

The Spirit

... Is Moving in Iowa

Issue 150

Apr/May/June 2008

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

2008 Weekends

October 10-12 Cedar Rapids ?

October 10-12 Des Moines

2009 Weekends

February 13-15 Cedar Falls

February 13-15 Des Moines

May 29-31 Des Moines

May 29-31 Dubuque

October 16-18 Cedar Rapids

October 16-18 Des Moines

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Iowa Retrouvaille Weekends

Contact:

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

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

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

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.

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From The Executive Teams:

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

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

As we write this love letter our hearts go out to all the couples that have been affected by the floods and tornados that have ravaged the Midwest, may you find strength and comfort in each other and in God during this time of stress. During times of stress it is very easy to slip back into the married singles lifestyle and to withdraw from our spouse. But those of us who have experienced the wonderful gift of a Worldwide Marriage Encounter weekend know there is a better way!! We know that daily dialogue and couple prayer with our spouse is a life line and a way to strengthen our relationships. So if it has been a while, we encourage you to dust off those notebooks and get started again!! It will be the spark to heat up your summer!

We had the pleasure of attending the Iowa picnic on July 12th in Marshalltown. We would like to thank John & Sue Fink and Craig & Lori Diggins for arranging the location, setting up, and the great presentation. It was a nice cool day and fun to see friends from WWME. We would also encourage everyone to log on to the Iowa marriage encounter website. Keith Howard as done some wonderful things with the layout and that's not all. More exciting things are still to come so be sure to check it out! At www.iowa-wwme.org

In May we had a WWME weekend presented at Shalom Retreat Center in Dubuque. There were 16 couples in attendance. Our next weekend will be October 10-12, 2008 at Cooper's Mill in Cedar Rapids, although they did flood, they have assured us that everything will be ready for our couples by October.

So we need each and every one of you to think of a couple that you know that deserves a weekend, maybe a couple affected by the flood, and invite them. Better yet pay for their registration. What a wonderful gift that would be and an awesome way for you to show you care about them. Think of what we could do if each of us invited only one couple!!! WOW! Let's fill that weekend to overflowing.

As always we are available to help you in any way that we can. If your parish is interested in a mass talk, give us a call, 319-483-9116. We are more than willing to do them. Have a safe and fun filled summer and keep on dialoging!!

Love, Fr. Lou Jaeger and Dennis & Deb Jones

Great Weather! Great Food! Great People! An enjoyable time was had at the All Iowa Marriage Encounter Picnic on July 12th in Marshalltown. Ten couples with their families enjoyed Anson Park. The potluck was enjoyed by couples from Marshalltown, Osage, Iowa City, Cedar Falls, Denver, Waverly and Des Moines. Watch for next year's picnic and come and enjoy the fun.

John & Sue Fink



Community Highlights

our Community Coordinators, Lyle and Lynn Ries



This is the first 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. You should probably 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!!**

Cedar Valley ME Community

Name of Community: Cedar Valley Community (Waterloo Area)

When They Meet: 3rd Saturday of the month, at 7:00 p.m.

Where They Meet: Queen of Peace Catholic Church, Waterloo

Contact Couple: Ken and Mickey Collison

319-984-5758 or darmstad48@aol.com

The Cedar Valley Community began in the early 1980's. There are 9 couples and 1 priest who make up the community with 4 to 5 couples/priest attending the meetings in any given month. Ken and Mickey Collison are the longest attending couple (encountered in 1986) and Tim and Vicki Cutsforth are the newest couple (encountered in February of 2008).

In the late 1980's the Waterloo Community initiated the first two day Rekindle for 20+ already encountered couples. Some of you may remember Dick and Carol Lensing (CR), Ron and Pat Milder (IC) and Louis and Jackie Winchip (CR), who presented at this Rekindle. Cedar Valley has also hosted World Marriage Day, and helped with an Archdiocesan sponsored World Marriage Day. All of these events were held at St. Ed's parish in Waterloo.

The Waterloo Community was very ecumenical during the 80's and included team couples from the Lutheran Expression and the UCC expression. A Cedar Falls community was formed by some of the Waterloo members who went on to give many weekends out of Cedar Falls/ Waterloo area motels, Lutheran and UCC. This community supports the weekends in their area by furnishing a registration couple and luggage carriers. They also help by being prayer couples for the Catholic weekends given in the Cedar Valley as well as Dubuque and Cedar Rapids. Twice during their history, couples split off to form a new community in Waverly. One of these communities is still active.

