



# The Spirit

... Is Moving in Iowa

Issue 139

September 2005

**Dialogue is an important part of our relationship! Here's this issues "Top 10":**

1. When did I feel closest to you today? HDIFAMA?
2. What was the center of my life today? HDIFAMA?
3. How was your love life-giving to me today? HDIFAT?
4. HDIF hearing you laugh?
5. What weeds are growing in my life? HDIFAMA?
6. Our relationship is like what kind of carnival ride? HDIFAT?
7. When was the last time I laughed at myself? HDIFSTWY?
8. Do I like to attend Mass/church on Thanksgiving? HDIFAMA?
9. What am I most thankful for? DFILD
10. Do I show you how much I appreciate you? HDIFAMA?

HDIFAT: How Do I Feel About That?

HDIFAMA: How Do I Feel About My Answer?

HDIF: How Do I Feel?

HDIFSTWY: How Do I Feel Sharing This With You?

DFILD: Describe Feelings In Loving Detail.

HDIFST: How Do I Feel Sharing This?



# From The Spirit Editors:

Dear Lovers,

We would like to dedicate this issue of The Spirit to Wilbur Kohn. Jeanne and Wilbur had been a presenting couple for the Iowa Team for many years. Wilbur recently passed away after a very long illness.

Jeanne and Wilbur will always be very special to us as they were the ones that helped us struggle through the writing of our first set of presenting talks. We spent many hours talking, drawing out feelings, laughing, and most importantly, sharing the love for our spouse. Those times will remain with us forever.

I, John, will especially miss calling out whenever I saw him, in my best "Mr. Ed" voice ...  
WILBURRRRRRRRR !!

Rest in peace dear friend.

Love and hugs,  
John & Caroline

## Iowa WWME Weekends 2005

October 7-9	Cedar Rapids
October 14-16	*Des Moines

## Iowa WWME Weekends 2006

February 10-12	Waverly
February 10-12	*Des Moines
March 31 – April 2	Des Moines - TBA
June 2-4	Dubuque
October 13-15	Cedar Rapids
October 13-15	*Des Moines

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# From the Executive Team:

Dearest Lovers,

God's blessings to each of you. Your most endearing quality is your constant striving for growth in your couple relationships and your desire to keep your spouse as your first priority each day. We praise God for your love and support on this journey of love. Summer has drawn to a close and autumn will soon be in full swing, with its colors and cooler temperatures.

The past couple of months we've been looking at our hopes and dreams for our relationship, as well as, for Marriage Encounter in our Dioceses. We, Mark and Rosann, dreamed a lot when we dated and were first married. Then our dreams seemed to be put on hold, until we made our weekend in the fall of 1988.

(Mark) Our Marriage Encounter Weekend gave me back the dream I had of marriage with Rosann. It gave me the ability to share with her just how much I needed her and missed her. This was possible through our dialogue. It also gave me a more open relationship with her. I no longer had to be second guessing what she was thinking and feeling. Our weekend rekindled the passion we had for each other.

(Rosann) I came away from our Marriage Encounter Weekend feeling so excited and enthused about US! No one else mattered. I felt important and special, and our closeness was rekindled. Our weekend helped Mark and I to open the lines of communication between us, once again. Not talking about things, but about US! We were given the gift of dialogue, which we continue to use today. With our dialogue, I have been able to open up and trust Mark, and share with him things I had once buried deep inside me. Our weekend showed Mark and I how important we are, and that we come first!

(Fr. Bob) One phrase from the weekend, "my spouse," referring to the people that I am called to serve in the vocation of priesthood has caught my attention and prayer many times since the original weekend and as talks needed to be worked on. I always thought of the two vocations, marriage and priesthood, as being mutually descriptive. But I also struggled to see myself as anything but "alone." I still struggle in this area, but in writing or occasionally dialoguing, YMEQ and "love you" or "thank you God for ..." helps to bring me back to the reality that I am not alone. "My spouse" is very much a part of my life. Seeing the vitality of loving couples, and couples moving in that direction or seeing the possibilities of sharing more intimately are very grace-filled times for me.

