



# The **Spirit**

Issue 130

Is Moving in Iowa

Jan/Feb/Mar/Apr. 2003

## The U in JesUs

Before **U** were thought of or time had begun, God even stuck **U** in the name of His Son.

And, each time **U** pray you'll see it's true. You can't spell out **JesUs** and not include **U**.

You're a pretty big part of His wonderful name, For **U**, He was born; that's why He came.

And His great love for **U** is the reason He died. It even takes **U** to spell **crUcified**.

Isn't it thrilling and splendidly grand He rose from the dead, with **U** in His plan?

The stones split away, the gold **trUmpet** blew, and this word **resUrrection** is spelled with a **U**.

When **JesUs** left earth at His upward ascension, He felt there was one thing He just had to mention.

"Go into the world and tell them it's true. That I love them all - Just like I love **U**."

So many great people are spelled with a **U**. Don't they have a right to know **JesUs** too?

It all depends now on what **U** will do, He'd like them to know, but it all starts with **U**.

# From the Executive Team:

Dear Lovers,

We are once again in the midst of spring: a time of growth. We need look at ourselves and try to find where we have failed in being the people God has called us to be. We may not see our true self if we have closed our eyes to the truth or made us excuses of why we can not do what we know we should do or be the people we know God wants us to be.

It is also a good time to think about our sacrament. Have we communicated (dialogued) as we know we need to keep our relationship strong? Have we taken each other for granted? Have we shown the world the love we have for one another so that they are attracted to our movement?

Questions, questions, questions? The questions are unending but the answers are not as easy. When we see all of life as a gift of God to us we start to realize how important it is to ask and answer those questions. The world needs each of us to show the love of God. In a world so full of non-committed relationship we need to stand out and show the world the plan God has for the World.

Let each sacrament so witness God's love that as we go into the Easter celebration may we experience that new life God talks about. Let us invite others to a weekend so they may find that new life, let us grow in that life through this season and into the summer. Let the plants that sprout in the spring and grow through out the summer, let us spring forth full of energy to change the world, one couple at a time.

As we think of changing the world, there is a change in leadership for our Dubuque encounter. Craig and Lori Diggins along with Fr. Joe Schneider will lead us for the next 2 years. Welcome and God bless your leadership.

We would like to thank all of you who walked with us during our term. Blessings on you, and your family.

Love you,

Bob & Sara Hrdlicka, Fr. Lou Jaeger



## **THOUGHT FOR TODAY:**

***Where God guides, He provides.***

***There's so much now I cannot see,  
My eyesight's far too dim;  
But come what may, I'll simply trust  
And leave it all to Him. (Anon)***

# From the New Executive Team:

Dear Lovers,

Please allow us to introduce ourselves. We are Craig & Lori Diggins from Marshalltown. We are the parents of two sons, Phil, who is 22 and Paul, who is nearly 16. We have been married for 26 years and we are members of St. Mary parish in Marshalltown.

It was during the season of Lent in 1999 when we made our Worldwide Marriage Encounter weekend. Since that time we have grown and changed in our own relationship, in the friendships we have made, and in our spiritual life. Our lives have been blessed and the decision to make a weekend was the best present we have ever given to ourselves. We are ready again at this season of Lent in 2003 to open our lives to more change and challenges. We are both excited and nervous as we prepare for the next two years as part of the executive team, along with Father Joe Schneider of Waukon, for our area. We have had so many prayers and letters of support as we prepare for the next stage of our journey together.

As we look back on the last four years since making our weekend, we have been fortunate to be touched by some very special couples and priests in Marriage Encounter. We also look forward to meeting new people and making new friendships in the future. We are eagerly anticipating our national convention in Dekalb, Illinois this summer. We hope to see everyone there.

Love,  
Craig & Lori Diggins

***Happy moments, praise God.  
Difficult moments, seek God.  
Quiet moments, worship God.  
Painful moments, trust God.  
Every moment, thank God.***

# INVITING

**Inviting** is for everyone, it takes one and all  
So get on the computer, write a letter, especially make a call.  
**Invite** your neighbors, colleagues, family and friends,  
If you remember from your weekend the list never ends.

Talk to your deanery **inviter** if a mass talk, you would like.  
Have a romantic supper or a wine and cheese night.  
An **inviting** video is available and we will send it out to you,  
Brochures, date cards, and other literature we have these, too.

