



The **Spirit**

Issue 131

Is Moving in Iowa

May/June/July/August 2003

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

1. What is it like being married to me today? HDIFAMA?
2. What is the most difficult situation facing us as a couple right now? HDIFA this situation?
3. What did I most look forward to today? HDIFSTWY?
4. What is my biggest challenge right now? HDIFSTWY?
5. What brought me the most fulfillment today? HDIFAMA?
6. What is my dream for tomorrow? HDIFSTWY?
7. How have I encouraged or affirmed you today? How did that feel?
8. How did I know you love me today? HDIFSTWY?
9. What is the most vulnerable thing I could share with you today? HDIFSTWY?
10. What attitude am I struggling most with today? HDIFSTWY?

HDIFAMA: How Do I Feel About My Answer?

HDIFSTWY: How Do I Feel Sharing This With You?



From the Executive Team:

Dear Lovers,

It has been a whirlwind for us on our journey of leadership for the Dubuque/Davenport areas. Fortunately, Craig & Father Joe are organizers and Lori is a helper.

We had the awesome experience of participating in the Worldwide Marriage Encounter national convention in Dekalb, Illinois July 25-27th. We were touched, motivated, challenged and re-energized during the weekend. We wished Father Joe could have been with us but a prior engagement prevented that. The presentations were powerful, the music was spectacular and the fellowship shared by all truly touched our hearts.

This was our first convention experience and as we walked into the complex on Friday night, we were simply awestruck. The common thread of Marriage Encounter united people from all over the United States as well as other countries. Our brothers and sisters from the Hispanic and Korean communities shared their experiences and the love that filled the complex was amazing.

We saw familiar faces and we reached out and met new friends. There were so many highlights to the convention it is impossible to single one out. As we reflect on that weekend, learning how areas and nations have reached out to others to keep the dream alive really moved us. Watching the priests' processions during Mass was a feeling that is beyond words. The love that was shared by couples and all of the priests was powerful and life giving for everyone.

During one of the presentations we were reminded that we are the new apostles of the Church and it reaffirmed us to know that we are blessed with an amazing ministry. When we left Dekalb on Sunday, we were on fire and that fire is burning strong today. As we prepare for our next weekend in Cedar Rapids on Nov. 14-16th, we challenge all of you to keep that fire burning and invite others to the weekends.

You Have To Believe!

Love,
Craig, Lori & Fr. Joe

**2003 Worldwide Marriage Encounter
National Convention - DeKalb, Illinois
July 25th -27th**



Iowa ME couples who attended the convention



Priests and Deacons celebrating a mass at the convention,
Including Father Felix and Deacon Bill from Iowa



Deacon Bill shown on monitor during mass



Some Iowa couples enjoying the Saturday night entertainment by John Angotti

From The Spirit Editors:

Dear Lovers,

Let us introduce ourselves. We are John and Caroline Mockler from Dubuque, IA. We were asked by Craig and Lori Diggins to ponder taking the gift of producing The Spirit newsletter. After having “retired” from presenting weekends in Iowa, we longed to have that personal contact with encountered couples.

After some discerning, we gladly accepted the editor’s role. We felt confident we could take over. After all, we were left with a strong foundation from Paul and Ruthie Wilson! We want to thank them for their years of putting together each newsletter and hope we can live up to their production quality.

With the explosion of Email and the web, we are offered many alternatives in producing and delivering The Spirit newsletter. We will be discussing the most efficient and economical way to deliver The Spirit to you at an upcoming board meeting.

If you have Email, that would be the preferred manner to deliver it to you. With just a click of the send button, you can receive The Spirit to your “doorstep”. If you want, you can view The Spirit on-line at our Iowa web site at www.iowa-wwme.org.

We welcome and encourage you to submit articles frequently for The Spirit. Without your involvement, it will be a very short newsletter. In fact, make it a point to pen a short blurb just as soon as you finish the rest of this newsletter!

We have some surprises planned for upcoming issues, so stay tuned.

You can contact us in the manner that suits you best at the following:

John & Caroline Mockler
13738 Barrington Dr.
Dubuque, IA 52003-9637

Email: jymcrm@mchsi.com
Phone: #(563)-556-8443

We look forward to hearing from you all soon and hope you enjoy the newsletter.

Love and hugs,
John & Caroline

Inviting

Dear Iowa Inviters,

It's beginning to look like fall in Iowa. We imagine you all have list of things you want to get done yet this fall. Things like painting, cleaning off the garden, washing windows, a trip to see the fall foliage, etc may be on that list. We would like to ask you to add one more thing to your list! It will only take a few minutes, it won't cost any money, and it may make a big difference in someone's life.