Our dreams seem to be evolving. We've grown in so many areas and we are still growing. Out of this growth is our sacrament, the basic foundation for us to live out our dreams. If it were not for us funding our relationship with our dialogue, our dreams might have just stayed dreams. But instead, they have become goals for us, and then a reality. Dialogue is what funds and nourishes our relationship.

It takes all of us to do the impossible, like asking others to share their gifts and calling others to share their dreams. So what's our dream now? Our dream is to keep growing in our relationship, to keep going forward, to share the gift of the weekend with others, and to live life fully and joyfully!

(Mark) I dream of spending the first few moments of each day with my best friend, lover, and companion – Rosann.

(Rosann) I dream of many more fun times together – taking walks, riding our bikes, traveling, romantic dinners, and enjoying our grandchildren.

(Fr. Bob) I dream of people with whom I can be myself, and am accepted, or can share some of my questions and have others to share with. Likewise I appreciate the open sharing of affection for one another and love within your homes.

The three of us dream of doubling our weekends in eastern Iowa and sparking new life into our communities. We dream of reaching out to every married couple, priest, and religious - inviting them to make a weekend for themselves. We dream of changing the world with loving couples like you.

Our dreams aren't impossible dreams. They can be a reality. We are asking you to recommit yourselves to living the dreams of your weekend. To dialogue, take time for each other, and to share your love with others. Invite your family, friends, fellow parishioners, and co-workers to a weekend, so that they too, will have the opportunity to grow in their own relationship. Share with them your story about your weekend and what a gift it was. Everyone deserves a weekend! Let's fill the 2006 weekends and change some lives!

Enjoy the fall weather, and keep on loving each other! We hope you will dream with us! God bless you. We love you!

Enjoy the fruits of your dialogue with these questions:

- 1) Am I aware of God journeying with us in the changing seasons of our relationship?  
HDIFAMA?
- 2) Which color of the fall scenery would I pick to describe my affection for you?  
HDIFTYT?
- 3) HDIF about taking a walk with you on a beautiful fall day?
- 4) What are my favorite fall activities? HDIFAT?
- 5) HDIF about the quality time we have spent together this week?
- 6) What are my dreams for us? HDMAMMF?
- 7) What are my dreams for Worldwide Marriage Encounter in eastern Iowa? HDMAMMF?
- 8) Who can we invite to the weekend? HDIFSTWY?

Love and hugs,  
Fr. Bob Striegel and Mark & Rosann Sandersfeld

# Inviting

## “The Harvest is Plenty”

**“The harvest is plenty, laborers are few, come with me into the fields. Your arms may grow weary; your shoes will wear thin. Come with me into the fields.”**

**“The seeds were sown by other hands than yours, nurtured and cared for they grew. But those who have sown will not harvest them; the reaping will not be their care.”**

(“Come With Me Into the Fields” by Dan Schutte, S.J. Based on John 4:35-38; Matthew 9:38)

As things around us; gardens, fields, trees, etc. begin to take on the hues of fall; our minds and labor turn to the task of harvesting.

In Worldwide Marriage Encounter, the task of sowing and harvesting is a year round labor. We must keep the Worldwide Marriage Encounter vision in the front of our minds often, we must sew the seeds of the weekend, and we must pray for a fruitful harvest as each weekend approaches.

You have undoubtedly sown many seeds since your weekend. You sometimes wonder if you will ever enjoy the fruits of your labor, as those couples and priest tell you “maybe someday”. And then finally, many years after you have stopped approaching that couple or priest, they decide to go on a weekend. When the time was right, it was the bulletin announcement, romantic supper, another couple or witness talk that gave them the final nudge to go. “Those who have sown, will not harvest them”. We need to keep sewing the seeds! Let your relationship with your spouse be a shining example, the fertilizer. It is okay if someone or something else does the harvesting!

Hopefully the church, your community, and the Worldwide Marriage Encounter movement will benefit from the harvest of that couple or priest. You sewing the seed is the start of the harvest. If you do not sew, there will be no need for someone to harvest.