Have you ever thought about writing a mass talk to share?  
It is a very effective **inviting** tool, when given by an energetic, loving pair.  
We have the outlines for helping you to write a talk you can give  
About your journey before and after Marriage Encounter, and the way you now live.

Are announcements appearing every week or two,  
In the church bulletin that is handed out to you?  
If not, we would like to know,  
Because **inviting** announcements in the bulletin help nudge couples to go.

Have you prayed for those couples you would like to **invite**?  
You must be persistent, each and every night.  
**Inviting** takes all of us, we must each do our part.  
To help fill the weekends, we must keep **inviting** from our hearts.

**Be the Light – Help Invite!**

**Area Inviting Coordinators you can contact about setting up mass talks or to get help with other inviting ideas:**

*Independence and Marshalltown deaneries: John and Sue Fink*

*Cedar Rapids deanery: Sid and Diane Arnold*

*Mason City and Webster City deaneries: Tom and Deb Ryan*

*Bellevue and Dyersville deaneries: Fred and Elaine Bries*

*Burlington: Bob and LuAnn Glaser*

*Dubuque: John and Caroline Mockler*

*Waterloo, Elkader, New Hampton, Decorah deaneries: Lyle and Lynn Ries (We need people who live in these deaneries to help – have any ideas, please let us know.)*

**If you do not know how to contact the above Inviters, please give us a call or email us at [lyleries@iowatelecom.net](mailto:lyleries@iowatelecom.net)**

**We pray that you are having a good lent and that Easter will bring peace to our world.**

**Inviting Coordinators for the Archdiocese of Dubuque,  
Lyle and Lynn Ries 641/364-5201**



# **Des Moines Community Corner Cannon Fodder**

**Wedding in Hawaii.** Thomas Luft, youngest son of Deacon Dennis and Sarah Luft married in Hawaii. The bride is in the service. The groom is going to school. Both sets of parents trekked to the tropical paradise to witness the blessed event.

**Jetting east.** Joe & Evie Nemeč are planning a trip to Ireland. They're back. Everybody on the tour was always on time. Both Nemečs kissed the Blarney Stone. More recently they took a trip to California to visit their son and daughter in law.

**On the prayer list.** Gene Schreier had prostate surgery Dec. 18. We understand he's doing well.

**Bad timing.** Saturday during the November weekend, Maria and I were down to St. Anthony's. Maria, bless her heart, invited Fr. Larry Hoffman and Fr. Gordon Gittens over to the house for lunch. How about 1:30 or 2 o'clock Sunday afternoon. Sure enough, you guessed it, a short 26 hours later at the greeting for the weekend, we learned the reunion for the weekend would be held at the same time. Since we couldn't be in two places at once, the reunion went on without us.

**Good turn out for Christmas party.** On Dec. 15 a dozen couples plus 11 youngens and grand youngens turned out for the annual ME Christmas party. A short list includes: Bill & Pat Smith, Barb & E. Mendoza, Joe & Evie Nemeč, Mike & Maxine Murray, Ronnie & Jessi Grajzyk, Dave & Mary Dietrich, Dennis & Sarah Luft, Bernie & Kristi Evans, Lanny & Lisa Hart, Art & Rose Behrens, Greg & Mary Freshour, John & Maria Otte.

**Last snow of the winter.** Nine couples made the April 4 - 6 weekend in Des Moines. The weather man was predicting a snow storm. What does he know. His guess is only a little better than everybody else's, right? It turns out the heaviest snow waited until most folk got home, we hope.

**Fr. Felix fools us with flowers.** Two years ago, Fr. Felix came to the November community night. Maria invited him for Thanksgiving dinner. My sister and her family came. A good time was had by all. Last year, Maria again invited him for Thanksgiving. My sister and her family were again here from Ill. Fr. Felix allowed as how he couldn't come for dinner. But he'd stop by for a while after dinner. About 2:30 here he came. He poked a bouquet of flowers in Maria's hand--three red roses, some gypsophila, other greens. They lasted a long time.

All this set Maria to thinking. She concluded that Fr. Felix drew our names in the secret couple drawing last Christmas. Maria figured she had it all figured out. Why else would Fr. Felix bring her a bouquet of flowers?

It turns out Joe & Evie Nemeč were our secret couple. HmMMMM.

