

# The Spirit

... Is Moving in Iowa

Issue 152

Winter 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.



### Sample Dialogue Questions:

Valentine's Day will be unique for us this year because of what? HDIFAMA?

What is my favorite part of winter? HDIFAT?

What can we as a couple do together this upcoming Lenten season? HDIFST?

HDIFAT: How Do I Feel About That?

HDIFSTWY: How Do I Feel Sharing This With You?

HDIFST: How Do I Feel Sharing This?

HDIFAMA: How Do I Feel About My Answer?

WAMFAMA?: What Are My Feelings About My Answer?

## **Iowa WWME Weekends**

### **2009 Weekends**

February 13-15 Cedar Falls

May 29-31 Dubuque

October 16-18 Des Moines

### **To Register For a Weekend - Contact**

Roger & Marsha Luensmann Phone: (563)-927-4352

Email: [RLUENSMANN@IOWATELECOM.NET](mailto:RLUENSMANN@IOWATELECOM.NET)

## **Iowa Retrouvaille Weekends**

### **Contact:**

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

Email: [mike.jackson@hotmail.com](mailto:mike.jackson@hotmail.com) Website: [www.retrouvaille.org](http://www.retrouvaille.org)

**World Marriage Day – February 8, 2009**

Mark your calendars now for a special weekend getaway.  
The 2009 Section 6 & 7 Marriage Encounter Convention will be July 10-12, 2009 Notre Dame, Indiana.  
There will be couples and priests from Iowa, Missouri, Illinois, Wisconsin, Ohio, Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan & West Virginia.  
If you have not received any information from your community, there is a link on the Iowa Marriage Encounter website with information on the convention as well as registration and lodging information.

The official website for **Marriage Encounter in Iowa** [www.iowa-wwme.org](http://www.iowa-wwme.org)

**Worldwide Marriage Encounter** at [www.wwme.org](http://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](http://www.ematrimony.org)

**2009 Marriage Encounter calendars are now available – Contact a community coordinator or the executive team couple to purchase one. The executive team couple for Iowa is:**

**Dennis & Deb Jones – [ddjones\\_9116@msn.com](mailto:ddjones_9116@msn.com)**

## **From The Executive Team:**

From Our Dubuque/Davenport/LaCrosse/Des Moines Area Execs.....

2009 has been heralded as the year of change, barriers have been broken, lines crossed. Our lives have been forever changed because of this. But change doesn't come easy, it takes an open mind, determination, sacrifice and hard work. On our weekend we were asked to change, to have an open mind and try something different. To live a lifestyle that was radically different then the world's way. This required us to step out of our comfort zones and make changes in our lives, to look at our relationships and the world around us through God's eyes, and not through the world's eyes. To see what we can give, rather than what we can get.

You may have noticed that our heading has gotten bigger. This is because the Des Moines area has asked to merge with the Dubuque area and become one. Let us take the time and welcome all those couples from the Des Moines area to our family. We understand that this was a difficult decision for them. We hope and pray that with united efforts we can bring the weekend to many couples throughout the state of Iowa and south west Wisconsin! We look forward to even greater things happening in our area.

Our next weekend will be held in Cedar Falls on February 13-15<sup>th</sup>. This is a combined Des Moines and Dubuque weekend. We are currently at 21 couples! We hope that this number will be higher by the time you are reading this. If you have a couple who is interested in participating in this weekend, there may still be space, have them call Roger & Marsha Luensman at (563)-927-4352 ASAP. What a great Valentine date this weekend would be!

Our other weekend dates this year will be May 29-31, 2009 At Shalom Retreat Center in Dubuque. The fall weekend will be October 16-18, 2009 in Des Moines. Please keep these weekend dates in mind and help us by inviting couples and priests to these weekends. Let's change the world one couple and priest at a time!

Lastly, we hope and pray that your dialogue is strong! Our dialogue is a source of strength and comfort for our relationship. It is a time we look forward to each day to grow deeper in love. If you have been away from dialogue, please dust off those notebooks, snuggle up together and get back at it! The benefits are awesome!

The WWME convention will be July 10-12, 2009 in Notre Dame, Indiana. Please visit the Iowa website for all the details <http://www.iowa-wwme.org>. This is close to us so hopefully many Iowa couples will be attending!

Love,

Dennis & Deb, Fr. Lou

## **Des Moines Community Corner Cannon Fodder**

**Wedding bells ring ring.** Jason Kurth, son of Dave & Judy Kurth, is marrying Lindsay Smith. Jason teaches theology at Dowling Catholic high school, Lindsay teaches English at Norwalk.

Erich Loch, son of Sergio & Barb Loch, will marry Jennifer Seliga in South St. Paul, Mn in June.

**Community disbands.** "This is a very difficult message for all of us in the WWME St. Joseph's Community to be sending and we are so very sorry," say Bill & Pat Smith. "Due to lack of participation, the St. Joseph's WWME Community will longer be meeting."

Too many times over the last several months Mike & Maxine Murray would prematurely depart some family event to prepare for community night. Sometimes another couple would show up. Occasionally, two other couples would arrive. Once or twice Mike & Maxine were there alone.

The WWME picnic in July at John & Maria Otte's house was the exception and there was a good turnout.

