



# The Spirit

... Is Moving in Iowa

Issue 138

June 2005

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

1. What is my awareness of us as a couple right now? HDIFAMA?
2. What do I most need from you today (tomorrow, right now)? HDIFSTWY?
3. What do I think you most need from me today (tomorrow, right now)? HDIFSTWY?
4. In the last 24 hours, when was I most aware of God's presence? How did I feel before, during and after that moment?
5. What was the silliest thing I ever did with you? HDIFAT?
6. What is my favorite time of year? Why? HDIFAMA?
7. If I were in a Circus Act, I would be... HDIFAT?
8. Am I choosing the direction of my life, or is my life directing me? HDIFAMA?
9. What couple has been the clearest sign of Sacrament for me? HDIFST?
10. What do I do when I doubt? DFILD?

HDIFAT: How Do I Feel About That?

HDIFAMA: How Do I Feel About My Answer?

HDIFSTWY: How Do I Feel Sharing This With You?

DFILD: Describe Feelings In Loving Detail.

HDIFST: How Do I Feel Sharing This?



# From the Executive Team:

Dearest Lovers,

This is our first message to you as Ecclesial Executive Team for the Dubuque/Davenport Dioceses. We are Mark & Rosann Sandersfeld from Solon, Iowa, and Fr. Bob Striegel from Holy Family Parish in Davenport. Mark & Rosann will be married 29 years this coming August and attend St. Ludmilla parish in Cedar Rapids. They have three daughters. Jennifer is married and lives in Solon. Lindsay will be a junior at UNI and Natalie will be a freshman at Kirkwood this coming fall. Fr. Bob was ordained on July 14, 1973 and has served a number of parishes in the Davenport Diocese. He made his Marriage Encounter Weekend in Dubuque, in Nov. 1994. Mark and Rosann made their weekend in October, 1988, in Kansas City, Missouri.

We want to begin this letter by expressing our deep gratitude to Craig and Lori Diggins and Fr. Joe Schneider for having given so generously and so fully their dedication and passion for the weekend these past two years. We thank them for their sacrifices, love, and hard work in leading God's movement. We also wish to thank the members of the board for their continued service to our movement.

We have a dream! Over our seventeen years we have seen many changes in Marriage Encounter. Change is a fact of life. We have grown in our relationship and changed with the help of our daily dialogue and the Lord's guidance. Life is a journey, and during our next two years we will be walking down a new path on that journey with all of you. We believe in the weekend and in this movement. The weekend is truly God's gift to all of us, both the encountered and the yet to be encountered. Our weekend changed our life FOREVER!!! Because of it and dialogue we have grown more than we had ever dreamed, traveled to places we never imagined, and have served the Church in various capacities.

But we see more areas for us to grow, both as a couple and as a movement. We look back and marvel at how the weekends of the past have changed the lives of many and affected our church. But Christ is calling all of us to look to the future and help build stronger sacraments in those couples, priests, and religious still waiting to go on a weekend. They are all waiting. Waiting like we were, for a hand to show us the way to a new life. A life filled with the tools to keep our communication and our sharing of feelings alive, and our passion fresh and beaming. There are so many couples looking to us to invite them to go on a weekend. They look to us for a better way.

All it takes is for all of us to reflect on our own weekend and ask the question, "What would our life have been like, if we had not made a weekend?" For us we only know it would have been much less: less love, less close moments, less memories, less fun. So we ask you the same, "What did your weekend do for you, which steered you down a different path of life? Was that path for the better, and if it was, when was the last time you reflected on what your weekend did for the two of you, your family, friends, parish etc?"

We close our letter with our dream. We dream of encountering more and more couples these next two years. But we need your help. We ask you to dream of how the weekend can impact the lives of those around you - your immediate family, your closest friends, your co-workers, your priest, and all whom you touch. Inviting is most effective when it is direct one on one and two on two. Help a friend or two, and share your weekend story!! The next weekend is October 7-9 in Cedar Rapids at the Cooper's Mill Best Western Hotel. Let's fill it! Inviting is a decision to love! We are all called from our weekend to live the dream! God bless you!

