



The Spirit

... Is Moving in Iowa

Issue 142

June 2006

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

1. What feeling have I not shared with you yet today? HDIFAT
2. In what areas do I feel vulnerable to you? HDIFAMA?
3. When was the last time we were really "outrageous"? HDIFSTWY?
4. Our relationship is most like what sport? HDIFAT?
5. When was the last time I acted like a little kid? HDIFST?
6. Where do I most take you for granted? HDIFSTWY
7. HDIFA surprises?
8. HDIFA trying new things?
9. How do I react to compliments? HDIFAT?
10. What are my best qualities? HDIFSTWY?

HDIFAT: How Do I Feel About That?

HDIFSTWY: How Do I Feel Sharing This With You?

HDIFST: How Do I Feel Sharing This?

HDIFAMA: How Do I Feel About My Answer?



From the Executive Teams:

Vision and Mission Of Worldwide Marriage Encounter

VISION: “Love one another as I have loved you.”

MISSION: Worldwide Marriage Encounter’s mission of renewal in the Church and change in the world is to assist couples and priests to live fully intimate and responsible relationships by providing them with a Catholic “experience” and ongoing community support for such a lifestyle.

June 2006

Dear Lovers,

What a beautiful summer. We made some changes to our landscape last fall and are really enjoying the beauty of it all this summer. We never cease to be amazed at the beauty around us. God is an awesome God. We are truly grateful for the gifts of light, color and warmth. It is a chance to renew, refresh and rejoice.

Last night I went with a group of friends to the movie “Break Up”. It’s a story of an unmarried couple living in the house they bought together who finds themselves in the state of disillusionment. Her expectation is that he help her more when she needs help at times like preparing and cleaning up after a dinner party. His expectation is to be able to relax in front of the TV after a long work day on his feet. It’s a sad downward spiral of hurting each other, avoiding each other and an unwillingness to sacrifice beyond self for the other. It’s a sharp contrast to the model encountered couples aspire to. At no time does either one say “I’m sorry” or “will you forgive me”. There is no covenant of marriage, no permanent commitment to each other. As they each get advice from their friends they speak of love for each other but they fail to tell each other. It could be the one story with the most complete directory of “what not to do in a relationship”. Billed as a comedy, there is nothing funny about it. We all left the theater with the same empty feeling. There was no loss of life but the loss of love through selfish endeavors was devastating.

By contrast, what a gift we have to be in relationships with God by our side. When we experience love in a covenant with each other we experience a greater love for God. This is a strong feeling of gratitude for having been called to God’s message of “love one another as I have loved you”. What a tremendous gift we have. Let us never take it for granted. Let us share with each other how thankful we are to have a role model of true love, sacrifice and forgiveness. How grateful we are to live in the light of God’s love.

This sharp contrast strengthens my commitment to inviting more couples to experience the love God has planned for us. Our call to Worldwide Marriage Encounter is to be light to those who want something more in a relationship. Couples who love one another yet struggle to find the words to express their feelings. The couples who need to be invited to make a WWME weekend experience.

The last few weekends we have attended weddings. We always find it uplifting to hear the readings of 1 Corinthians 13 describing love.

“Love is patient, love is kind. Love is not jealous, it does not put on airs, it is not snobbish. Love is never rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not prone to anger: neither does it brood over injuries. Love does not rejoice in what is wrong but rejoices with the truth. There is no limit to love’s forbearance, to its trust, its hope, its power to endure.”

How powerful the words. How many times we hear the words yet each time hear something new. When the words are spoken, the reader puts the emphasis on different parts of the reading and we are awakened to a new interpretation. How beautiful the message. We are refreshed with new hope for our own relationship. We reflect back to our wedding day and the joy we felt professing our love for each other before God, our family and friends. We remember the unconditional love we had for each other. We never tire of hearing the beauty of the kind of love God’s has for us.

