



The Spirit

... Is Moving in Iowa

Issue 135

September 2004

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

1. What stage of relationship do I see us in right now - romance, disillusionment, or joy? HDIF?
2. HDIFA our couple prayer?
3. What about you am I grateful for today? HDIFSTWY?
4. What was the nicest thing someone did for me this week? HDIFAT?
5. What is my most prized possession? HDIFSTWY?
6. What have you done for me today that I am most grateful for? DFILD?
7. Do I give thanks to God for what I have not received, accepting that is His plan? HDIF?
8. Do I share my blessings joyfully? HDIFAT?
9. What have I most taken for granted? HDIFSTWY?
10. Would I rather celebrate Thanksgiving at our home or a relative's home? HDIFAT?

HDIF: How Do I Feel?

HDIFAT: How Do I Feel About That?

HDIFSTWY: How Do I Feel Sharing This With You?

DFILD: Describe Feelings In Loving Detail.



From The Spirit Editors:

Dear Lovers,

We would like to make a special dedication of this issue of The Spirit to Betty Mausser. Betty and her husband Joe were long time members of the WWME movement. They presented many a weekend to anxious couples and were constantly searching for new couples by delivering Mass Talks all around the area. You could hardly make a move without either running into or hearing stories about the work Joe and Betty were doing.

After a long battle, Betty died in August of this year. She will be sorely missed by her WWME family and the many more lives she touched through the years.

We would also like to pass along thanks from the entire Mausser family. Joe said they were very touched by the outpouring of love and support of so many WWME family members at the time of their loss. He especially appreciated seeing so many familiar WWME faces at Betty's wake and funeral. Along with Betty, those are memories that will last a lifetime.

Betty, we'll all miss you very much.

Love and hugs,
John & Caroline

Iowa WWME Weekends 2005

February 11-13	*Des Moines
March 4-6	Waverly
June 3-5	Dubuque
October 15-17	*Des Moines

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

"A GOOD FRIEND GOES HOME"

by Bob & Sara Hrdlicka

Betty Mausser died Aug. 1, 2004. Joe and Betty were part of the presenting team on our weekend, March of 1984. They had a tremendous impact on us as a couple and as individuals.

Bob: Their sharing on the weekend and especially Joe's helped motivate me to see that God's doesn't make junk and that I am very special in God's eyes.

Through the 20 years, our friendship with Joe and Betty grew. We attended many of the same Worldwide Marriage Encounter functions. One of which was driving together to a convention laughing over gifts and hats. A couple of years ago we stayed overnight at their home on our way to Chicago to visit our daughter and son-in-law.

Sara: Joe mentioned they attended daily morning Mass at New Melleray Abbey. I said, "Can we go with you"? Joe said, "Sure".

Bob: As an organizer, I like to go from point A to B without any stops, so just staying overnight with Joe and Betty, I was doing pretty good. I felt pressured to get a jump on the trip to Chicago but I knew it meant a lot to Sara to go to Mass, so I made the decision to love and went along with the rest. What a gift Mass was, it set the tone for the whole day.

Sara: When Joe and Betty called and told us, Betty was going to quit chemo and line up Hospice, I realized Betty was going to die. I felt heartbroken. I couldn't talk so Bob finished the phone conversation with them. Afterwards we just stood, hugging and crying.

A couple of days later, I called Betty to ask her for forgiveness if I ever hurt her. She asked me for forgiveness too ... we cried.

At Betty's funeral, I shared this with a friend. They said, "Why would you ask her that, you never hurt her". I said, "In life you never know if you hurt someone". They said, "I never thought about that."

We were honored to be a part of Betty's life and being an honorary pallbearer and a pallbearer, touched our lives.

Joe and Betty were truly dedicated not only to each other but to Worldwide Marriage Encounter. Their presence as a sacrament will be sadly missed.