We love you,

Mark & Rosann Sandersfeld and Fr. Bob Striegel  
Dubuque Ecclesial Team

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

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

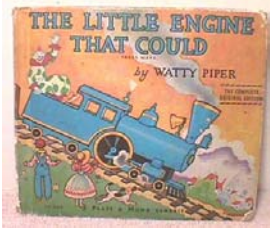
**Worldwide Marriage Encounter National Convention  
July 8 thru 10, 2005 in Towson, MD**

Visit the convention site on-line at: <http://convention.wwme.org/index.htm>

Any questions? Please contact: Steve and Karen Bow, 703-878-0104, or Nick and Dianne Monje, 703-771-9765, you can e-mail them at: [ingodwetrust@convention.wwme.org](mailto:ingodwetrust@convention.wwme.org)

**\*\*\* IMPORTANT \*\*\***

I you attend the convention, please submit an article for The Spirit so we can all experience the thrill and joy of the convention.



# Inviting



## “I Think I Can” (We Know You Can)

Do you remember the story from your childhood, The Little Engine That Could by Watty Piper? “It is one of the greatest tales of motivation and the power of positive thinking ever told. In this well-loved classic, a little train carrying oodles of toys to all of the good boys and girls is confronted with a towering, seemingly impassable mountain. As nicely as they ask, the toys cannot convince the Shiny New Engine or the Big Strong Engine--far too impressed with themselves--to say anything but "I can not. I can not." It is left up to the Little Blue Engine to overcome insurmountable odds and pull the train to the other side saying "I think I can--I think I can". Of course the little blue engine is successful.

Sometimes getting enough couples invited and registered for a weekend before a decision has to be made to hold the weekend or not seems like an insurmountable mountain. We (all ME couples) are the engineers of the little blue engine. We have the tools necessary to keep the little train running and gathering the passengers. If we all work together using the resources available and our enthusiasm we can gather enough couples to have a waiting list for each weekend. We will go over the mountain with ease. Every time we get a “We can not. We can not” reason from a couple we need to rally together and encourage each other to keep trying. We need to say to ourselves “We know we can – we know we can”.

There are many tools for inviting:

- Personal Inviting (We know you can invite friends, family, co-workers, etc. - do this in person or send them a personal letter – plant the seed) Remind them when a weekend is approaching.
- Bulletin Announcements (We know you can watch your bulletins to be sure announcements are being published – if not let us know)
- Praying for a specific couple (We know you can)
- Praying for a specific weekend (We know you can)
- Give Witness Talks (We know you can)
- Help facilitate a Marriage Enrichment Program in your parish or deanery (We know you can)
- Give a gift certificate-check your “Share the Dream Box”- or contact us and we will send you one (We know you can)
- Have an information night (We know you can)
- Display a pulpit pal (ME display board) in your parish for one or two weeks and/or at a ministry fair– several communities already have a pulpit pal (We know you can)
- Stock your parish display box with brochures and date cards (We know you can)
- Stock you break room at work with brochures and date cards (We know you can)
- Be a prayer couple for a couple on a weekend and encourage them to attend community (We know you can)
- Daily dialog – and don’t forget to dialog about what you can do for inviting (We know you can)

**WE KNOW YOU CAN help invite to bring the weekend to couples!**

Many communities have received their “Share the Dream Boxes”; these contain some tools to use for inviting. (If you haven’t received your box, we hope to get to your community this summer or fall.)

Hugs, Lyle and Lynn Ries  
Inviting Coordinators for Dubuque/Davenport Dioceses  
[lyleries@iowatelecom.net](mailto:lyleries@iowatelecom.net)

**Iowa WWME Weekends 2005**

October 7-9	Cedar Rapids
October 14-16	*Des Moines

**Contacts**

Roger & Marsha Luensmann  
Phone: (563)-927-4352  
Email:  
[RLUENSMANN@IOWATELECOM.NET](mailto:RLUENSMANN@IOWATELECOM.NET)

\* John & Deb Seeman  
Phone: (641)-755-3667  
Email: [JDCMAN88@NETINS.NET](mailto:JDCMAN88@NETINS.NET)

**Iowa Retrouvaille Weekends 2005**

September 16-18	Marshalltown
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**Contact:**  
Dick and Joyce Smith  
Dyersville, IA  
Phone: (563)-875-8791 or (800)-470-2230  
Email: [smithretro@mwci.net](mailto:smithretro@mwci.net)  
Website: [www.helpourmarriage.com](http://www.helpourmarriage.com)

## INVITE - INVITE - INVITE



“There is a world of couples and families out there that desperately need to learn about the Decision to Love & God’s Desire for Marriage and the importance of our Sacrament to the Church and world. If we don’t share the good news with them, who will?”