We thank God for leading us to the Marriage Encounter weekend and our involvement in Marriage Encounter. For me Art it has kept me focused on my relationship with Rose. I am so easily distracted by work, friends and fun that it is easy for me to take Rose for granted. Dialogue keeps me grounded and is the constant thread that helps me to stay focused and understand Rose’s feelings better. It has been a true blessing to our marriage and constantly brings us joy and hope.

We are looking forward to seeing everyone at the July 21-23 “Be The Light” Section 6 & 7 Convention in Collinsville, Illinois. This will be a great opportunity to renew our commitment to Worldwide Marriage Encounter, visit friends and share our love for each other.

Dialogue Questions:

What are my strongest feelings when we are guests at a wedding ceremony?

If we could go anywhere this summer, where would it be and why?

Who/whom is someone I would like to visit this summer and why?

What do I think about when I see a field or corn/beans/alfalfa while driving down the road?
Describe the feeling.

What movie would I like to see with you this summer?

What would I like to do on our next “Date Night” with you?

How do I feel about going to the “Be The Light” convention?

May you all have a chance this summer to “renew”, “refresh” and “rejoice” in the warmth of God’s loving embrace.

Fr. Don Bruch and Art & Rose Behrens
Des Moines and Sioux City Diocese WWME Executive Team

Dear Marriage Encounter Lovers,

Your most endearing qualities are your love and commitment to each other and to God's Weekends! Our heavenly Father will surely bless you, in your efforts as you invite and make sacrifices so that His weekends continue.

We are excited to be a part of all that is taking place in eastern Iowa and La Crosse, Wisconsin. Our excitement registers a 9 on a scale of 1 to 10. It's excited like we feel when we find a letter from a dear friend in the mailbox. Excited like we feel anticipating the success of a surprise party for one of our parents. Excited like we feel greeting the end of a weekend. Great News!!!! The first two weekends in 2006 were a "GO" with 36 couples and 1 priest being encountered. Yeah God!!!!!! You are each to be congratulated in your inviting efforts.

Communities continue to grow! We are excited to hear new communities are being formed and couples off the weekends are making the decision to attend community for themselves. We recently attended the All Iowa Marriage Encounter Picnic in Denver, Iowa. We want to thank Ken & Mickey Collison, our Community Coordinators, for organizing this day of fun for our community couples and their families. Everyone enjoyed themselves!

If you haven't signed up for the Section 7 Convention yet, there's still time. It is July 21-23, in Collinsville, Illinois. You can go to the Convention Web Site to register: <http://www.wwme-sec7.org/convention/index.html> The Convention Committee is busy at work and they promise all of us a great time! The theme is: "Be the Light". Come join us as we celebrate marriage as God's gift to His people and experience the joy of what God wants for us.

What a joy it is to see so many beautiful, shining sacraments "Changing the World" all around us, sharing their gifts and their love so generously within the Marriage Encounter Movement. We see God alive in you. You mirror the precious love He has for all of us. We ask you to continue inviting and praying for the success of the weekends. 2006 has taken off like a bang, but we still have a long way to go to changing this world. We invite you to pick up your pens and notebooks, and dialogue, if you haven't for awhile. You deserve it! Keep the dream of the weekend alive in your relationship. Our dialogue each day helps to keep our communication lines open. It gives us the ability to be open to both the joys and difficulties in our lives.

God bless all of you and your families. Have fun this summer! We love you and pray for you daily. "TOGETHER", we can "Change the World". The emphasis is on "TOGETHER"!

Together in His love,
Fr. Bob Striegel and Mark & Rosann Sandersfeld

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

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

Section 6&7 Convention ... if you haven't registered yet... Why Not???

It will be lots of fun and great time to visit with your WWME friends!

Click on this link to REGISTER <http://wwme-sec7.org/>

Top 10 Reasons to Attend the 2006 Convention:

10. Fun times with fun people!
9. It will be Dy-no-Mite!!!
8. Fabulous Musicians!
7. Energetic, Fun, and Short Talks!
6. Your friends will miss you if you don't come!
5. You don't have to think of any dialogue questions!
4. Annual Team Enrichment!!!
3. Exciting Presenters!
2. Hottest DJ in town (same DJ as 2002 St. Louis Convention)!

and the #1 reason for you to attend the 2006 Convention...

