



The Spirit

... Is Moving in Iowa

Issue 132

December 2003

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

1. What is my favorite Christmas tradition? HDIF recalling this?
2. What do I want our children to remember about Christmas in our home? HDIFAMA?
3. What is my favorite childhood memory of Christmas? HDIFSTWY?
4. What do I think about when I hear the word Christmas? HDIFAMA?
5. Do I like to sing Christmas carols? HDIFAMA?
6. Is our Christmas season too busy for us to keep focused on Jesus? HDIFAMA?
7. Are our children grateful on Christmas? HDIFAMA?
8. When do we take down the Christmas decorations? HDIFAT?
9. What are my goals for the coming year? HDIFAT?
10. HDIF beginning another year with you?

HDIFAMA: How Do I Feel About My Answer?

HDIFSTWY: How Do I Feel Sharing This With You?

HDIFAT: How Do I Feel About That?



From the Executive Team:

Dear Lovers,

We hope that this holiday season has been a safe and blessed one for all. As we reflect on this past year, we are truly blessed to be part of this Marriage Encounter family. This radical lifestyle that we live will touch the lives of everyone we come in contact with. 2003 has been a learning experience for us as and we are excited to continue growing in our relationship. The foundation for this growth is daily dialogue and this is a tool that is too valuable to go unused.

Father Joe spent a few days in Houston with the youth of our Church and he even returned with his sense of humor still intact. While we too, have been traveling quite a lot, we still find time to enjoy time with our two sons. While we were in Houston in November, we met our new national leaders for Worldwide Marriage Encounter, Bob & Joy Hernandez, and we were moved by their passion for each other and for our movement.

It was a very difficult decision to cancel the November weekend in Cedar Rapids and we continue to pray for the couples that were signed up for that weekend. However, we are confident there are great things on the horizon for our area and we invite all of you to keep praying and inviting for our future weekends

Our local communities are in need of support from all encountered couples and priests. They are one of the lifelines to keeping our relationship a priority; especially in the busy, hectic lives we all lead. Please make that extra effort to attend your local community gathering. It can also be a special night out without other distractions. We plan on visiting more local communities in the upcoming year to share information on what's happening in our Marriage Encounter families. We want to focus on giving the gift of the weekend to couples and priests for the sake of their relationship, and not just to fill the spots on the weekend. We are all part of a ministry that will renew the Church and change the world.

We wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. May the Holy Spirit strengthen and empower us as we live out our vision to "Love One Another."

Love,
Craig, Lori & Fr. Joe

From The Spirit Editors:

Dear Lovers,

It seems like just yesterday that the last issue of The Spirit came out! Now we find ourselves in a new winter season. Just remember, on those chilly nights, you'll stay warmer if you snuggle up with your spouse.

Our newsletter Email subscription list continues to grow. Please remember to let us know if your Email address changes. Otherwise, we won't know where to send your copy of The Spirit to.

We plan to publish The Spirit in **March, June, September, and December**. Please, please, please submit articles to be included in the newsletter to us by the 1st of each month the newsletter is planned to be published. For those with Email, we'll try to send a reminder Email a few weeks before the deadline. Better yet, why don't you send us something now for the next issue?!

John & Caroline Mockler
13738 Barrington Dr.
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We look forward to hearing from you all soon and hope you enjoy this issues newsletter.

Love and hugs,
John & Caroline

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

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

*Steve & Sue Landwehr
(515) 964-9024

Inviting

Dear Iowa Inviters,

With the season of Advent, the coming of Christmas and a New Year, we often take the opportunity to reflect on our blessings the past year. We had the opportunity to not only do this in our dialogue but also as we attended two wakes and a funeral for three different people on the weekend before Christmas.

The first was for a man who was one hundred years old, and had lived in his own home up to a couple weeks before he died. He had 87 blood descendents. Imagine the changes he saw in this world in 100 years! It was a real celebration of his life. **Family is so important!**

The second was for a twenty year old young man, a classmate of one of our sons. He was suffering from the sadness of losing a younger brother three years ago in a hunting accident and his girlfriend in a car accident this past August, in which he was the driver. While the accident wasn't his fault, he blamed himself. He decided that heaven would be a much more peaceful place. **Hug your children and tell them you love them!**

The third was for a 69 year old woman who had been in the nursing home for over 12 years because of Alzheimer's. Her family was celebrating her life as well, and felt that now their mother would once again be able to see them and know them. **We never know the journey we will have to travel before our final farewell from this earth!**

As you travel through another year, we pray that God will bless each and every one of you with many happy times with family and friends and lots of hugs and "I love you!"

