

MILLGROVE WEEKEND

It may have been strange that Teams' Millgrove Weekend was held at Templestowe but for those involved in the movement long enough, one should never be surprised by such things.

The Holy Cross Monastery proved to be a highly satisfactory venue for the 37 couples and supporting clergy from around Australia, New Zealand and the Philippines who gathered from three intense days of laughter, spirituality, prayer, and sharing in the lives and stories of others.

Teams makes no bones about the fact that those invited to "Millgrove" weekends are being groomed for greater things in the movement but as outgoing super regional couple Marguerita and Pat Goggin assured us there would be no pressure.

Participation in the weekend was to give us a chance to think about the opportunities which may come our way in the future within Teams and to prepare us spiritually and mentally.

The Friday night was more of a getting to know you session as couples arrived and we allocated their rooms. It was deemed that ablutions blocks would be unisex except for early mornings when the women were allocated the downstairs domain where they could "put on their faces" without male scrutiny.

The evening concluded with a prayer session and then it was off to bed for well-earned rest, although the Goggins found that someone had served them breakfast in bed – a generous serving of cornflakes between the sheets. Pat was heard to grumble next morning that he usually had sugar on his cereals.

Morning prayer on Saturday was followed by a hearty breakfast and then it was into the first session on Endeavours led by Noreen and Kevin McCarthy. They encouraged Teams to tackle these as opportunities. Who said there wasn't change in the movement? Once these were called obligations, then endeavours and now opportunities.

Steuart and Ruth Evans gave a great presentation on the mission of Teams in which Steuart showed a refreshing approach to his relationship in talking to God as a mate. Afterwards we broke into our "Millgrove Teams" for discussions on the presentation. Lunch and siesta time was followed by reflection on personal prayer and then the irrepressible Fr Andrew Fewings took us through his thoughts on the conceptual aspects of Team meetings, looking at light sharing, endeavours, deeper sharing and the study topic. No just splitting into groups for discussions either – we had to humour his mathematically-inspired intentions as he colour-coded us and gave us various numbered jigsaw bits to find out who we should be talking to.

After dinner and evening prayer Fr Andrew then showed us his genius as a trivia buff by hosting a trivia night which would have had most Canon lawyers digging deep for the answers. However, our table was unanimous on only two questions, due to member resourcefulness. We swiped the Tim Tam packet so we knew how many were in it and naming the colours on a Vegemite jar were not an issue when you managed to swipe a packet of the spread from the breakfast bar.

Sunday morning's first session was one on the wider movement by the Goggins who really helped couples see where they fitted into the big picture.

Ann McDonald from the Catholic Education Office of Sale Diocese gave a strong talk on Christian leadership, encouraging everyone to step beyond their comfort zones and to play a part in making the world a better place.

Afternoon sessions were led by Pat Goggin on sharing and then RoseMarie Prosser, ably supported by husband Bob, led us through a session on changing spirituality.

Dinner, then Mass celebrated by Mons. John Duffus, was followed by a social evening attended by Teams members from the surrounding suburbs who shared a magnificent spread.

Monday morning dawned slowly for some – it must have been the fine food from the night before – and after the morning prayer session and breakfast Mons. Duffus led us on a light presentation of his involvement in Teams as a chaplain and Australasian counsellor.

Catherine and Joe Taylor spoke on marriage, followed by a Team meeting on the sit down.

Fr Andrew led the final session on self-evaluation of the weekend so that couples could identify what they would be taking home from the sessions and to share it with others.

A moving closing liturgy was held after lunch and then many tired couples began the long journeys back homeward to the reality of the world that they had been able to escape for a few special days while with fellow Teams people at their “Millgrove” weekend.

-Colin and Nelly Coomber

Sale 1, Victoria East