

The Spirit

... Is Moving in Iowa

Issue 151

Fall 2008

Sample Dialogue Questions:

What is my favorite part of fall? HDIFAT?

Do I view dialogue as an opportunity or an obligation? WAMFAMA?

Am I comfortable asking others to make a Marriage Encounter weekend?

HDIFAMA?

How has our love affected others? HDIFSTWY?

I am excited about dialogue because....HDIFAT

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?

WAMFAMA?: What Are My Feelings About My Answer?

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.



Iowa WWME Weekends

2009 Weekends

February 13-15 Cedar Falls

May 29-31 Dubuque

October 16-18 TBD

At the time this newsletter was prepared, we had not received 2009 dates for the Des Moines area.

Contacts

Dubuque/Davenport Area

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Email: RLUENSMANN@IOWATELECOM.NET

Des Moines/Sioux City Area

John & Deb Seeman Phone: (641)-755-3667

Email: JDCMAN88@NETINS.NET

Iowa Retrouvaille Weekends

Contact:

Mike & Lisa Jackson Phone: (515)-956-4205

Email: mike.jackson@hotmail.com Website: www.retrouvaille.org

How many of you have checked out these websites?

Worldwide Marriage Encounter at www.wwme.org

When you visit this website, be sure to double click onto the picture for already encounter couples to explore the many different Marriage Encounter resources.

Worldwide Marriage Encounter Resource Library Website:

<http://erl.wwme.org>

Lots of great resources: dialogue questions, topics and outlines for presentations, inviting and community ideas, gifts, etc. Be sure to share this with your community!

EMatrimony: this is another website that can be very helpful for resources

www.ematrimony.org

To view our local website for news / information from **Marriage Encounter in Iowa**, check this website: www.iowa-wwme.org

Great Gift Ideas For The Upcoming Holidays

2009 Marriage Encounter calendars are now available – Contact a community coordinator or one of the executive team couples to purchase one. The executive team couples for Iowa are:

Dubuque/Davenport Area – Dennis & Deb Jones – ddjones_9116@msn.com

Des Moines/Sioux City Area – Bernie & Kristi Evans –

Gifts From Your Heart

PMB 210

2900 Government Way

Coeur d' Alene, ID 83815

(208) 676-0267

Visit our on-line catalog and ordering site at www.wwmegifts.com

Full Circle Wood at

www.fullcirclewood.com/pages/marriage.htm

are custom woodworkers and have designed numerous products, using God's natural colored woods of the world in creating wood pieces in the likeness of the WWME logo.

Mailing Address:

Attn: Norway

Full Circle Wood, LLC

291 Smith Street, Suite 301

South Windsor, CT 06074

Email: wayne@fullcirclewood.com

Telephone: 860-648-9114

From The Executive Teams:

From Our Des Moines/Sioux City Area Execs.....

From Our Dubuque/Davenport/LaCrosse Area Execs.....

Fall is winding down, the days are becoming shorter, the temperatures are dropping, and most of the trees have lost their leaves, the fall sports schedules are in full swing. For many that means, raking leaves and spending time in front of the televisions cheering on our favorite teams. For us it is an opportunity to light a fire and snuggle up on the sofa enjoying the company of each other. Winter is right around the corner. Now is the time to check our relationships. Just like it is important to check our furnaces making sure they are in working order and are safe. Our relationships also need to be checked. Our filters need to be cleaned of the daily debris of life that collects on them. On our weekends we learned about the 5 tools we can use to keep our relationships alive and healthy. They are:

1. Constant attention to our communication
2. Attention to our sexual relationship
3. Prayer for each other, including couple prayer
4. Journeying with others
5. Reevaluation

If it has been awhile since you have visited these 5 steps we encourage you to take the time now and dialogue about it. Use them as dialogue questions such as "How do you feel about how we are communicating?" or "Do we spend enough time on our sexual relationship?" Don't let your relationships become cold and mundane. Start that fire and once again be the **Crazy Lovers** you were when you made your weekend.

Movie review

"Fireproof" is a movie released in theatres now that is a pleasant surprise. It is well acted and the storyline moves at a pace that keeps the viewer involved and interested. The story deals with a young couple who find themselves drifting apart in their marriage. The problems they deal with are all too real in today's world and the message of the movie is one of faith and hope. It is very easy to get caught up in the characters and their struggles and you also find yourself cheering for them to resolve their problems. The film has a good mixture of drama, action and comedy and it is a joy to watch with family or good friends.

Des Moines Community Corner Cannon Fodder

Good draw at picnic. Eight couples, Fr. Felix and 10 youngsters turned up for the July picnic. The list includes:

Greg & Mary Freshour. & Mitch

Mike & Maxine Murray

Fr. Felix & two kids

Richard & Jessica Chamberlin & five kids

Bernie & Kristi Evans & two kids

Joe & Evie Nemeč

Bob Vicky Ryherd

John & Maria Otte

Beth Muenchrath & Roger Erpelding

Mike Murray & Maxine Murray brought a whole watermelon. They had another engagement so they had to leave early. When they left, their watermelon stayed behind. We tried to call them. Got a busy signal. By time we got hold of them, their watermelon had rotted away one piece at a time.

Wedding bells. End of August **Rose & Art Behrends** married off their daughter, Katie. About the new son-in-law, Rose says, "He's a keeper." Probably by time you read this Art & Rose will have had their annual barn dance. If not, you're invited.