Inviting has to be every Encountered Couple’s labor. Dust off that list from your weekend, think of new family members, friends, neighbors, co-workers, etc. with whom you can share the gift of the weekend. There are lots of couples, priests, and religious out there, just waiting for someone to personally invite them. **“The fields are high, and summer’s days are few; green fields have turned to gold. The time is here for the harvesting, for gathering home into barns.” “The harvest is plenty, laborers are few, come with me into the fields. Your arms may grow weary; your shoes will wear thin. Come with me into the fields.”** (“Come With Me Into the Fields” by Dan Schutte, S.J. Based on John 4:35-38; Matthew 9:38)

Start sewing the seeds! And let’s have the harvesters in 2006 bring in a bumper crop!

Dubuque/Davenport Inviting Coordinators  
Lyle and Lynn Ries



### “IN GOD WE TRUST”

We thought we were the only Iowa couple at the Convention once again but we were very pleasantly surprised to discover a beautiful couple from Cedar Rapids, Iowa were there with us. The next blessing was to discover they were staying on campus in the same building we were AND on the same floor! Great Couple, great family! We learned they had only been in Iowa for three weeks. Their names: Luis ♥ Gabby Granadillo. Their email address: [granadillolg@msn.com](mailto:granadillolg@msn.com). They have two beautiful children. Please email and welcome this lovely family to Iowa and WWME Community. What a beautiful blessing they were for us at the convention! We thank God for them.

Section 7 sat together, as a group, as we listened to the speakers. What a joy it is for us to renew old relationships and meet more wonderful lovers. We always look forward to learning more and we were not disappointed:

The first presentation was “In God We Trust” followed by a Dialogue question: Where was I with God going into the weekend? What impact did the weekend have on that relationship? HDIFAMA?

Presentation 2: “Wrestling with God’s Plan for Us”. Dialogue Question: What is one attraction/distraction/struggle that is most present in my life right now in regard to me putting my trust in God? WAMFAMA?

Presentation 3: “Journey to Trusting in God”. Dialogue Question: When have I trusted God and what was my experience / my feelings?

Presentation 4: “Impact of Trusting in God”. Briefly share an example of a couple or priest whose Trust in God or Conversion experience impacted your life. Share how your life was impacted or changed. WAMFAT?

Presentation 5: “In God We Trust”. Dialogue Question: What is God trusting me, & us, to do now to make a difference in the world? WAMFAMA?

After each presentation we broke into small sharing groups on the same question. There were, of course, opening and closing remarks as well and comments from our WWME U.S. Secretariat Team: Bob & Joy Hernandez & Fr. Chuck Kosanke  
And our WWME World Council Team: David & Bronny Lea from New Zealand & Fr. John Rate from Australia

Entertainment Saturday evening was a carnival and music for our listening &/or dancing pleasure.

This was a family convention. People of all ages enjoyed the carnival; not least of which was dunking Fr. Chuck Kosanke and some of the other leaders of the convention. It was a great Convention!

We would be remiss if we did not share a special incident for us following the convention: We had decided to make a vacation out of the 3 weeks following the Convention. Our first stop was on Long Island in New York to visit Pamela, Brian & boys. We soon learned Brian's brother, Phillip & his wife had gone to the convention, too! Brian made it a point for us to meet them; what a surprise and joy. We talked late into the evening; you would have thought we'd known them for years. Great Fun!

This is our story for this year's convention. Plus we had a wonderful vacation from NY to Vermont, New Hampshire & Ohio visiting friends along the way.

There will not be another International Convention until 2008; they are skipping 2007. 2008 will be a huge celebration of 40 years of WWME!

Love to All of You,  
Deacon Bill & Pat Smith

This is the prayer & gathering mantra from the Convention.

HOLY FAMILY PRAYER

God made us a family.

We need one another. We love one another.

We forgive one another. We work together. We worship together. We trust in God together.

Together we use God's word. Together we grow in Christ. Together we love all people.

Together we serve our God. Together we hope for Heaven.

These are our hopes and values.

Amen.

**Convention Mantra:** We trust in God  
We trust in God  
Always and ever  
In God we trust!

## 2006 Marriage Encounter Calendars now available.

These calendars contain dialogue questions for every day for the entire year. It's an easy, wonderful way to have dialogue remain a focus in your relationship with your spouse.

The cost is \$8.00 per calendar plus shipping if they have to be mailed.

Contact Mark & Rosann Sandersfeld at 319-848-8228 to order your copy.

