



Couple Talk

Worldwide Marriage Encounter Northwest PA—Erie Diocese

Spring 2009

Special points of interest:

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VIDEO

Click here to watch an 8 min. video

An Invitation to Worldwide Marriage Encounter

A message from your Area Leaders:

Hello lovers! As we release this edition of "Couple Talk" we want you to know that you have been in our prayers. The year of 2009 has certainly brought many challenges for many families. Our hope is that your dialogue has been the key to keeping intimacy alive and well in your relationship. We know that it is the key to keeping our relationship strong and vibrant.

There are many aspects to a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend than just the weekend. Many couples lovingly assist help to make a weekend happen. At this time, there are four "Joy Job" opportunities available. They are, Newsletter Couple, Reservation Couple, Weekend Supply Couple, and Pulpit Talk Coordinators. You may be receiving a letter or a phone call asking you to help us with these important "Joy Jobs". We ask that you lovingly and prayerfully consider.

By saying yes, you will help to carry out the Worldwide Marriage Encounter Mission of renewing the Church and changing the world. With your support and prayers we can achieve this mission together.

Peace and Love,

Mary Beth ♥ John
(814) 723-9580
bjajzdarko@gmail.com

Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekends

Bemus Point, NY

Lake Chautauqua Retreat Center

March 27-29, 2009

Low cost \$50 registration fee required.

Bemus Point, NY

Lake Chautauqua Retreat Center

November 13-15, 2009

Low cost \$50 registration fee required.

For more WWME information call:

Ed or Sue Hudson
(814) 823-4600

What are these "Joy Jobs"?

Newsletter Couple: Responsible for gathering information, some writing and layout; prepared in Microsoft Publisher.

Reservation Couple: Responsible for phone calls and organized paperwork, and follow-up associated with all couples making reservations for WWME Weekends.

Pulpit Talk Coordinators: Responsible for promoting the Weekend by arranging Pulpit talks and recruiting couples to give Pulpit Talks. (Pulpit talks are an opportunity to speak to couples at various types of gatherings and Masses about WWME.)

Weekend Supply Couple: Responsible for Friday set up, registration, & greeting; Sunday clean up and care and storage of Weekend Supplies between ME Weekends. (Additional assistance from other community couples.)

INVITING

INVITING TO THE WEEKEND

We have become inviting couples because we whole heartedly believe in Worldwide Marriage Encounter.

With the uncertainty of the world economy perhaps couples are choosing to cut back on their activities. As you know, cutting back on something that can bring you closer together is not what couples need, or the world for that matter.

Just imagine what we can do with your assistance with personal inviting. Remember what the weekend meant to you and your relationship. Do you remember how you felt when you came home from your weekend? We're asking you to think back and remember those feelings. Now we want you to think about inviting someone to the weekend. It's too important not to continue. Who needs a weekend? Couples need it, priests need it, and the world needs happy healthy couples to keep it going in the right direction.

OBSTACLES TO PERSONAL INVITING AND SUGGESTIONS TO OVERCOME THEM

1. "I don't like bugging people."

If you had a fortune, would you not share your wealth with others? The weekend offers a lifetime of joy. What a treasure and precious gift you are giving them.

2. "They may think I'm implying that they need help in their marriage or have a bad marriage."

Tell them that Worldwide Marriage Encounter is for good marriages. We could always be healthier, richer, and happier. Our marriage could go from good to great. It's like preventive medicine. We take our vitamins and flu shots, and exercise to stay in shape. Our marriages need attention to stay good and strong.

3. "They are having financial concerns right now."

The stresses that families are under with the current economy are even more reasons spouses need to understand and reach out to each other.

- Offer to pay a couples \$50.00 registration fee or a portion of it.
- Offer to help with a couples children or pets while they're away.
- Assure couples no one is turned away for being unable to afford the weekend and the goodwill offering is confidential.
- If you can't help financially, be a treasure by inviting other couples and priests to the weekend.
- Become a living example of how Worldwide Marriage Encounter helped you become the great couple you are!

4. "They are older and married many years and don't believe they need it."

Older couples have a lot of wisdom, but I have seen them surprise themselves at what more they could learn about each other. Older couples deserve this weekend experience too. I recall a couple married 40 years, whose children gave them the gift of a weekend. They were so impressed by their Worldwide Marriage Encounter experience, they gave each of their children a weekend for a Christmas gift.