On the prayer list. **Bill Smith** had surgery toward the end of September. Carotid artery blockage. Medical staff had a tough time getting his blood pressure to stabilize. But God was with them. He's clocking along pretty well now. One of **Mike Murray & Maxine Murray's** sons, we're not clear on which one is down with unidentified leg pains. This next part we're not sure we have correct, but we understand the lad's condition precluded Mike and Maxine from making a road trip.

Suitcase tote reinforcements. Eric & Chris Seaman came to Des Moines to help with the Oct. 10 to 12 weekend. They brought along two of their

youngsters, Zack and Katie. The younger Seamans did the lion's share of the heavy lifting on the suitcase tote while the rest of us, let's just say stood around and looked pretty.

Biker babe in our midst. We were back at the hotel organizing candles for the greeting. Here come this couple on a big ol' Harley Davidson motorsackie. They pulled into a parking place. The chick dismounted, took off her helmet. She shook her head and her golden locks unfurled—just like you see in the movies. I thought I recognized her. The other rider removed his helmet. The hair, what little he has, did not unfurl. I instantly recognized him as sure enough Art Behrends. There's speculation afoot that they spent so much money on the wedding, the barn dance and the stock market plunge that they've taken to riding the bike to save on gas. Maybe we can take up a collection to help 'em out a bit.



Community Highlights

our Community Coordinators, Lyle and Lynn Ries



This is the second introduction to ME Communities in Iowa. We hope to feature two communities in each issue of the "Spirit". You are encouraged to visit other communities: you may go as a couple/priest or take your whole community. Please contact the community couple (check the website: <http://www.iowa-wwme.org>) prior to visiting, just in case the meeting's date or location have been changed. **But do go visit!!**

Waverly ME Community

Name of Community: Waverly Community

When They Meet: Varies (call)

Where They Meet: Homes

Contact Couple: Dennis and Deb Jones

319-483-9116 or ddjones_9116@msn.com

The Waverly Community is one that was reactivated three years ago. There are 10 couples that make up the community, with an average monthly attendance of 6 couples. The longest encountered couple was encountered in Germany, 25 years ago. (They were active in a community in earlier years, and have come back to join this loving group.) Their newest couple made a weekend in May, 2008. This community has a good mix of couples encountered from a few months to many years.

The Waverly ME Community keeps busy with these inviting activities: mass talks, information tables at parish activities, face to face inviting. The couples in the community are very active in various ministries of their parish. They are always on a quest list for social gatherings, so they can spread their couple love, enrich their parish, and invite to the weekend.

Since starting their community they have grown very close as a community family. They have bonded and because of this they have been able to support the bigger church as well.

One of the Cedar Rapids ME Communities

Name of Community: Marriage Encounter Group

When They Meet: 2nd Weekend of the Month, usually Saturday night

Where They Meet: Homes

Contact Couple: John and Patty Waldorf

612-940-7985 or dorfsareus@mchsi.com

This is one of the long standing Cedar Rapids ME Communities. They have 9 couples on their roster with 3-4 couples attending monthly. They do not meet during the summer. Several couples, Deb and Mike Nunemaker, Anne and Scott Johnson, and John and Patty Waldorf are still active from the original couples which started this ME Group in 1989. Their newest encounter couple is Dan and Connie Bartels, who were encountered in October, 2000. This community chooses to mainly invite to the weekend through personal contact.

Some of their fun community building activities include overnight camping trips, picnics in the park, and out to dinner trips. One community service project they've done in the past is visiting an elderly couple who moved away and that are now deceased. When they have a group member who is experiencing a life threatening illness or surgery they have had a prayer service for them. To date they have had four prayer services for group members. Just last month they lost a group member to cancer. In the past they have planted trees for group members who have experienced the loss of a parent. During December they have an auction to raise money for someone in need or a worthy organization. Whoever hosts the December meeting gets to decide who will be the recipient of the money raised. Past contribution have gone to a single teenage mother, a family trying to get their life back together, a young family whose wife/mother has cancer, The American Cancer Society, etc.

Many of the couples have attended a World Marriage Day mass, when they were held on a regular basis in a chosen parish in the Archdiocese.

This group is informal and is comfortable with a loose structure. Be sure to contact them to get more information on their service ministries. This group has longevity and a very giving spirit.

Dubuque Weekend Oct 10-12, 2008

Presenting Team

Fr. Lou Jaeger Bill & Kathy Gianoli
John & Sue Fink Dan & Denise Nedeau

Welcome

Garret & Sarah Anderson

Lance & Patrice Noble

Larry & Kathryn Brenneman

Josh & April Pohren

John & Carol Eubank

Eric & Laura Schmadeke

John & Glenda Glasgow-Wieneke

Derrick & Angie Huffman

Cliff & Karen Klouda

Des Moines Weekend Oct 10-12, 2008

At the time that this newsletter was being prepared, we had not yet received a list of couples making the Des Moines weekend.

A list may be printed in the future.

If for some reason, you no longer wish to receive this quarterly newsletter or if your e-mail address has changed, please e-mail us and let us know.

Thank you.

craigloridiggins@msn.com

***** 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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Please make your check payable to Worldwide Marriage Encounter

Send to:

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Marshalltown, IA 50158