Be sure to invite the couples, priests, and religious that you have contact with this year to make a Marriage Encounter Weekend. Also let us know if your parish priest would be open to having mass talks. We have four pulpit pal display boards that we would like to circulate throughout the Archdiocese. If you would be willing to set them up in your parish or cluster of parishes for two or three weeks, let us know. **The first 2004 weekends are fast approaching! Be the Light, Go Invite!**

Invite now for the upcoming weekends!

Love,
Lyle and Lynn Ries

Inviting Coordinators for the Archdiocese of Dubuque
Phone: 641-364-5201 Email: lyleries@iowatelecom.net

Des Moines Community Corner Cannon Fodder

On the road again.

Joe & Evie Nemec went out east. They got on the boat. Went up the coast. Stopped at interesting, though not-necessarily-tropical, ports of call in New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, along the way. After the cruise, they spent a few days with their youngsters in New York.

Mike & Maxine Murray went to Italy. They saw the Pope twice. Mike was within three feet of the popemobile. When asked if he tried to sell it to somebody, the talented used car salesman replied, "It passed so quickly that I didn't have a chance." Mike could have used the money. He got ample advice to hang his valuables inside the front of his shirt. He, ah, uh, ignored the advice. He figured having his wallet inside the zipped up hind pocket under his coat was good enough. Well, you guessed it--not good enough. At the suitcase tote for the October weekend, someone observed, relative to this incident, that Mike came back "a little short." To which the little guy adeptly replied, "I've been short all my life."

Bill & Pat Smith took the great tour out west, Washington, Oregon and a few other places on the West Coast. Visiting, Pat's brother, if I'm remembering this right, was high on the list.

Bernie Evans has been to Alaska and Angola examining pipes for structural defects. So he and Kristi did a good bit of long-distance dialoging. One of their recent 10/10s "How are we going to pay for all those long distance phone calls and how do I feel telling you this?"

Thin draw at community.

With so many folk on the road, few turned up at October's. Still, E. & Barb Mendoza made a great presentation.

On the prayer list.

Evie Nemec had a hysterectomy Nov. 12. We were both surprised and delighted that she felt recovered enough to attend community night and the reunion for the October weekend Nov. 16.

Remember Evie's sister Agnes who passed away just months ago? Agnes' son has come down with some rare cancer. Evie and Joe ask that we pray for him.

Speaking of the reunion, 12 couples plus father Felix attended. The list includes couples from at least three counties plus Mary and Jerry Russell. Some of us had not seen them for a while.

Bernie & Kristi Evans weren't among the attendees. Turns out Kristi came down with whatever is going around and didn't feel like leaving the house. We prayed that she'd make a speedy recovery.

How rumors get started.

Rose Behrens arrived in Des Moines to be part of the presenting team for the October weekend wearing a vest over a bluish-lavender blouse and sporting a matching shiner on her left eye. Eyebrows raised. How did this happen? Folk looked at Art. Art allowed as how it would look even worse for him if he wasn't there.

"We were working outside at the farm," Rose explained. "It was really dusty and dirty. I got something in my eye and must have rubbed it."

Somebody said, "We can make up a better story than that. How about, 'Rose climbed the brass pole, flipped upside down and began sliding down using only one leg, unfortunately she slipped during that training session to compete in the Miss Nude World pageant.'" The pageant happened to be in Des Moines at the same time as the weekend.

"It was farm dirt," declared Art. "That's our story and we're sticking with it."

Inviting events. The Beavertdale Community hosted both an Inviting Information Event and coffee and rolls after mass in September. This list of those helping to organize and execute the events includes: Mary Beth & Mitch Vedane, Greg & Mary Freshour and Bernie & Kristi Evans.

Retrouvaille Information

Do you know of couples who are having trouble in their marriage? There is hope! A program called Retrouvaille can help. Visit their web site at www.retrouvaille.org for more information.