All your friends will be there, so you won't have anything to do if you stay home!!!

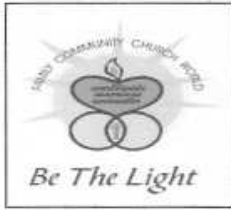
We hope to see you there! Be ready to PARRR-TTYYY!

Love,

Scott ♥ Karen and Fr. Dennis

2006 Section 6 & 7 WWME Convention Registration Form

Dates: July 21, 22, 23, 2006
 Location: Gateway Convention Center in Collinsville, IL



Return Registration Form to: John & Karen Hermes
 721 Ridge Road
 Waterloo, IL 62298

Make check payable to: Dialoguing Encounter
 -2006 Convention

Last name:	
First name, middle initial - Husband/priest	
Last name, wife (if different)	
First name, middle initial - Wife	
Street address:	
City	
State	
Zip	
Phone number	
Email address: (to send confirmation notices, updates on convention)	
Specify any doctor-ordered dietary restrictions:	

Do you need community housing?	(yes/no)
Date you would arrive at community housing:	
Date you would leave community housing:	
Special needs for community housing: (allergies, health needs, wheelchair access, etc.)	

Registration Fee before 02-01-06: \$120 per couple \$60 per priest	
Registration Fee after 02-01-06: \$140 per couple \$70 per priest	

Men's tee shirt size: S, M, L, XL, XXL	\$15	+ \$2 S&H	
Women's tee shirt size: S, M, L, XL, XXL	\$15	+ \$2 S&H	specify Blue or White
Men's polo shirt size: S, M, L, XL, XXL	\$20	+ \$2 S&H	
Women's polo shirt size: S, M, L, XL, XXL	\$20	+ \$2 S&H	specify Blue or White

The convention web site is <http://wwme-sec7.org/convention/index.php>

Des Moines Community Corner Cannon Fodder

Thin draw at May community. Mike & Maxine Murray went to either a graduation or first communion. Joe & Evie Nemec had been to Cedar Rapids, but got back in time for community. Barb & E Mendoza and John & Maria Otte were balance of folk who turned up at St. Joe's May 21.

Thinner draw at Eucharistic procession. St. Anthony's held it's annual procession (Used to be Corpus Christi, this year called Eucharistic procession because it was being held well ahead of Corpus Christi so as the Bishop could make it (hopefully) in recognition of St. Anthony's 100th anniversary. John & Maria Otte were the only MEers to march. We participated in the post-procession pasta feed. It was great.

Deacon takes a dive. Bill & Pat Smith were back east visiting. They were heading to see Pamela Kumar, now O'Reilly, in New York. She's the gal who Bill and Pat befriended some years back when she was coming to DesMoines from Guyana for treatment for burns she had when a gas stove blew up on her. In a nutshell, Bill missed the last step, took a dive, gashed his arm, ended up in the hospital where Pamela works, got infection in his arm. Last we heard he was on the mend. Kindly keep 'em on the prayer list.

You never know who's reading or watching. Joe & Evie Nemec went to Hawaii. Sunday morning they were going down the road, they spotted a Catholic church. "Let's stop and see what time mass is." They attended. They read in the church bulletin that Fr. Matthew Luft was putting on a mission the next week. Made no mention of whether Dennis & Sarah would attend.

Joe & Evie had been to Cedar Rapids at a graduation, we believe. On the way back, they "stopped by Tama." They claim they stopped by Tama to eat. (When we listen to the folk who drink coffee and eat donuts in the church basement talk about "going to Tama" we're pretty sure they're going for something other than the fine dining experience.) At any rate, Joe & Evie spotted Sue Fink eating with her mother. She too, claimed that they had "stopped by Tama" to eat. That's their story and they all claim to be sticking with it. We wait with baited breath to see if what Sue writes about the incident for the Spirit matches up with the story we've heard.