This community has a Christmas ornament exchange and has participated in the My Waterloo Days parade that is held at the beginning of June. To help get couples to the weekends they have held Romantic suppers and have shown the Inviting DVD. Family events include a Christmas potluck and occasionally they hold other potlucks.

For many years this community was the organizer of the Iowa ME Family Campout that was held at Camp EWALU near Strawberry Point. They made sure a fun time was had by all!

Osage ME Community

Name of Community: Osage Area Community

When They Meet: Monthly usually on a week night, date varies – so please call

Where They Meet: Homes

Contact Couple: Lyle and Lynn Ries

641-364-5201 or lyleries@iowatelecom.net

The Osage Community began in April, 1986. There are 4-5 couples who regularly attend the meetings and there are 9 couples on the email list. John and Darlene Mayer and Chuck and Elaine Laures are the couples who have attended community faithfully since 1986. The community's newest encountered couple is Bill and Sandra Gruman (June 2006).

This community holds an annual family picnic in July or August and has a Christmas ornament exchange in December. A potluck is usually held once a year. They have held romantic dinners with the purpose of inviting other couples to experience the weekend. They hosted World Marriage Day in February, 1994 with Father Joe Schneider being the main celebrant for the special Mass. They have also helped organize a one day ReKindle along with the Charles City Community.

For many, many years special times and people were remembered via a "Secret Couple" activity that was enjoyed by all. It was a challenge to keep your identity secret for a whole year.

When Chuck and Elaine Laures were "Spirit" editors – in the day of snail mail, the community would all gather to help collate, staple, and sort the "Spirit" into mailbags. It was a monthly publication consisting of 30-40 pages per issue. At that time, there were over 700 issues sent out to subscription holders and another 150 sent out free of charge to the most recently encountered couples just coming off their weekends. This was a real community bonding project often held on a different night than the regular community meeting. They even had t-shirts made that said "Osage Has the Spirit".

The members of the Osage Community are very willing to be Prayer Couples for the weekend and have also enjoyed helping to carry luggage on Friday night.

Many Communities have been visited by the Osage and Waterloo Communities in the past and they also enjoyed having other Communities return the favor. Many long and lasting friendships developed as a result. The main focus is to exchange ideas, presentations, and activities. So get in your vehicles and make a road trip to visit one or both of these communities!

Des Moines Community Corner Cannon Fodder

On the prayer list. Bill Smith had another set back. His heart is better now. But he has restrictive lung disease. The doctor is trying to find out what is going on in that area and how to treat it. We thank God for all the miracles he has already performed to keep Bill going and that he will help Bill and Pat through this new challenge. Maria Otte has it in the back and the leg and the hip. We're taking her to the chiropractor fairly regularly. Hope it helps.

On the road again. Joe & Evie Nemec spent heading toward two weeks in South Dakota. Mike & Maxine Murray went to Florida a while back. Bill & Pat Smith went to the deacon's convention in Ohio.

Staying home a while. MEers had a really nice day for a picnic up at Marshalltown July 12. Maria and I didn't make it. One, her leg and back were hurting. Two, we were getting ready for the St. Joe's bunch picnic we're going to have in our garage July 20. Bill & Pat Smith, Joe & Evie Nemec and Maria have been working hard to get the word out so lots of folk are invited.

We're optimists. If even anywhere near half of the folk that have been invited turn up, we'll have a crowd. So we're planning the picnic for in the garage. We're counting on God sending us another gorgeous day. So everyone can have a really good time.

Now if our optimism turns out to be unjustified and only one other couple shows up, which has been the average draw at community night lately, we'll probably cook the hot dogs on the grill, then sit at the kitchen table to eat them.

Welcome
Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend
Dubuque, Iowa May 30- June 1, 2008

Tim & Mollie Bergfeld Jacob Dickes & Rose Clearfield

Michael & Ann Domeyer Steve & Donna Dressel

Steve & Julie Duffrin Rob & Diana Ferguson

Dan & Lynn Luloff Mike & Pat Monnahan

Brian & Jenny Niles Doug & Michelle Oberhoffer

Pat & Teenah Oldham Tom & Maria Rodke

Jim & Mary Schmidt Todd & Tracy Slaughter

Darrin & Christine Thompson Ben & Nanette Zorn

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).

Contact us at craigloridiggins@msn.com to change to a free Email subscription.

PLEASE REMEMBER, if your Email address changes, please let us know!

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Please make your check payable to Worldwide Marriage Encounter

Send to:

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2206 Sugar Creek Lane

Marshalltown, IA 50158