"Our prayers have been, and are, for our beloved St. Joseph's Community to continue," says Maxine. "But at this time it is the consensus to discontinue meeting."

**Thin draw at reunion.** WWMW held a reunion for the couples who made the Des Moines October weekend. None of the newly encountered couples participated. Bernie & Kristi Evans, Terry & Jean Smith, Beth Muenchrath & Roger Erpelding, John Otte (Maria was sick) and Fr. Felix attended.

Maybe God's purpose in not having newly encountered couples present was to provide a forum for community members to discuss where we go from here. Discussion focused on leadership and community.

**Eligible executive couples limited.** Bernie & Kristi are wrapping up their second tour of duty as executive couple. WWME guidelines say that no couple can serve more than two tours of duty. WWME also requires that the exec couple also be a presenting team couple. Des Moines area has few presenting team couples. They are widely dispersed geographically. Most have already served one or two terms as exec couple.

For lack of an exec couple, wheels are being set in motion to return Des Moines to be administered by Dubuque, much as it was 20 years ago.

**A potential resurrection.** The second topic was what to do about community. Date, time, location, facility and child care were discussed.

The group gravitated toward thinking that a night other than Sunday might be better for couples with children. Bernie & Kristi say that arrangements could be made for a room for child care at St. Mary's. Kristi says that when they were attending the Beavertdale community, she and Bernie would come home late and tired, but their boys would entice them to go to community so they could spend quality time with offspring of other ME couples. St. Mary's is also nearer the homes of most people who happened to be attending this particular meeting.

A decision was made to attempt to have community night at St. Mary's on the third Friday of the month.

Lack of time and/or lack of desire to make presentations were suggested as reasons why couples were reluctant to attend community. To help ease some of those concerns or burdens the group decided to work on one of the concepts presented during the weekend at community night, select individual nuggets, go over them in detail to make it a learning experience for all. The broad notion being to find some approach that works to make loving couples want to come and participate.

**Off to a slow start.** Three couples turned up for the December community night. We ate pot luck and pizza. No white elephants were exchanged. Bernie & Kristi Evans brought wrapped boxed. They gave one to each couple. It was a Christmas tree ornament, complete with an ME logo. They acquired several at an earlier ME function.

January's community night got called, not because of rain. But rather because it was so stinking cold.



## Community Highlights

our Community Coordinators, Lyle and Lynn Ries



This is the third introduction to ME Communities in Iowa. We are featuring 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. Please 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!! Newly Encountered couples are encouraged to visit a community in their area. If you don't see what you are looking for please contact us at [lyleries@iowatelecom.net](mailto:lyleries@iowatelecom.net) or 641-364-5201. Lyle and Lynn Ries, Community Coordinators.**

### Charles City ME Community

**Name of Community:** Charles City ME

**When They Meet:** 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of the month at 7:30 p.m.

**Where They Meet:** IC Parish Center in Charles City, but due to flooding are presently meeting in IC Social Hall

**Contact Couple:** Roger and Bonnie Huber  
641-228-1378 or bhuber50@yahoo.com

The Charles City Community has 6 couples that attend regularly, with a couple others who attend periodically. Most months there are 5-6 couples in attendance. Longest attending couples are: Roger and Bonnie Huber who made their weekend in 1977 at American Martyrs Retreat house in Cedar Falls and Andy and Inge Cerio who made their weekend in Ohio in 1978. The newest regular attending couple is Dick and Laverne Crosby who made their weekend in 2005 at Shalom Retreat Center in Dubuque.

At this time, personal inviting and praying a decade of the rosary each meeting are their primary inviting activities. They have hosted Wine and Dine suppers and World Marriage Day activities. They have members that help with carrying luggage on Friday night of the weekend and many couples are prayer couples for the weekends. The Charles City community has been active in the Dubuque Diocese Encounter with a former team couple, Inviting Coordinators, and Finance Couple. One couple is currently the Community Coordinators for Iowa and the LaCrosse, WI diocese.

This community brings food and paper items for needy families at their December meeting. Most years they have a picnic in August or September that includes the meal, presentation and sharing, and a fun activity.

## Another of the Cedar Rapids ME Communities

**Name of Community:** ME Community

**When They Meet:** 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of the month

**Where They Meet:** Granadillos' home - 4004 Forest View Ct. N.E., Cedar Rapids, 52411

**Contact Couple:** Luis & Gabby Granadillo –  
319-743-0404 or granadillolg@msn.com

This group is the newest Cedar Rapids community. There are 7 couples on their roster and the monthly meetings average around 4 couples. Their longest encountered couple is Mark and Rosann Sandersfeld who made their weekend October 28-30, 1988 in Kansas City, Missouri. Their newest encountered couple is Tom & Maria Rodke who were encountered May 2008 in Dubuque.

The members help carry luggage for the Cedar Rapids weekends and also help fill the weekend packets. This group is very active as three couples in this community are presenting team for the weekends. One couple also serves on the Archdiocese of Dubuque Family Life Board.

Family Events include a Summer Picnic and a Thanksgiving or Christmas potluck.

All the couple's children are welcome to the monthly meetings and they share some treats as a big family at the end of the meeting.

Here are some of this community's loving couples and their children.



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