Iowa Retrouvaille Weekends 2004

Jan. 16-18	Waverly
April 16-18	Dubuque

Contact: Dick and Joyce Smith
Dyersville, IA
Phone: 563-875-8791 or 800-470-2230
Email: smithretro@mwci.net

Welcome !

WORLD WIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER WEEEKEND

October 24 -26, 2003

Ramada Inn - Des Moines, Iowa

TEAM

Fr. Don Bruck
512 W. Thomas St.
Shenandoah, IA 51601
712-246-1718

Bernie & Kristi Evans
9600 NW 70th
Johnston, IA 50131
515-986-4335

Deacon Bill & Pat Smith
4120 Colfax Ave.
Des Moines, IA 50317
515-262-8143

Art & Rose Behrens
25273 Kittyhawk Ave.
Carroll, IA 51401
712-669-3711

PARTICIPANTS

Mike & Ann Espeset
Ames, IA

Pat & Tammy Merrick
Des Moines, IA

Tim & Jill Gilbert
West Des Moines, IA

Dave & Michelle Roth
Truro, IA

Mark & Joy Kellerman
West Des Moines, IA

Eric & Kris Seeman
Boone, IA

Jerry & Julie Logan
Marshalltown, IA

Jim & Theresa Thiesse
Spencer, IA

Jerry & Denise McMenamin
Knoxville, IA

Rob & Michelle Williams
W. Burlington, IA



WORLD MARRIAGE DAY

SECOND SUNDAY IN FEBRUARY

FEBRUARY 8, 2004

Greetings from your World Marriage Day National Team,

On World Marriage Day this year, celebrations of marriage were evident all across the United States and in many countries of the world. We have collected and posted on the WMD website <http://wmd.wwme.org> some descriptions of past World Marriage Day activities and a list of other countries that expressed interest in celebrating the sacrament.

It is now time to begin planning for World Marriage Day 2004. When you take a look at our website, you will note that some celebrations were elaborate and some were very simple. Your community can celebrate the day any way you wish. You may have a tradition of parades, picnics and celebrations at city cathedrals with television news coverage. Or your community may simply send our suggested World Marriage Day liturgy to all your local pastors encouraging individual parish celebrations and have a simple article in the local newspaper. If you've never had a World Marriage Day celebration, please make 2004 your first. Whatever we do brings the goodness of marriage to the center stage for one important day.

On our website, you'll find a package of materials to help make your WMD 2004 special for your community. This package includes:

- o A World Marriage Day overview cover sheet
- o A Job Description for the Local WMD Coordinators
- o Ideas & Suggestions for Making Your WMD the Best Ever
- o Let the Press Help You - ideas on working with the media
- o Involving the Church and Clergy
- o Sample Prayer Services & Liturgies for World Marriage Day
- o Couple Married Longest Contest For Your Local Area
- o Husband & Wife of the Year Contest For Your Local Area
- o World Marriage Day Feedback form
- o Reproducible letterhead and press release masthead

Best wishes for a successful and blessed World Marriage Day. We look forward to receiving your feedback form to hear about your activities and events.

Sincerely with love,

Gary ♥ Marcia Daigle & Fr. Gene Egan
883 Cross Gates Blvd.
Slidell, LA 70461
gemgd@bellsouth.net



Sections 6 & 7 are having a regional convention June 25-27, 2004 in Columbus, Ohio. The theme is "A Gift from His Heart." Visit the convention web site at <http://wwme2004.org/home.html>

A GIFT FROM HIS HEART

WWME 2004 Section 6 & 7 Convention

Columbus, OH June 25-27, 2004

Online registration available at <http://WWME2004.org>

For additional information refer to our website or call 614-868-2698

Contact Information: Couple Priest Religious

Last Name: _____

First Names (His/Hers): _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Date Encountered: _____

Wedding/Ordination Date: _____

Special Needs: _____

A. Convention Fees:

Couple \$125.00 (July - Dec. 2003) \$140.00 (Jan. - April 2004) \$155.00 (after April 2004)

