

TEAMS OF OUR LADY – CANADA

NATIONAL GATHERING 2026

“RETURNING TO THE SOURCE”

PRESENTATION: CLOSING ADDRESS

SPEAKER(S): FABIANA ALBANEZ & MARCELO SILVA

DATE / SESSION: SUNDAY, AUGUST 23 - 12:00-12:15 PM

ORIGINAL LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

Dear friends,

It's hard to believe that these three days are already coming to an end.

It has been a great joy to be together here in Montreal, especially in this place where the journey of Teams of Our Lady in Canada began 70 years ago.

But these days have been about much more than celebrating an anniversary.

These days gave us a chance to slow down a little and step away from our normal routines. We had time to pray, to listen to one another, to be together, and, most importantly, to come back to what is at the centre of everything: Christ.

We have also been reminded of the **charism of Teams of Our Lady**—a spirituality that helps married couples **grow together in faith and love, support one another on the path to holiness, and discover the richness of their vocation as a couple.**

This is part of the **legacy Father Caffarel left us**, and this year we have the special joy of celebrating his recognition as **Venerable**.

Let's continue to pray for his cause for beatification. And, **above all**, let's try to live this charism in our own lives and share it with others.

This charism comes to life through all of us: through couples seeking to grow together in Christ, through Spiritual Counsellors and Advisors who accompany them, and through the friendships, prayer, and support we share in our Teams.

Before we leave, we want to take a moment to say thank you.

So many people have given their time, energy, talents, and love to make this Gathering possible.

To our **Regional Team, Sector Couples, volunteers, translators, and everyone who worked behind the scenes**, thank you. We know that everyone has families, jobs, responsibilities, and busy lives, and we truly appreciate your generosity.

A special thank you to **Lina and Razek and the Montreal Service Team**, who welcomed us so warmly and helped us throughout these days.

Thank you to **Maja and Edward** for all the care you gave to our children and youth.

And to **Joan and Brian**, thank you for accompanying us throughout the weekend with such generosity and joy.

To all our speakers, and to everyone who shared their faith, experiences, stories, and wisdom with us, thank you for what you brought to this Gathering.

And a very special thank you to **Mercedes and Alberto, Father Augusto, and Ellen and TJ** from the ERI.

Thank you for travelling such a long way to be with us. Your presence has meant a great deal to our Region, and we are truly grateful for everything you have shared.

And to all of you who travelled to Montreal, from across Canada and from abroad—**thank you for being here.**

As we often say, **“Teams of Our Lady are in Our Lady’s care.”**

We do our part and serve as best we can. Then we place the Movement in her hands, trusting that she will take care of it and lead it where God wants it to go.

Now it is time to return home.

Back to our families, our Teams, our communities, our work, and our everyday lives.

And this is where what we have experienced here really begins to bear fruit.

Let what we have received become part of the way we live our marriages, our families, our Teams, and our daily lives.

Maybe it will be a thought from one of the conferences, a prayer, a conversation, a new friendship, or simply a renewed desire to draw closer to Christ.

And there are people in our Teams who could not be here. So when the opportunity comes, share something that touched you. Bring an idea to your Team. Offer a word of encouragement to someone who may need it.

In this way, what we have experienced here can continue beyond these three days.

Let's also remain connected to the wider family of Teams of Our Lady through Sector activities, formation, retreats, and other opportunities to meet and grow together.

And if you have the opportunity to attend an **International Gathering**, we truly encourage you to go.

Those who were in **Fatima in 2018** or **Turin in 2024** know how special it is to see Teams from around the world gathered together. It reminds us that our own Team is part of something much bigger.

And now we come back to our theme:

“Returning to the Source.”

The Source we have been called to return to is not a place. **It is Jesus Christ.**

And when we go home, He will be there—in the ordinary moments of our lives, in the joys and challenges of marriage and family life, and in the life of our Teams.

The words that have accompanied us throughout these days will continue to accompany us:

“Remain in me, as I remain in you.”

We came to Montreal to return to the Source. Now we leave Montreal carrying that Source with us.

Seventy years ago, the first Teams in Canada began here.

Today, we are part of that history—not simply as those who look back at what was built before us, but as those who are called to continue the journey.

What comes next also depends on each of us: on the way we live our marriages, care for our Teams, welcome those who come after us, and share with others the richness we have received.

May we look to the future not simply as spectators of a story that began 70 years ago, but as protagonists of what God will continue to accomplish through Teams of Our Lady.

Let us continue to live the charism we have received and allow it to bear fruit—in our marriages, in our families, in our Teams, and in the world around us.

Our Lady, Queen of Teams, pray for us.

Thank you for being here.

Thank you for your friendship, your generosity, your faith, and your presence.

May Our Lady accompany each of you, your families, and your Teams.

We wish you a safe journey home. And for those staying a little longer, we hope you enjoy more of this beautiful city of Montreal.

God bless you all, and safe travels.