WHAT ABOUT OUR PRIESTS?

Our priests deserve a weekend just as much as we couples do. Have you invited your priest? Weekend brochures are available explaining the benefits for priests. The principles of love, commitment, and effective communication are necessary for the relationship between a priest and those to whom he ministers.

Often times priests are experiencing the same stages in their relationships with their people that we are experiencing in our relationships with our spouses. We invite priests first for themselves and the benefit of their own relationships with their people.

One of the best ways to invite a priest on a Weekend is to have a relationship with him. Have him over for dinner, go to a play or let him know how much you appreciate all he does. A genuine desire to have a friendship with no expectations has a power of its own. For a brochure, contact Mary Beth and John Zdarko at 814-723-9580 or email bjajzdarko@gmail.com.

Let's work together to spread the message to the weekend to as many couples and priests as we can. With your help we can do it!

PULPIT TALKS IN OHIO

In February Father Ray Thomas welcomed Worldwide Marriage Encounter couples to give pulpit talks at St. Frances Cabrini Parish in Conneaut, Ohio. With the February weekend just a short distance away in Fairview PA, we decided to spread the news to our western neighbors. Although we spoke on Super Bowl Sunday we thought it best to leave our black and gold clothing hanging in our closets. The priests and parishioners were very attentive and hospitable. We hope to see some Ohio couples at our future weekends. If you would like to give a pulpit talk at your parish, please contact Karen and Mark Horstman at Khorstman@neo.rr.com or 814-452-2113. Let your fellow parishioners hear it from a familiar couple. It's fun and fulfilling.

MEMORIALS

My parents were married 53 years and what lessons they taught our family. In the early 1950's it was Philadelphia gal meets Crossingville guy. Their different backgrounds taught us the meaning of compromise. The past 3 ½ years, mom was on dialysis and their lifestyle changed. Although mom's dementia prohibited her from being grateful, my father became a wonderful caregiver. He tried hard to understand and recall all of her beauty and the qualities he admired about her throughout their years together.

This year on New Year's Day, he gave her one last kiss, and said his last, "I love you." It was touching to have witnessed their love throughout my life and especially this past year.

A relative presented us with money to use as we wished. I wanted to put it towards the mission I'm so passionate about, Worldwide Marriage Encounter. What better way to honor my parents than to help couples be like the couple they were.

Betty Dalessandro

To donate a memorial or financial gift, please make checks payable to Worldwide Marriage Encounter and mail to:

WWME Financial Couple
Bill and Sandy Smith
122 East Arlington Road
Erie PA 16509

COMMUNITIES

If you haven't taken the opportunity to attend a Community, please make it a goal for 2009. Communities are always welcoming new couples and welcoming back couples who were away for a while. At this monthly get-together, you'll hear an inspiring presentation, get a chance to dialogue, and be able to express your thoughts and feelings (if you desire), in a safe atmosphere. What other place can you share, without being judged, in a warm and accepting atmosphere? That's what I call unconditional love! For information on where to find a community see next column.

World Marriage Day

February 8th was World Marriage Day. One way we celebrated at St. Jude's was by having a display of parishioners' marriage photos and keepsakes from their big day. We displayed an information table with brochures from Marriage Encounter, Engagement Encounter, NOVA, PreCana, and Retroville. We gave away heart shaped chocolate candy pieces and a Marriage Prayer. Couples were invited to write their secrets to a happy marriage. They gave great suggestions, such as communication, listening, and loving each other every day. Sound familiar?

Community Contacts

Erie meets 2nd Sat. 7pm
Rich and Carrie Tyree
1215 Chestnut Hills Dr.
Erie PA 16509
814-866-4765 carrie.tyree@erieinsurance.com

Erie meets 3rd Thurs. evening
Richard and Victoria Brogdon
435 Mohawk Ave.
Erie, PA 16505
814-453-7710 victoriabrogdaon@yahoo.com

Fairview/Girard meets 3rd Sat evening
Kris and Richard Gosnell
23783 Capp Rd.
Venango PA 16440
814-398-9165 gosnell@hughes.net

Warren meets 2nd Friday
Mary Beth and John Zdarko
Grace United Methodist Church
Pa. Ave. E & Prospect St.
Warren PA.16365
814-723-9580 bjajzdarko@gmail.com