“We ask everyone to join us in daily prayer to help us fill our upcoming weekends”  
- Gary & Marcia - email 13 May, 2005.

## PRAYER FOR INVITING

Lord, you once more remind us of your harvest being ready. Strengthen and renew our souls. Enliven our bodies and make them joyful partners to go out again into the vineyard. Let your Spirit stir up our imagination. Help us once again to dream dreams of the kingdom and your plans for us. When we open up our lives and our mouths, give us the courage to speak your weekend. Lord, help us fill our weekends so that your plan for marriage, family and Church may be fulfilled. AMEN.

## TOP TEN REASONS TO ENCOURAGE FRIENDS AND FAMILY TO MAKE A MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER WEEKEND



10. It will give them more to talk about than just the weather.
9. It gives them an opportunity to go “off-line” for 44 blissful hours.
8. Brings back that loving feeling.
7. A weekend without the kids ..... need we say more?
6. God was at their wedding; now invite Him to their marriage.
5. Learn the role that feelings plays in their relationship, even if they didn’t invite them to.
4. It’s much better than that reality TV show they were planning to watch.
3. It can enhance *every* aspect of their marriage.
2. It gives their children an example of a strong, loving relationship right in their own home.
1. And the number one reason for you to encourage friends and family to attend a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend.....



*Helping*

*Marriages*

*Grow ...*

# They Deserve It!

*... One*

*Couples*

*at a Time.*

# **Des Moines Community Corner Cannon Fodder**

## **On the prayer list:**

**Jerry Russell** has lung cancer. We're praying that the doctors caught it early and that the treatments will succeed.

**Pat Smith's** brother has bladder and prostate cancer. Pat also has a cousin who had a heart valve replaced.

**Anne McNally's daughter, Theresa**, also has heart trouble.

We understand **Fr. Felix** is progressing well from both the surgery on his shoulder and surgery on his arm.

**Sara Hrdlicka** had a surgery called "Second look ossiculoplasty." Sara may need up to 6 months to get her hearing back.

**Rev. Ward Malloy and his bride Marianne**, participated in the United Church of Christ Marriage Encounter. While in Iowa, Ward had both hips replaced at Iowa Methodist in Des Moines. In late April, he broke his leg. And is coming along pretty well.

**Maria Otte** had a cyst removed from one of her lumbar vertebrae. I think she is progressing well. She wishes she would get back to full speed faster. Now the doctors are running tests on her parathyroid glands because her calcium balance is out of whack. Thanks for the prayers.

## **Come to the picnic**

Plan is to meet July 17 around 1. We'll eat around 1:30. Bring the usual picnic stuff. It will be at **Joe & Evie Nemeč's** house, 1080 45th St., Des Moines. That's between the freeway and University Ave. more or less north of Roosevelt High School. Phone Joe & Evie for directions (279-9686). It's road construction season.

## **On the road again:**

**Sarah Luft** is going to a Christopher West week- long seminar on theology of the body in July. We're remembering she said it's in Pennsylvania.

**Mike & Maxine Murray** are going to Fatima and then back to Ireland. (There be a rumor going around that after Mike came back from kissing the Blarney Stone some years ago, sales at the car lot nearly doubled and he's going back for a booster shot.)

## **Moving on:**

**Ronnie & Jessie Grajczyk** had a baby boy back in January. Jessie is finishing up her medical training. She's taken a job in Illinois. So they'll be moving. Congratulations on both milestones.

**Greg & Mary Freshour** have also moved. Freshour's new house is easy to find. Go south from I-80 on 86th St. Turn left (east) on Parkview. Go a couple blocks. Scrutinize houses on your left (north side of street). When you see the Marriage Encounter banner hanging on the door, you're there. (Some of you will want the street address. It's 8317 Parkview, Urbandale IA 50322.)

## **Community presentations:**

**Dennis & Sarah Luft** built a presentation on principles for marriage from the 10 Commandments in May.

Current plan is to have a presentation on inviting in August just ahead of the Oct. 14-16 weekend.