**How rumors start.** Since sometime deep in the last millenium, Bill & Pat Smith have been in the process of overhauling the house and adding another bedroom. Bill has a pretty good supply of tools and is pretty handy using them. Now, as hinted at earlier, the project has extended for quite some time. Pat has been thinking about ways to speed up the process. Rumor has it that she went over to the Goodwill store on Euclid. For about \$35 she laid in a half a dozen sets of work clothes in various sizes. Rumor has it that anybody who stops by the house and looks like they're going to

stay more than 15 or 20 minutes gets handed a "spare" set of clothes and the tools for the project at hand.

We also understand life insurance and medicare supplement insurance salesmen aren't very handy with construction, electrical, plumbing, flooring or drywalling tools. See how easily rumors get started.

## WELCOME TO WWME

**March 7-9, 2003**

**TEAM: Fr. Lou Jaeger, Dennis & Deb Jones; Bob & Sara Hrdlicka; Craig & Lori Diggins**

Bob and Vicki Bauman  
Waverly, Iowa 50677

Tim and Barbara Lappe  
Marion, Iowa 52302

Bill & Joyce Dolan  
Marble Rock, Iowa 50635

Doug and Sheila Bullerman  
Calmar, Iowa 52132

Todd and Kris Lawrence  
Waterloo, Iowa 50702

Tom & Shelly McHenry  
Waverly, Iowa 50677

Dan and Becky David  
Waverly, Iowa 50677

Todd and Sherri Lunning  
Forest City, Iowa 50436

Dale & Luanne Schwach  
Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52405

Jeff and Michelle Franzen  
Waverly, Iowa 50677

Bob and Janet Metelak  
Dubuque, Iowa 52002

Tony and Cheri Meyer  
Vinton, Iowa 52349

Ralph & Cathy Steinlage  
Lawler, Iowa 52154

**APRIL 4-6-2003**

**TEAM: Fr. Don Bruck, Deacon Bill & Pat Smith, Bernie & Kristi Evans; Steve & Lisa Wozniak**

Rick & Paul Murphy  
Vinton, Iowa 52349

John & Laine Soper  
Des Moines, Iowa 50310

John & Dee Seeman  
Panora, Iowa 50216

Josh & Stephanie Potter  
Woodward, Iowa 50276

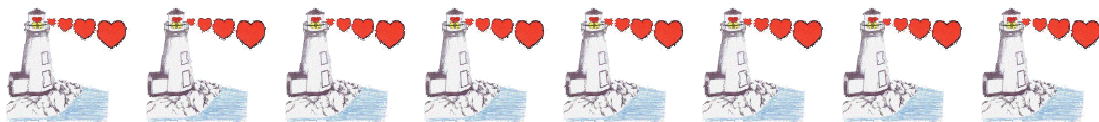
Dan & Lisa Spain  
West Des Moines, Iowa 50265

Peter & Sue Relvea  
Cambridge, Iowa 50046

Larry & Georgia Reiter  
LaPorte City, Iowa 50651

Tim & Kim Vipond  
Hiawatha, Iowa 52233

Tony & Gaylen Wobeter  
Iowa City, Iowa 52246



**WORLD WIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER  
NATIONAL CONVENTION  
JULY 25 – 27  
DeKALB, ILLINOIS**

- ❖ **June 6**      **Dubuque**
- ❖ **Oct. 24**     **Johnson**
- ❖ **Nov. 14**    **Cedar Rapids**

Keep these upcoming weekends in your prayers.

## **From the Editors:**

We apologize for the delay in getting this issue of the Spirit out to you. My computer crashed and I lost all my addresses, all previous articles that had been sent to me, and other spiritual and motivational articles I had saved to use. Paul was able to get the computer up and running before he had to leave for Asia, but it is still not 100%.

As Paul has been doing so much traveling and we do not see an end in sight, we have decided to pass the editorship of The Spirit to someone else. Please if you would like to take over this love job, let me or Craig and Lori Diggins know. I will help you in the transition as much as possible.

We have enjoyed doing this, but it is time.  
Love and Hugs,  
Paul and Ruthie Wilson

**TEACH ME TO  
LISTEN, LORD,  
WHEN YOU SPEAK  
IN WHISPERS.**

**Dialoguing Encounter, Inc.  
D/b/a Worldwide Marriage Encounter  
3007 Diamond Street  
Ames, IA 50010**

**Check your expiration date!!!**



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