Iowa WWME website: <http://www.iowa-wwme.org>

Worldwide Marriage Encounter website: <http://www.wwme.org>

# How To Be Married But Stay Engaged

Our marriages need three types of intimacy in order to flourish. Happily, these are also the basis of our three Catholic wedding vows. In down to earth and sometimes humorous ways, Dr. Healy will show a way to fully live out these vows.

**Saturday, October 22, 2005**

**7:00-9:00 p.m.**

St. Patrick Parish Center  
Cedar Falls



James Healy has been invited to speak on marriage and family issues in over 60 dioceses across the country. His *Living Together and Christian Commitment* materials are used throughout the United States. He has written for such magazines as *Family Perspectives*, *Catholic World*, *Liguorian*, *Marriage*, and *Deacon Digest*. He is the author of the audiocassette series, *Rooted in Love: Speaking to Couples About Marriage*. His CD, *When the Cake is Gone: How to Get Married and Stay Engaged*, was released in 2001 and is in wide use.

Dr. Healy was the founding president of Illinois Catholic Family Ministries, and has served as an advisor to the National Council of Catholic Bishops' Committee on Marriage and the Family. He was honored with the 2000 Family Ministry Award by the National Association of Catholic Family Life Ministers. He and his wife Madonna live in Joliet with their four children.

Dr. Healy is the director of the Center for Family Ministry of the Catholic Diocese of Joliet, Illinois. He received his M.A. in the Social Sciences from the University of Chicago in 1978 and his Ph.D. in Counseling Psychology from the University of Illinois in 1985. Since then he has ministered full-time to families in the Catholic Church.

\$15/couple before October 17, 2005

\$20/couple at the door

Check payable to:  
Office of Family Life and Adult Faith  
Archdiocese of Dubuque  
1229 Mt. Loretta Avenue  
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# Des Moines Community Corner Cannon Fodder

**On the road again.** **Bernie & Kristi Evans** toured the pacific northwest on vacation. They had to hustle back so Kristi could appear in court to testify. It turns out, they wouldn't have had to hustle back quite so fast because the case ended up being settled before the trial.

**E. & Barb Mendoza** spent a piece of the summer in Salt Lake City. E. was coaching volleyball camp. Barb and the girls had fun.

We reported last time that **Mike & Maxine Murray** had made another trip to Ireland. Well, they did. But as it turns out, when we thought they were in Ireland, they were actually in Lourdes and Fatima. On their next trip, they went to Ireland.

**Bill & Pat Smith** went back east to the ME convention. They also visited Pam Kumar now O'Reilly.

**At the picnic.** **Joe & Evie Nemeč, John & Maria Otte, Barb & E Mendoza** and girls, **Kristi Evans** turned out for the July ME picnic. Might have been another couple there, but my memory isn't so good. A good time was had by all. Bernie Evans was down to Kansas City at a Boy Scout function. Good for him.

**On the prayer list.** **Maria Otte** had parathyroid surgery in mid-June. She's recovering well from that. She still has a pain in the back from the back surgery back in March.

**Becky Smith** had parathyroid surgery much like Maria's in early August.

Almost a week after hurricane Katrina, **Bill & Pat Smith** had not heard from Bill's sister who lived in the path.

**Mike Murray** had heart surgery. We understand he is doing well.

**Jerry Russell's** cancer seems to be slowed down. So prayers work.

**Lisa Hart's** mother has a brain tumor. We need to keep praying so more prayers can work.

**Where have all the lovers gone?** St. Joe's community canceled the June meeting. The reason—of the regulars, we couldn't find any couples who would be available to attend, much less present. The July picnic drew few MEers than we would have liked. St. Joe's community canceled the August meeting. The reason—of the regulars, we couldn't find any couples likely to attend. We hope—and pray—that we are not establishing a trend.

**Catholic youth choir presents concert.** Deacon **Dennis & Sarah Luft** helped get Des Moines on the 2005 tour list for the Catholic youth choir concert tour. The concert was great. A handful of ME couples hosted students in the choir for a night. It was a great experience for the choir folk---and for us.

**\*\*\* IMPORTANT SPIRIT RENEWAL INFORMATION \*\*\***


If you know of Encountered Couples who wish to start receiving The Spirit by either Email or U.S. Postal mail, please have them contact us.

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