## **New banner unveiled.**

St. Anthony's held a Eucharistic procession May 15. Four ME couples participated, **Mike & Maxine Murray, Joe & Evie Nemec, Bill & Pat Smith, John & Maria Otte**. Mike Murray carried the new ME banner, designed by the community and constructed by Nemecs. It's a lot smaller than the original banner - - and a lot easier to handle in the wind.

## **Looking for WWME gifts and trinkets?**

Try the web site for "Gifts From Your Heart". They are at [WWW.WWMEGIFTS.COM](http://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.

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

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

# Welcome !

WORLD WIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER WEEEKEND

**April 8-10, 2005**  
**Best Western Cooper's Mill Hotel**  
**Cedar Rapids, IA**

## TEAM

Fr. Lou Jaeger  
Marshalltown, IA

Mark & Rosann Sandersfeld  
Solon, IA

Ron & Pat Milder  
Iowa City, IA

Craig & Lori Diggins  
Marshalltown, IA

## PARTICIPANTS

Benzing, Darren & Patty  
Solon, IA

Kroll, Jeff & Lisa  
Durant, IA

Bonjour, Ryan & Michelle  
Cedar Falls, IA

Matias, John & Barb  
Cedar Rapids, IA

Brown, Tom & Cindy  
Cedar Rapids, IA

Minear, Jeff & Joan  
Calmar, IA

Corkery, Carl & Suzie  
Jesup, IA

Pucelik, Steve & Lisa  
Cedar Rapids, IA

Dall, Dan & Ann  
Solon, IA

Shindelar, Bart & Carrie  
Marion, IA

Farinelli, Robert & Catherine  
Coralville, IA

Wenisch, Gary & Jean  
Cedar Rapids, IA

Flatgard, Steve & Sandy  
Solon, IA

Wobbe, Mike & Cathy  
Marion, IA

Keith, Bruce & Mary  
Algona, IA

Wynohrad, Tony & Laura  
Osage, IA

# Welcome !

WORLD WIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER WEEEKEND

April 15-17, 2005  
COUNTRY INN & SUITES OF AMES  
Ames, IA

## TEAM

Fr. Don Bruck  
Glenwood, IA

Steve & Lisa Wozniak  
Rockwell City, IA

Deacon Bill & Pat Smith  
Des Moines, IA

Jim & Melissa Hindt  
Rockwell City, IA

## PARTICIPANTS

Burianek, Terry & Karen  
Ames, IA

Loughran, Tom & Sherry  
Carroll, IA

Burleson, Maria & Lee  
Grimes, IA

McDonald, Tom & Judy  
Boone, IA

Craig, Dave & Phyllis  
Ames, IA

Roder, Rev. Terry  
Danbury, IA

Danner, Father Brian  
Madrid, IA

Tandradinata, Hendra & Aulia  
Ames, IA

Davis, Bob & Joyce  
Ames, IA

Thogerson, David & Carolyn  
Ames, IA

Feucht, Josh & Lyndsey  
Larchwood, IA

Frank Schweers & Cindy Sorlien  
Underwood, IA

Lindeman, Nathan & Emily  
Sioux Falls, SD

# Welcome !

WORLD WIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER WEEEKEND

**June 3-5, 2005**  
**Shalom Retreat Center**  
**Dubuque, IA**

## TEAM

Fr. Jim Chappell  
Dubuque, IA

John & Sue Fink  
Marshalltown, IA

Craig & Lori Diggins  
Marshalltown, IA

Dennis & Deb Jones  
Waverly, IA

## PARTICIPANTS

Adkins, Ron & Renee  
Cedar Rapids, IA

Olson, Edward & Christina  
Cedar Falls, IA

Faktor, Jeremy & Andrea  
Mason City, IA

Pesek, Terry & Deb  
Cedar Rapids, IA

Hawkes, Louis & Jo  
Swisher, IA

Reyland, John & Diane  
Cedar Rapids, IA

Jackson, Vern & Rose  
Cedar Rapids, IA

Thor, Randy & Kathie  
Cuba City, WI

Keenan, Pat & Carol  
Mason City, IA

Wilson, Paul & Anne  
Iowa City, IA

Kelchen, Dale & Tami  
Manchester, IA

Yamada, Thoru & Patti  
Iowa City, 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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