Would you please invite one, two or more couples to make a weekend? Think back over that list you made on the weekend. Are there new people you have added or could add to that list? Are there new friends, relatives or colleagues, whom you could present a brochure and an invitation to make a weekend? Several couples will be busy throughout the Archdiocese during September and early October giving mass talks, passing out brochures at mass, doing bulletin inserts, displaying ME literature, etc. These definitely plant the seed, but a personal invitation is what usually gets the couples on the weekend – this is every encountered couple's job! Wouldn't it be great to have a waiting list for the November weekend in Cedar Rapids!

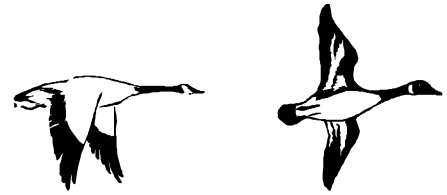
What can you do to help share the load within the Iowa ME organization? We have a great group of couples and priests presenting the weekends and leading our organization. But they can't do it alone; they need everyone to join in. If everyone would invite to the weekends, to community, etc. we would all be riding on the lifting power of each other's enthusiasm. After you read the following, take some time to dialogue and discuss, what you as a couple can do to help.

Remember: Be the Light, Go Invite!

Love, Lyle and Lynn Ries

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

The Flying "V"



This Fall, when you see geese heading south for the winter flying along in V formation, you might consider what science has discovered as to why they fly that way.

As each bird flaps its wings, it creates an uplift for the bird immediately following. By flying in V formation, the whole flock has at least 71% greater flying range than if each bird flew on its own.

People who share a common direction and sense of common purpose can get where they are going more quickly and easily because they are traveling on the thrust of one another.

When a goose flies out of formation, it suddenly feels that drag and resistance of trying to go it alone and quickly gets back into formation to take advantage of the lifting power of the bird in front.

It is harder to do something alone than together.

When the lead goose gets tired, it rotates back into the formation, and another goose flies point at the head.

It is sensible to take turns doing demanding jobs. Shared leadership and interdependence give us each a chance to lead as well as opportunities to rest.

The geese in formation honk from behind to encourage those up front to keep up their speed.

What do we say when we honk from behind? We need to make sure our honking is encouraging and not discouraging.

Finally, and this is important, when a goose gets sick or wounded and falls out of formation, two other geese will fall out with that goose and follow it down to lend help and protection. They stay with the fallen goose until it is able to fly or it dies, and only then do they launch out on their own, or with another formation to catch up with their flock.

If we have the sense of a goose, we will stand by our colleagues and do our share in difficult times as well as in good.

By Angeles Arrien

(Thanks to Lyle and Lynn Ries for this contribution.)

Des Moines Community Corner Cannon Fodder

Condolences. Gene Schreier passed away toward the end of June, the 22nd, we believe.

Fr. Felix Onuora's mother passed away in Nigeria earlier.

Evie Nemeč's sister, Agnes, came through her surgery with flying colors in Hoven, SD, but after she got home, she had a serious heart attack and passed away July 11. She was Evie's youngest sister (66 yrs old). This is quite a shock to all of her children and to the whole family.

Our condolences go out to Donna Schreier, the rest of Gene's family, Evie Nemeč and family and all of Fr. Felix's extended family--those in Nigeria and those to whom Fr. Felix has grown so precious in the United States.

Good weather for picnic. A bunch of ME couples, a few singles (the spouses had slunk out of town) and some youngsters turned out for the July ME picnic at Joe & Evie Nemeč's house.

Lots of folk had a good time playing the golf ball game. No, it had nothing to do with golf. It's more like pitching horseshoes. You toss these two golf balls on a rope at a target and hope you could land it on the target and score points.

Everybody knew except Joe. Joe Nemeč's birthday was coming. Evie packed him up to Cedar Rapids to visit their daughter. On the way back, she diverted him on a couple errands. That gave their daughter and family time to beat them back to Des Moines. Meanwhile, all of the rest of the Nemeč youngens and grandyoungens had set up camp in the house. All this for Joe's birthday. Everybody was in on the setup, except Joe. Keeping him clueless in Des Moines must have been great.

Have sitter, will come. Barb and E. Mendoza assure us that they're coming to community night in Sept. We'll learn more about E's recent volleyball coaching events.