From the Executive Team:

Dear Lovers,

It's hard to believe summer is over. That list of things to do got a little bit smaller, thanks to Lori's hard work. It looks like it will be a challenging year for her as she has 25 students in her kindergarten class. Craig has been finishing some outside projects and he is enjoying some extra free time since he quit his part-time job at night. Father Joe survived his RAGBRAI experience this year. We looked for him during the overnight stay in Marshalltown but he blended in well with the other thousands of riders.

We were in Chicago in May and in St. Louis in August for the section meetings. There was a great deal of information shared between our areas in Iowa, Wisconsin, Missouri, Illinois and NW Indiana. Many of our areas are facing the same struggles as we deal with here in the Dubuque/Davenport area. We are all challenged to invite for the weekends. Invite for the sake of the couples and priests, not just to fill the weekends. There will be more tools to help communities and you will hear more about this soon. We think it will be helpful for both the newly encountered, as well as, those who are mentors for all of us who live this radical lifestyle.

Our Marriage Encounter family experienced a great loss in August when Betty Mausser was called home to be with our Lord. Joe & Betty are a special couple who touched lives in special ways every day. They served on our board as the couple who coordinated publicity items for the Dubuque/Davenport Marriage Encounter. Our lives are richer as a result of the five years we knew and loved Joe & Betty. We will miss her and we thank God for them in our lives.

We ask for prayers for the upcoming weekends, Oct 8-10 Des Moines and Oct 29-31 Cedar Rapids. The last two year's fall weekends in Cedar Rapids were cancelled due to low numbers of registrations and this year's decision must be made by the end of September. Please pray for couples, priests and religious to experience the weekend for their relationships.

Love,
Craig, Lori & Father Joe

Iowa Retrouvaille Weekends 2005

January 14-16	Waverly
April 15-17	Dubuque
September 16-18	Marshalltown

Contact:

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Inviting

Dear Iowa Inviters,

Autumn with all its beautiful colors, reminds us of all the beautiful people we've meet through Marriage Encounter, people from all different backgrounds, occupations, nationalities, etc. We've met people who will open their hearts and homes for you; people you can count on for a hug and that will lift your spirits just by their very presence; people who will share your sorrow and your joys and will always be there for you in prayer.

If someone would have told us 15 years ago that we would be involved with an organization like Worldwide Marriage Encounter, we wouldn't have believed it. We started going to the Osage Community soon after our weekend and have rarely missed a meeting since. A few years later, we were invited to attend a meeting of the Charles City community, and soon were attending this community regularly, too. Both groups are filled with loving, fun couples who we genuinely enjoy keeping company with. We also enjoyed the times when we have had the opportunity to visit other communities at their monthly meeting. We leave the community meetings refreshed as a couple and refreshed spiritually by all these beautiful couples.

We attend our first convention in 1994 when Iowa hosted the Section 6 and 7 convention in Dubuque. We were in awe of the couples, the priests, the presenters, the music, and the whole convention. We did not have the opportunity to attend another convention until St. Louis in 2002 and the national convention in DeKalb in 2003. And again, left these conventions faith filled and committed to keeping our relationship with each other growing. Hundreds of beautiful couples and priests touched us in some way during these gatherings.

Over the years we have attended rekindles, pig roasts, family campout, World Marriage Day masses, etc. Our children looked forward to the pig roast and campout as much as we did. They have made many friends and acquaintances through Marriage Encounter events. And often will tell us of someone they bumped into on a college campus, a TEC weekend, or received an email from. We feel Marriage Encounter has enriched our children's lives, too.

When we travel to our Section 7 Inviting meetings twice a year, we again have met many wonderful, enthusiastic, beautiful couples and priests. We've met couples and priests who serve at state, sectional, national, and international levels within the movement to keep the weekends going and glowing. We have met many beautiful couples and priests who so graciously present weekends, so that others can share in the dream.

There are many beautiful couples and priest that are just waiting (even though they may not know it) to be invited to make a Marriage Encounter weekend. Can you pick them out in your parish, workplace, or social gatherings? Why not invite them? Lyle's philosophy is "it never hurts to ask".

