



# The Spirit

... Is Moving in Iowa

Issue 134

June 2004

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

1. When was the last time I really made you laugh? HDIF recalling this?
2. What do I remember most about our Wedding Day? WAMF?
3. What is my most vivid memory of our honeymoon? WAMF?
4. What will we be doing when we are 80? HDIFSTWY?
5. What goodness do I see in you today? HDIFSTWY?
6. If we could go anywhere for a romantic weekend, I'd take you to.... ? DFILD.
7. HDIFA our vacations?
8. What do I miss most when we are on vacation? HDIFAT?
9. Where do we go to be lifted up as a couple/as a priest? WAMF?
10. HDIF when we don't dialogue frequently?

HDIF: How Do I Feel?

WAMF: What Are My Feelings?

HDIFSTWY: How Do I Feel Sharing This With You?

DFILD: Describe Feelings In Loving Detail.

HDIFAT: How Do I Feel About That?



Dubuque/Davenport Area Marriage Encounter Ministries  
2004

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**Iowa WWME Weekends 2004**

Oct. 8-10	* Des Moines
Oct. 29-31	Cedar Rapids

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# From the Executive Team:

Dear Lovers,

As we write this, we are getting ready for the Dubuque weekend. The next step is to invite and pray for the Cedar Rapids weekend. We judged it was necessary to change the date of the fall weekend to October 29<sup>th</sup>-31<sup>st</sup>. This was needed to avoid the conflict of the state volleyball tournament and Iowa home football games. Although, this is Halloween weekend, what better “treat” to give than the weekend? Now the “trick” is to get this weekend to go because we have not had a Cedar Rapids weekend in the past two years. We know in today’s world there are people out there whose lives would be changed if they were to experience a weekend. It is up to all of us to invite couples, priests, and religious to give them the gift of the weekend to strengthen their relationship and renew our church.

Our trips to Chicago for Section 7 meetings have been productive and empowering. We have shared ideas, joys, sorrows, and have been uplifted by each other. The friendships we have made will last a lifetime. There are many exciting things happening in Iowa, Illinois, NW Indiana, Wisconsin, and Missouri. At our last meeting it was shared that the three national priorities this year are INVITE, INVITE, INVITE.

The upcoming summer months will be very busy. Father Joe has several weddings and he plans to ride in RAGBRAI in July. Many of us will be vacationing with their families and friends. Wherever we go we are visible signs of God’s love and how we can change the world with that love.

World Priest Day this year is September 19<sup>th</sup>. Any ideas you have for celebrating this day are welcome and we would love to hear about them. Let’s show our priests how much they mean to us.

As we enter our second year of leadership we are striving to accomplish the goals we set for ourselves when we were commissioned last March. We are truly blessed to be part of our Iowa Marriage Encounter family. We ask for your prayers and support in the upcoming year. We are thankful the gifts that everyone has and the way they have been shared.

Love,  
Craig & Lori Diggins & Father Joe Schneider  
Dubuque Exec Team

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

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

# From the Executive Team:

Dear Iowa Lovers,

We just returned from the Section 7 meeting in Chicago and are all fired up (as usual after the section meetings!). We heard lots of good news about full weekends all over our section, which includes Iowa, Illinois, and parts of Missouri, Wisconsin and Indiana. We also picked up many good ideas about how to make WWME more visible all the time in addition to our regular advertising in bulletins and mass talks. Some of those ideas are to put ME stickers or logos on your car, house, barn, clothes, bottom of your shoes before mass, van spare tire covers, bumper stickers, on your bald head, etc. Get permission and place brochures in the information racks in every parish, at the library and at motels and hotels. Wear your ME t-shirts or sweatshirts to non-ME functions at church, school, grocery shopping, bowling, etc. You get the idea...

We are excited to announce that we have two new communities meeting in the Des Moines area. John and Deb Seeman went home from their weekend in April, 2003 and wanted to find a community. There wasn't one close by so they decided to start a community in Panora. So far they have 3 or 4 local couples. If you are planning on being in the Panora area give them a call to see when the next community meeting is. John and Deb have also taken over the responsibilities of Registration Couple for the Des Moines Area from Steve & Sue Landwehr. (Kudos to Landwehrs for a job well done!) Not only all that, they babysat for John's brother Eric and wife, Kris, so that they could make the October, 2003 weekend. Eric and Kris had such a great weekend they also wanted to find a community and ended up starting one in Boone. They discovered a small community in the Boone area that had been meeting for several years and a couple of weeks ago they had their first combined event in the form of a cookout at the Seemans with 7 couples in attendance. We need to get more couples encountered in those areas so the communities can grow.