Grove City meets Saturday
Chris and Mike Brown
40 Schmidt Rd.
Grove City, PA 16127
724-748-4170 mjbrown@zoom.net

Franklin/Oil City meets 3rd Sun. afternoon
Joanne and Bill Wood
385 Niles Rd.
Franklin. PA 16323
814-432-5173

Corry meets 2nd Sun
Jeanne and Bill Saborsky
19021 Hillcrest Dr.
Corry PA 16407
814-664-8077 travelers.2@verizon.net

ROMANCE DINNER

On Saturday, January 17, another successful Romance Dinner was held at St. Jude's Parish Center. Mark and Joyce Kulyk and Dick and Victoria Brogdon recruited community couples to serve the 14 couples in attendance. With Italian Cuisine, conversation questions, roses, candlelight, and music, how could you not fall in love all over again? A wonderful presentation was given by Dennis and Faith Chevalier and the "Hands of Matrimony Prayer" was recited by David and Karen Groh.

Our dream is to have Romance Dinners held at different Parishes and hosted by all our Marriage Encounter Communities. It's a rewarding experience and a great inviting tool for the weekends. For information or help to host a Romance Dinner contact Jim and Betty Dalessandro at jimdale2@verizon.net or 814-833-7929.

FIREPROOF

Have you seen the movie? It was out the past several months at select theaters. It is a wonderful story of marriage and relationship. If you didn't get the opportunity to see it, it is now available on DVD. Don't miss it!

BOOK REVIEW by Jim and Betty Dalessandro

"LOVE DARE", the book used in the Fireproof film is now available and couples are reading it and taking the challenge to become better couples. Gary Chapman's, "THE FIVE LOVE LANGUAGES" is another great book. Jim and I are reading. We are reading a chapter together and dialoging on it. We're learning so much about ourselves and each other and how to keep our "love tanks" full.

We highly recommend this informative book.

ENRICHMENT OPPORTUNITIES

2009 WWME Convention—Let Us Be Your Servants

Have you ever wondered what it would be like to go to a WWME get-together with over 200 encountered couples and priests from ten different states? It's exciting, enriching -- it's fun! It's an opportunity to build new friendships, experience presentations and dialogues, share meals, a special evening theatre, and Sunday Mass on Notre Dame's campus. We invite you to the WWME Regional Convention in South Bend, Indiana, July 10 -12!

For more information and to register, go to: www.wmme.org/2009convention

To add to the group experience of a WWME convention, consider traveling



SAVE THE DATE!

The Worldwide Marriage Encounter
2010 North American Convention

June 25 - 27, 2010
in Atlantic City, New Jersey



More info to come!
www.wmme2010con.org



BUILD IT

For anyone interested in
the future of the weekend!

October 24, 2009
Save the Date

RECENTLY ENCOUNTERED COUPLES

November 2008

Kurt ♥ Tammy Haibach
Dennis ♥ Barbara Palaski
Kevin ♥ Joanna Gray
Roy ♥ Beverly Kaczynski
Dennis ♥ Kathleen Rohan
Mark ♥ Mallory Lewis
Steve ♥ Margie Frezza
Gary ♥ Diane Collier
Jason ♥ Sue Borton
Dave ♥ Stella Betz
Pat ♥ Linda Kemper
Joe ♥ Sue Dudek
Walt Barnes ♥ Cindi Ryan

March 2009

Steve ♥ Roseanne Blair
Brian ♥ Michelle Clark
Gary ♥ Melissa Dickerson
Greg ♥ Michelle Fischer
Jim ♥ Bev Gostomski
Jim ♥ Tracey Nowak
Greg ♥ Amanda Paskan
Norman ♥ Barbara Schlosser
Steven ♥ Lisa Sweeney
Jim ♥ Kim Vallimont
Bruce ♥ Doreen Wlodarek

ONLINE RESOURCES

www.wmme.org

www.foryourmarriage.org

www.wmme3.org/erie

erl.wmme.org/cp/Dialogue

www.eriecd.org/floenrichment.asp

HELP WANTED

Pulpit Talk Coordinator

Weekend Supply Couple

Reservation Couple

Newsletter Couple

For more information contact:

Mary Beth and John Zdarko
bjajzdarko@gmail.com or (814)723-9580