Please pray that God sends many couples this fall to the Cedar Rapids weekend on Oct. 29th to the 31st and to Des Moines on Oct. 8th-10th.

Remember: INVITING IS EVERYONE'S JOB!

Love, Lyle and Lynn Ries – Dubuque/Davenport Area Inviting Coordinators

Des Moines Community Corner Cannon Fodder

On the road again. Bill & Pat Smith went to Columbus, OH for the Section VII ME convention, then on to Baltimore, MD for a deacons' conference. They also visited friends in Long Island, NY and Williston, VT. On their way back, they stopped by Niagara Falls. They liked the U.S. side best.

Maria & John Otte spent two months in Brazil visiting Maria's family. The nieces and nephews are more spread out than they used to be. So we had more places to visit. One nephew moved from Belo Horizonte, Minas Gerais to Toledo, Parana in May. Maria's brother in law and I got on a bus in Belo Horizonte at 8 a.m. Thursday. We got to Toledo at 9:30 the next morning. I didn't see any soybeans. But during the night I saw a lot of lights on top of grain legs at bin sites.

On the prayer list. Joe Nemeč had his prostate cancer treated July 21. Evie reports that he's getting better. He went to the radiologist for the first time five weeks after the treatment. "Things are going the way they should be," she says. "We think he's doing well."

Betty Mauser, a long-time ME stalwart succumbed to cancer in July. We pray that God will help Joe through the grieving process. Bill & Pat Smith attended Betty's funeral.

Maria Otte is still fighting high blood pressure. The doctors readjusted her medicines. The swelling in her feet has gone down, but not her pressure. Kindly pray for my bride.

Good time at the picnic. Six families were represented at the picnic at Joe & Evie Nemeč's house July 18. Among them were: Mike & Maxine Murray, Mike & Gayle Murray and kids, Bill & Pat Smith, Barb & E. Mendoza and kids plus Kristi Evans and boys. The draw was relatively small, but everybody had a good time.

Really small draw at August community night. Joe & Evie Nemeč worked pretty hard to find someone to run the August community night at St. Joe's and make a presentation because they were going to be out of town. As they struggled to find couples for those two roles, they didn't find anyone who would be able to attend due to previous commitments.

If you can't find anyone to come to a meeting, you might as well cancel it. That's the first time I ever remember that happening.

Better draw in September. Barb & E. Mendoza have graciously volunteered to present at September's community night Sept. 19. They always come up with interesting topics.

Joe & Evie Nemeč won't be there. They'll be in S. Dak. visiting their daughter. Mike & Maxine Murray are going to open the door and fix the coffee.

We missed the dance. Bill Smith reports that Art & Rose Behrens had a barn dance. They must have had it while we were in Brazil. Naturally, we're sorry we missed it.

Stop thief. Back in 2000 we bought the house and moved. Maria has a penchant for peaches. In spring 2002 we bought two trees. I had to dig three holes to plant two trees (but that's another story). That August, a storm came along. It got most of our maple tree. A big limb fell on one of the peaches and doubled it over (but that's another story).

This spring, the trees had lots of blossoms. Most of the peaches aborted while we were in Brazil.

However, each tree had somewhere around 30 peaches when we got back. Naturally, Maria was watching them like a hawk. One day she found a peach under the tree. Something had been eating it--birds, maybe.

I favored letting the peaches ripen on the trees. Maria favored picking everything that was anywhere near ripe. We picked most of them. We left maybe four or five on each tree.

Sunday afternoon we're eating lunch and looking out the window. Here boopity, boop, boop, boop comes this squirrel, tail wagging. He looks this way and that, then shags up the peach tree. He disappears among the leaves. Then directly reappears just below the only peach we can see from the house. He (we're calling him he, but he might be a she) picks the peach, starts down the tree. That's more than I can stand.

Out the door I go. Squirrel, followed by man head toward the crab apple tree. Man picks up pipe. Squirrel shags up crab apple. Man knows he can't swat squirrel with pipe. Man thinks he might be able to cause the squirrel to let loose so man can retrieve his precious peach.

