

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

A LOUD CRY: HELP US TO TAKE THE GOSPEL TO THE FOUR CORNERS OF THE WORLD !

We often hear team members throughout the world say: "What is the point of making a contribution to Teams...? The Movement of the Teams of Our Lady does not need financial help... It is better for us to give to Charities".

Do you know that, now that the Teams are established in 62 countries in the world, we receive pressing and urgent calls from numerous couples to come and bring them the Good News on marriage and the family?

We cannot always respond to their expectations for we have to travel to meet them, to pilot their new teams, to give them the formation for which they hunger and thirst, sometimes more than for ordinary food. Fulfilling the hopes of these couples depends on mutual help from those who are very detached from this situation. They enjoy the warmth of their own team life and the urgency of calls made on the Movement (a distant concept to them) is not always clear to them.

Do you know that your contribution to your Sector, to your Region, to your Super-Region goes in part to the International Leading Team to enable them to help the poorest countries, to help Regions who need help to organise the expansion of the Movement, to organise sessions and retreats? It also goes to the 'Solidarity Fund' for our spiritual and material mutual help.

How can we not think of our fellow team members, of those who would like to join them in Teams who live in countries hostile to the Christian faith: Countries of Africa, the Middle East, the Far East...?

How can we not think of those Christian couples who strive to rebuild their church in countries recently freed of political constraints or who are rediscovering the Christian faith, the graces of marriage and of the family: Eastern European countries, countries subjected to dictators...?

How can we not think of those who are a minority in countries that have a strong Christian tradition: Holland, countries of Northern Europe?

How can we not think of the needs of our brothers and sisters of Latin America who are sometimes prevented by economic conditions to join a team that would help them to live more fully their married and family life?

If we believe that Christ is incarnate in each of our lives, in each of our sharings, if we believe that, for couples' hopes to be fulfilled nowadays, they need what the Teams of Our Lady offer, then we must let our hearts burst with generosity so that we have the means of taking the Word of God and our Movement to the four corners of the world.

In his letter "Novo Millennio Ineunte" which brought the Jubilee to an end and opened the new millennium, Pope John Paul II reminded us of what is the challenge to charity in our times. Let us read these passages again and let us act. The needs are numerous and should appeal to our Christian feelings.

We must not remain indifferent and insensitive to the needs of our brothers and sisters, not only to their material needs but also - and this is our mission - to their spiritual needs.

For us, married couples of the Teams of Our Lady, charity is the help we bring to those who want to live out their sacrament of marriage and who desperately look for outstretched hands that will give them what we have found in the charisms of our Movement.

We are shouting very loudly to awaken our consciences and we call on you to practise fraternal mutual help through personal and financial commitment in order to support the work of evangelisation of the Teams of Our Lady throughout the world.

Let us read again the story of the widow of Sarepta (1 King 17: 8-16) and let us give - not out of our need - but a very little out of our surplus !

Thank you.

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