We would ask for all the prayers available for Deacon Bill and Pat Smith. Bill had his third heart surgery just before Christmas and hasn't bounced back quite as fast this time around. We also could use prayers and encouragement for two of our couples who are adopting children. The husband of one of our Des Moines area encountered couples was in a serious car accident this spring. Please pray for his continued recovery - lots of broken parts.

The March 26-28th weekend was a success! A listing of the team and newly encountered couples appears elsewhere in this issue of the Spirit. We have another weekend scheduled for October so start inviting now, please and thanks! It takes a lot of two-on-two inviting to find the couples God is calling to make the weekends. Thanks for your help and support! With His love and guidance, we can change the world :)

We are also very interested in the possibility of having some 'parish' weekends in the Des Moines area. If you have any experience putting on a 'parish' weekend OR you would like to have a 'parish' weekend for your parish please contact us.

Love and hugs,  
Bernie & Kristi & Fada Felix  
Des Moines Exec Team

# Inviting

Dear Iowa Inviters,

May has certainly been a busy month for us. We had three of our children graduate, one from Iowa, one from UNI, and one from high school. Each had a celebration where they extended invitations to family and friends to join them in their special day.

Besides graduations, we are sure many of you have been extended invitations to First Communions, Confirmations, Anniversaries, Weddings, Ordinations, Birthday Parties, Mother's Day gatherings, School Programs, Recitals, and Memorial Day celebrations, all during the last couple of months. Someone wanted you there to help celebrate their special day!

Every time we attend a mass or service, we are invited to listen to and proclaim the word of God. God wants us to invite others to hear his message and know His love.

As you all know, a Worldwide Marriage Encounter weekend is definitely a celebration of the Sacrament of Marriage. When we greet a couple at the end of a weekend, it is great to see them celebrating their love and sacrament.

Surely you remember how you were invited to make a Marriage Encounter weekend. It may have been a personal invitation, a mass talk, a bulletin announcement, or a romantic supper. Have you extended an invitation to anyone lately to join this celebration? We have a fall weekend in Cedar Rapids, October 29<sup>th</sup> -31<sup>st</sup> (note this is a change in date). We all need to invite for this weekend and for the weekends coming up in 2005. Ask that special couple again to make a weekend. Maybe this will be the right time for them to say, "Yes!"



Be the light!

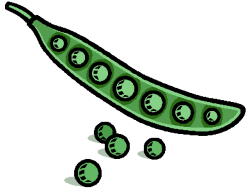
Go Invite!

Love,  
Lyle and Lynn Ries  
Inviting Coordinators Dubuque/Davenport

P.S. Please check you parish's brochure stand to see if there are ME brochures in it. If you need some please email us at [lyleries@iowatelecom.net](mailto:lyleries@iowatelecom.net) and we will send some out to you.

If you have any date cards or brochures with date cards, please change the 2004 Cedar Rapids date to read: Oct. 29<sup>th</sup> - 31<sup>st</sup>.

## FOR THE GARDEN OF YOUR DAILY LIVING



### PLANT THREE ROWS OF PEAS:

1. Peace of mind
2. Peace of heart
3. Peace of soul

### PLANT FOUR ROWS OF SQUASH:

1. Squash gossip
2. Squash indifference
3. Squash grumbling
4. Squash selfishness

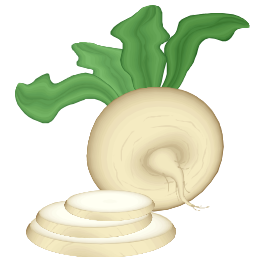


### PLANT FOUR ROWS OF LETTUCE:

1. Lettuce be faithful
2. Lettuce be kind
3. Lettuce be patient
4. Lettuce really love one another

### NO GARDEN IS WITHOUT TURNIPS:

1. Turnip for meetings
2. **Turnip for service**
3. Turnip to help one another



### TO CONCLUDE OUR GARDEN WE MUST HAVE

1. Thyme for each other
2. **Thyme for family**
3. Thyme for friends

WATER FREELY WITH PATIENCE AND CULTIVATE WITH LOVE. THERE IS MUCH FRUIT IN YOUR GARDEN BECAUSE YOU REAP WHAT YOU SOW.

Submitted by: Lyle and Lynn Ries

## 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](http://www.retrouvaille.org) for more information.

### Iowa Retrouvaille Weekends 2004

September 17-19	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)

# Community

## Community update from your Coordinators for Northeast Iowa:

God's blessings are evident in our midst. Not only did we have a successful, spirit filled weekend in Waverly in March which has brought several couples into community, but the Dubuque weekend has just contributed more couples to our All Iowa Marriage Encounter Family. We celebrate this blessing with you all. We know you recruited, prayed, worked and prayer coupled to make this happen.