Bad timing June 10. Joe & Evie Nemec planned a renew their vows mass to be followed by a family and friends shin dig at their house in recognition of their 45th wedding anniversary June 10. They, and we, expected a good bunch of Marriage Encounter couples to turn out.

Picnic plans. Plan is to meet July 16 around 1. We'll eat around 1:30. Bring the usual picnic stuff, including the kids and or grand kids. It will be at John & Maria Otte's house, 7812 Prairie Ave., Urbandale. That's about a mile west of Merle Hay Mall on Aurora, then a block south at 79th. Get lost? Jingle us at 515 727-4999. We'll stoke up the natural gas-fired charcoal grill so as you can cook your brats, burgers, tube steaks or whatever. Kindly put your lawn chairs in the car. We hope to draw a big enough crowd so as to need a few more AsSets.

We're being set up. For some years, at the annual ME Christmas party, we've been drawing names for a secret couple for the year. The notion being to keep that special could in our prayers and send that couple cards on special occasions like his birthday, her birthday, their wedding anniversary, of course, the anniversary of their weekend and the like.

At the 2005 Christmas party we chose not to put our names in the hat. The reason, we were running out of ways to disguise our handwriting so as to attempt to keep ourselves concealed until the revelation to our secret couple at the next Christmas party.

It turns out that so far this year we've received two cards from someone. We hope somebody didn't get their names mixed up and somebody who should be receiving those cards is not. We have kind of begun to believe somebody is setting us up. And if you are, we currently have no clue what so ever who you are. But thanks for keeping us in your prayers.

Iowa Retrouvaille Weekend 2006

September 8-10	Marshalltown
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Contact:

George and Dee Crum
Cedar Rapids, IA
Phone: (641)-479-2650

or (800)-470-2230
Email: gdcrum@crosspaths.net
Website: www.retrouvaille.org

Iowa WWME Weekends 2006

October 13-15	Cedar Rapids
October 13-15	*Des Moines

Iowa WWME Weekends 2007 *

February 9-11	Cedar Rapids
June 8-10	Dubuque
October 12-14	Cedar Rapids

* Des Moines area weekends not included at this time

Contacts

Roger & Marsha Luensmann	John & Deb Seeman
Phone: (563)-927-4352	Phone: (641)-755-3667
Email:	Email: JDCMAN88@NETINS.NET
RLUENSMANN@IOWATELECOM.NET	

Welcome !

WORLD WIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER WEEEKEND

**June 2 - 4, 2006
Dubuque, IA**

TEAM

Fr. Jim Chappel
Maquoketa, IA

Bill & Kathy Gianoli
Coon Valley, WI

Craig & Lori Diggins
Marshalltown, IA

Ron & Pat Milder
Iowa City, IA

PARTICIPANTS

Bodensteiner-Brown, Jake & Sara
LaMotte, IA

Kmetz, Shawn & Megan
Cedar Rapids, IA

Breitsprecker, Fred & Corrine
Ames, IA

Kraus, Rudy & Marty
Fayette, IA

Cornelius, Mike & Joni
Dubuque, IA

Lundry, Jeff & Sandy
Stockton, IL

Gacioch, Mike & Wanda
Dubuque, IA

Michel, John & Denise
Bellevue, IA

Gruber, Nate & Anne Marie
Dubuque, IA

Peters, Doug & Stephanie
Waterloo, IA

Gruman, Bill & Sandra
Osage, IA

Reyes, Orlando & Michelle
Cedar Rapids, IA

Hall, Jim & Kathy
Winthrop, IA

Simon, Mike & Janette
Garnavillo, IA

Heddinger, Dave & Mary Beth
West Des Moines, IA

Tebbe, Dennis & Barb
Maquoketa, IA

***** 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.

For those who still want to receive The Spirit via U.S. Postal mail, please check the section below for how many issues remain on your subscription. If it says "0", this is your last issue unless you renew your subscription. Subscription has been reduced to \$5 for 4 issues or \$10 for 9 issues. The Spirit is planned to be published 4 times per year (March, June, September, and December).

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