Priest/Religious \$65.00

Total A: \$ _____

B. Accommodations: (Accommodations are separate from the registration fee and must be made on your own.) Convention Hotel Community Housing Camping/Other

C. Childcare: (We are trying to offer childcare at the convention. See the registration form guide for further details.)

Are you interested in receiving more information about childcare at the convention? Yes No

D. T- Shirts: Convention T -Shirts - \$15.00 each - See website for photo. **Buy 1 get 1 free offer good until August 30, 2003.**

1st Shirt: M L XL XXL Color: yellow heather gray

2nd Shirt: M L XL XXL Color: yellow heather gray

Total D: \$ _____

E. Total Payment: (Full payment must accompany this registration form to validate your requests)

Check - Please make check payable to WWME Columbus Convention

Credit Card - VISA Master Card Card #: _____ Exp. Date: _____

Signature: _____ (Signature required for all payment types)

Total A + D: \$ _____

Mail completed information with payment to:

Chuck and Kelly Bernthold

8091 Chutney Road

Blacklick, OH 43004

A GIFT FROM HIS HEART

WWME 2004 Section 6 & 7 Convention

Registration Form Guide

To ensure your registration form is filled out completely, we have provided the following instructions. Please read carefully before filling out the registration form.

Contact Information: Please fill out this form in its entirety and include full payment. This information is critical for proper processing of your registration and delivery of your Registration Convention Packet. There is a Special Needs line on the form. Please let us know of any special needs you may have. We will do our best to support you and help you enjoy your convention experience.

A: Convention Fees: There is a special price right now to encourage early registration. In addition to the discounted registration fee (\$125/couple), a buy one get one FREE t-shirt deal is being offered now through August 30, 2003. You will also be entered in a FREE Jacuzzi suite room give-away at the convention hotel for two nights. The Jacuzzi Suite Raffle will begin in July and end on Valentines Day 2004. If you register in July you will get a discounted registration fee, a FREE t-Shirt (with purchase of one t-shirt) and EIGHT chances in the Jacuzzi raffle. For each month later that you register, you get one less chance in the raffle. So, the sooner you register, the more chances to win!!! Get those Registrations in Today! Additional shirts are available to order off the website.

B: Accommodations: You are responsible for making your own reservations at one of the many area hotels and campgrounds near the convention. Restaurants are located in and around the hotels. We have blocked rooms for the Marriage Encounter Convention weekend at the host hotel. We encourage everyone to use the convention hotel for your accommodations. There are other hotel accommodations and camping sites locally. Again, these arrangements must be made on your own.

Community Housing is also available. Community is what we are all about, so why not look into staying in Community Housing? Loving couples in the surrounding area will be opening their hearts and their homes to you. Community housing is limited. Requests will be processed in order of paid registrations. All requests must be received by June 1st, 2003 for proper consideration. Make sure to include your particulars on the registration form. We will do our best to meet your needs. Someone from our Housing Committee will contact you.

C: Childcare: We are making every attempt to offer childcare for our ME couples this year. Childcare will be provided at a cost and the children must be registered in advance. If you would like more information, please mark the form and someone from our Childcare Committee will contact you.

D: T-Shirts: If we receive your registration post marked before September 1, 2003, you can buy 1 t-shirt and get the other one free. Additional shirts are available for \$15.00 from our on-line Gift Shop. Shirts will be shipped directly to the address indicated on the Registration form. Orders received after June 1, 2004 will be held for pick-up at the Convention Center. Additional memorabilia will be available for purchase at the convention and on our on-line Gift Shop.

E: Total Payment: We accept both Check and Credit Card as forms of payment. (Visa and MasterCard are the only credit cards we accept.) Before sending your payment with your registration, please carefully review the form and make sure everything is completed properly. Double-check your Visa/MasterCard account number and expiration date. Finally, please make sure to sign your registration form regardless of payment type. The Delivery Address is shown at the bottom of the registration form. Please double-check this address and include your name and address on the outside of your envelope.

***** 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 !! 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, December).

Contact us at JVMCRM@mchsi.com to change to a free Email subscription.

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

You have _____ issues left in your subscription via U.S. Postal mail.

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	John & Caroline Mockler 13738 Barrington Dr. Dubuque, IA 52003-9637 jvmcrm@mchsi.com