What man hadn't counted upon was close proximity of neighbor's maple tree. One small leap for the squirrel turned into one giant disappointment for man as the squirrel scampered well out of reach in the maple.

Maria and John got real busy real quick and picked all the rest of the peaches they could find.

Next day, Maria is busy working in the kitchen. Here boopity, boop, boop, boop comes this squirrel, tail wagging. He looks this way and that, then shags up the peach tree. He scampers here and scampers there among the tree. After a while, down the tree he comes, empty mouthed. He looks toward the house. Maria gives him her best, "Ha, we fooled you look."

Squirrel gives Maria his best "Chicago Cubs wait until next year look" and dashes back up the maple tree.

Looking for WWME gifts and trinkets?

Try the web site for "Gifts From Your Heart". They are at WWW.WWMEGIFTS.COM. It is run by Dave & Joan Fister.

If you would rather call for a catalog or to order something, they can be contacted by phone at # (208)-676-0267.

The following is from Deacon Bill and Pat Smith who attended the Worldwide Marriage Encounter Convention for Sections 6 & 7, June 25-27, 2004 in Columbus.

A GIFT FROM HIS HEART

And truly the World Wide Marriage Encounter Columbus 2004 Convention was a beautiful gift about unconditional love from the heart of Jesus for us!

We were the only Iowa couple at the convention this year but in true WWME style we were hugged, loved and accepted with any of the groups. Since our beloved Iowa Exec Couples were not able to attend the Convention we had the privilege of carrying the banner in the procession for the beginning of the convention. Thank you Bernie & Kristi and Craig & Lori! It was an exciting blessing!

The keynote speaker was The Most Reverend John J. Kaising who presently serves as the liaison for the Archdiocese of Military Services to Worldwide Marriage Encounter. The Archdiocese for the Military Services, USA serves the needs of Americans in the military overseas.

He centered on the importance of 'Believing in Our Hearts'.

Our Section leadership, Pat & Terri O'Hara and Fr. Dennis Koopman, OFM said, "being at the convention with all of those lovers was like stopping at an oasis in the desert, where we can take time out from the busyness of our lives to nourish and revitalize our Sacraments through our dialogues and by sharing with so many lovers who are committed to strengthening their relationships".

UNCONDITIONAL LOVE FROM THE HEART OF JESUS

For us, it was a super charged weekend as we listened, reflected and recalled when we experienced this gift of unconditional love in our own relationship.

We encourage all of you to consider going to the WWME National Convention at Towson University in Towson, Maryland July 8 - 10, 2005.

The theme will be: 'IN GOD WE TRUST'

These are the presentations for Saturday listing the presenters and the scriptures on which each presentation was based; the dialogue questions and sharing questions. Soul searching questions we thought you might like to use at home.

Saturday, June 26
First Presentation
"The Unconditional Relationship"

Presiders: ♥ Fr. Tom Espelage ♥ & Steve ♥ Darlene Brown

Ephesians 5:25-27

Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church. He gave himself up for her to make her holy, purifying her in the bath of water by the power of the word, to present to himself a glorious church, holy and immaculate, without stain or wrinkle or anything of that sort.

Dialogue Question:

Couples: How do I struggle to love you unconditionally?

Priest: How do I struggle to love you, the church, unconditionally?

Sharing Question:

HDIF when I have experienced your unconditional love?

Second Presentation
"Love Unto Others"

Presiders: ♥ Fr. Dennis Koopman ♥ & John ♥ Karen Hermes

1 Corinthians 13:4-7

"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."

Dialogue Question:

Couples and Priests: Recall a time our family needed unconditional love? HDIF giving/receiving unconditional love?

Sharing Question:

How did this situation affect my relationship with my spouse?

Third Presentation
"Growing the Heart of the Church"

Presiders: ♥ Fr. Edmond Desforges ♥ & Mark ♥ Sabine Vogel

John 15:12

" This is my commandment: love one another as I have loved you."

