Meigh, participants in a “Team by Correspondence” with couples from Holland, France, and North Africa before forming the Cheltenham 1 Team that first met on 26 November 1959
- Expressions of interest led to Teams forming in Newcastle, and Barnet, North London, and from there more widely throughout Great Britain
- Equipes Notre-Dame currently operates in Great Britain as a Province of three Regions:
 - Northern Region
 - Central Region
 - Southern Region
- The Responsible Couples from the three Regions form the core of the Province Team
- Each year, the three Regions host Regional Gatherings around a common theme and some common inputs agreed and prepared by the Province Team
- At intervals, Provincial Gatherings, as at Swanwick in 2007, 2010, and 2016, bring Teams couples together from across Great Britain



Expansion in Great Britain

- Couples and Spiritual Counsellors who belong to Equipes Notre-Dame experience the good effect in their lives of the close bonding, hospitality, and encouragement in spiritual discipline and growth they gain from their Team, and from members throughout the Movement
- As Pope Francis commented to members of the Movement in September 2015, these gifts are to be widely offered: “What you live as couples and as families, accompanied by the very charism of your Movement....all this is to be witnessed to, proclaimed, and communicated outside so that others, in turn, may set out on this path.”
- The Movement itself has a constant need, for the good of those who are already its members, to attract new members and Teams who increase the vibrancy of the Movement.
- Although many Teams continue for many years, over time the number of members and Teams naturally declines and needs replenishing.
- It may be considered a duty and endeavour of every member and Team to work continually for expansion by publicising Equipes Notre-Dame to prospective members.



Openness to Participating in the Movement

- Within each Team, it rests with the Responsible Couple to encourage each member to participate actively in the Movement:
 - By maintaining awareness about the life of the Movement, for example, by reading communications such as newsletters, and by referring frequently to its various websites
 - By promoting the Movement's interests
 - By attending and participating in meetings and events organised at various levels of the Movement
 - Through willingness to share in the Movement's life and apostolic mission, such as expansion activities, or by offering hospitality to, or having recourse to the hospitality of, fellow members within the Movement
 - Through openness to accepting service responsibilities in the Movement
 - Through contributing to the upkeep of the Movement ("Pay in May")
 - By praying for the Movement and its members

From the 1976 Teams publication [WHAT_IS_A_TEAM_OF_OUR_LADY.PDF](#)



Equipes Notre-Dame Websites and Key Contacts

Equipes Notre-Dame Websites	
International	www.equipes-notre-dame.com
Trans-Atlantic Super-Region	www.teams-transatlantic.net
Great Britain	www.teamsgb.org.uk

Equipes Notre-Dame Key Contacts in Great Britain	
Trans-Atlantic Super-Region Responsible Couple	srcouple@teams-transatlantic.net
Northern Region Responsible Couple	northern@teamsgb.org.uk
Central Region Responsible Couple	central@teamsgb.org.uk
Southern Region Responsible Couple	southern@teamsgb.org.uk
Teams GB Website Administrator	webmaster@teamsgb.org.uk
Teams GB Newsletter Editor	editors@teamsgb.org.uk