Each one reach one. Bernie & Kristi Evans have challenged ME couples to each entice one couple to make the October Des Moines weekend. It's scheduled for October 24-26, 2003, at the Ramada on Merle Hay in Johnston.

The Beaverville Community is hosting an Inviting Information Event on Sept. 26th at 7:00 p.m. at Holy Trinity School in the Media Center. Childcare will be provided in the gym at NO CHARGE! If you have couples that you have invited to make the weekend, but have not gotten them to say "yes", maybe you can invite them to the information night. Bernie and Kristi Evans will lead the information meeting and answer the questions our friends may have. Please help us not only fill the weekend, but have a good turnout at the inviting event! If you have any questions, please call Greg & Mary Freshour at 255-2320 or Bernie & Kristi at 986-4335. If you know of a couple attending that will be using the childcare, please RSVP to us. RSVP is NOT required to attend though!

Eat and invite. Beverdale ME Community is also hosting coffee and doughnuts at Holy Trinity on Sept. 14th after the 8:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. masses. We need three couples to help at each mass, so if you can help, please contact Mary Beth and Mitch Vedane at 279-2361 or e-mail them at mbvedane@hotmail.com .

**WONDERFUL 2003 WWME CONVENTION IN DEKALB
July 25 – 27, 2003**



Well done! This was one of those fabulous conventions for us; filled with renewing of relationships, hugs, love and joy. Thanks to all who did a marvelous job of planning, preparing and lots of hard work. You have blessed us in a unique and special way. Our love and gratitude go out to all who worked so very hard and accomplished so very much. Dan & Cheryl led the team with so much joy and love for everyone.

We are grateful for the prayerful attitude of this convention from beginning to end with Our Lord very much the center starting with the Eucharistic Liturgy, Benediction on Friday evening, offering Reconciliation & Eucharistic Liturgy on Saturday morning, the great presentations and dialogues throughout the convention and ending with the Eucharistic Liturgy on Sunday.

We felt ‘special’ being greeted & greeting so many wonderful sacraments; it was like a family or class reunion filled with Love & Joy. Our hearts were overflowing surrounded with so much excitement and enthusiasm.

We, also, appreciate the fact that Deacons had an opportunity to be a part of this WWME Convention. THANK YOU!

It was wonderful to see widows and widowers included in this convention. It is our prayer this will be the beginning of support groups for encountered couples who have lost a spouse through death.

GREAT CONVENTION!

Love & hugs to all,
Deacon Bill & Pat Smith

Each one ... reach one !!!

Make this be the year we have full weekends. Please invite someone you know today so we can finish the year off strong ... and gain momentum into 2004 !!!

Iowa WWME Weekends 2003

Oct. 24-26	* Des Moines
Nov. 14-16	Cedar Rapids

Iowa WWME Weekends 2004

Jan. 30-Feb. 1	* Des Moines
Mar. 5-7	Waverly
Mar. 26-28	* Des Moines
Jun. 4-6	Dubuque
Oct. 8-10	* Des Moines
Nov. 12-14	Cedar Rapids

Contact: Roger & Marsha Luensmann
(563) 927-4352
*Steve & Sue Landwehr
(515) 964-9024

Welcome !

WORLD WIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER WEEEKEND
Shalom Retreat Center - Dubuque, Iowa
June 6-8, 2003

TEAM

Msgr. Francis Friedl
Dubuque, Iowa

Ron and Pat Milder
Iowa City, Iowa

Bob and LuAnn Glaser
Burlington, Iowa

Dennis and Deb Jones
Waverly, Iowa

PARTICIPANTS

Pat and Mary Crawford
Des Moines, Iowa

Earl and Donna Mitchell
Marion, Iowa

Richard and LaVerne Crosby
Charles City, Iowa

John and De Radke
Cedar Falls, Iowa

David Holm and Teresa Albertson
Ames, Iowa

Mike and Jane Reysack
Clear Lake, Iowa

Tim and Rochelle Lewis
Charles City, Iowa

David and Laura Severson
Waterloo, Iowa

National WWME News:

Dear Lovers,

The National Leadership Process has provided us with new leaders in August 2003. The new United States Secretariat Team consists of Bob & Joy Hernandez from Upton, MA., Section 1, and Fr. Chuck Kosanke from Detroit, MI., Section 6.

Please include this dynamic team in your daily prayers as they lead all of us forward in this loving ministry.

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

Due to the increase in The Spirit subscribers that have Email, we would like to encourage as many couples as possible to receive The Spirit via Email. One big advantage ... IT'S FREE !!

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 scheduled to be published 4 times per year.

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