Matthew 5:3-10

" How blest are the poor in spirit: the reign of God is theirs. Blest too are the sorrowing; they shall be consoled. Blest are the lowly; they shall inherit the land. Blest are they who hunger and thirst for holiness; they shall have their fill. blest are they who show mercy; mercy shall be theirs. Blest are the single-hearted for they shall see God. Blest too the peacemakers; they shall be called sons of God. Blest are those persecuted for holiness' sake; the reign of God is theirs."

Dialogue Question:

Couples and Priests: How do we, as a couple/priest, love others as Jesus loves us? HDIFAT?

Sharing Question:

What can we do as a couple/priest to renew the church?

Lee & Jan Kremer, Our WWME International Leadership, spoke to us about the need for financial help around the world. We've included information about this along with their beautiful logo at the top of each page. Deacon Bill will have this logo on his Worldwide Marriage Encounter Stole.

You are all a gift from His Heart to us,
Deacon Bill & Pat Smith



YOUR FINANCIAL HELP IS NEEDED AROUND THE WORLD

As we begin the 21st Century we are faced with many needs of our movement all over the world. We are still a missionary movement. We are still trying to reach many areas of the world where the Weekend and Marriage Enrichment are needed. In Brazil, Argentina and many other countries in Latin America there are many Dioceses that want the Weekend but there are no resources to bring it to them. In Africa there are waiting lists in some countries, but they cannot have the Weekends until they have raised enough money to pay the retreat centers. We are still reaching out to many of the countries there who have not experienced the Weekend at all. Transportation is difficult, if available at all, to bring Teams into remote areas. The cost of one airline ticket is similar to here in the United States, but the cost of one ticket for them is usually more than a professional person makes in a year!! There are needs also in the Pacific and Asia.

The World Council is the body that holds all of this together and continues to provide guidance, materials, finances, inspiration and hope to those struggling areas. The World Council works constantly toward unity of our mission in the world, while respecting great differences in cultures and philosophies about Church, marriage and family life. But in order to even get together as a movement once every 8-9 months we need to buy airline tickets for some of the Secretariats to participate. The funds to do this come mainly from the generosity and apostolic efforts of the United States. It would be easy for us just to say we should stop meeting as a World Council, but we have no doubt that this would lead to very quickly having 7 different movements. And probably the missionary Africa movement would cease to exist because of the lack of support and encouragement.

We have encouraged Africa to meet annually to support their countries and help the Movement grow. They can not do this without financial support. The World Council wishes to raise funds to have monies available when they are needed, rather than coming to you with each individual need. These monies will be spent wisely and accounted for through reports. Please see the attached order form for the fund raiser. These are tough times financially around the world for all of us, and it is affecting our Movement. As a worldwide movement we are one family, sharing our resources of time, capabilities and finances to spread the hope of better marriages and priesthood to all of the areas of the world that need it so very much.

Thank you for all those whose lives you will change,
Lee & Jan Kremer, Fr. Rich O'Brien
International Coordinating Team, WWME



WORLD COUNCIL FUND RAISER

The World Council is offering a lapel pin (see the above picture) which depicts the World Council made up of 7 Secretariat Ecclesial Teams and the International Coordinating Team.

The cost of each pin to the Sections is \$2.00.

We are asking that you consider requesting a donation of \$10 or more to help support the financial needs of Worldwide Marriage Encounter and the World Council. For each donation, a pin will be given as a way of thanking the giver. Please circulate the attached letter regarding the needs, as necessary.

Please order the pins by sending in this form and payment to the National Office, 2210 E Highland Ave #106, San Bernardino, CA 92404. Please allow 2-3 weeks for delivery.

When donations are received, send the check made out to Worldwide Marriage Encounter to the National Office and mark it for the World Fund.

World Pins: Quantity Ordered _____ x \$2.00 = Total Due _____

Order Date: _____

Section: _____

Ship to: _____

***** 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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