Celebrate with us another blessing, please. On May 22, three wonderful couples from the Decorah area invited us to be present as they reestablished an ME community at St. Benedict's in Decorah. We ask you to pray for this little fledgling community. Two of those couples were present at their rookie reunion after the Waverly weekend and proposed the new community at that time. We encouraged them and have seen the fruit of their labor.

The Decorah couples proposed a novel idea which some of us might use. They announced the meeting time and place in the parish bulletin, letting old and new couples know that Marriage Encounter was present in their parish. Have any of you thought of letting your parish know where and when you meet? Consider it.

In the Waterloo community, now called the Cedar Valley ME community, we have news on this same theme. We have built and manned a float for three years now in the *My Waterloo Days* parade. We all believed that such presence in the greater community was good for the movement and we believed it to be a recruiting tool, but we did not foresee what happened on June 4, 2004. The same night of the parade, one of our community members got an e-mail from a couple who had moved to the area about a year ago. They were so excited to see that a community existed in our area that they made the effort to contact the community themselves and ask for info. We were pleased to tell them that our community is open and welcoming and glad to receive such enthusiastic dreamers. Our God is an awesome God! What lengths He will go to as He answers our prayer for more members in community. He builds us up as we build Him up.

What are you doing in your community to let couples know you are present and active as a marriage encounter community? Consider a bulletin announcement with community time and place or an ME float for your local parade, or a booth at your parish ministry fair. Whatever you do, know that God will bless your efforts with success. He searches the world looking for those who will carry out His Will.

Here's a question for your dialogue? How do I feel when God shows Himself to me/us in a wonderful or abundant blessing? Describe in loving detail.

Have a great summer! Ken and Mickey Collison

# **Des Moines Community Corner Cannon Fodder**

## **On the road again**

Mike & Maxine Murray took a cruise to the Bahamas.

Bill & Pat Smith went to Alliance, Nebr. to help with installation of new Nebraska executive team.

While Bernie Evans were in Angola inspecting pipes, Kristi and the boys went skiing over spring break in Colorado, then onto a wedding. It's just as well that Bernie didn't go. He'd likely mess up his trick knee again.

Jessie Grajczyk was in Minnesota as part of her rotation for medical training. That's why she and Ronnie didn't turn up for March's community night. Matter of fact, none of the folk mentioned above turned up for community night because they weren't around.

Barb and E. Mendoza presented on a Lenten Evening -- Welcome to an Exquisite Evening and Spiritual Feast. They done good.

We were a little short on help for the March weekend. Mike Murray, like in Mike and Gayle Murray rather than Mike and Maxine Murray, were in Bristol, Tenn., for a NASCAR race. Bernie & Kristi were still gone. Bill Smith is getting better, but not up to speed. Dave & Mary Dietrich were out of town. So we needed to look up a sub for the supply couple.

Most of the people who were at March's community night weren't there in April. Mike and Gayle Murray were in Minnesota for their goddaughter's first communion. Joe & Evie Nemeč were in Spearfish, S.Dak., also for a first communion.

Four newly encountered couples turned up for the reunion for the April Des Moines weekend at Bernie & Kristi Evans' house April 17. Terry & Jean Smith and a handful of community couples attended as well.

## **On the prayer list.**

Joe Nemeč has been diagnosed with prostate cancer. After consulting with doctors, they have chosen to delay treatment until after he and Evie return from a trip to Alaska in July. Joe & Evie Nemeč are going to South Dakota for two weddings, one the last weekend in May and the next the first weekend in June.

Maria Otte's angiogram showed no blockages. We're still hoping that adjusting her medicines will get rid of her hacking cough and pep her up some.

Becky Smith, daughter of Bill & Pat, has been in the hospital--fluid retention and other things.

Steve Simon, brother-in-law of Evie Nemeč, had his leg removed due to diabetes. He subsequently passed away.

Steve Orazem was in a severe car accident in mid-March in Marshalltown.

An aunt of Bill Smith passed away. She lived in Omaha.

We understand Jerry Russell's sister is in the hospital.

### **Come to the picnic.**

Current plan is to gather at Nemeč's house, 1080 45th St. in Des Moines, July 18. Plan is to eat 1 or 1:30 ish. Nemečs live a bit north of Roosevelt High School. But we don't know if they'll have the 42nd St. bridge over the freeway fixed, so come on University Ave. or call Nemečs at 515 279-9686 for the best way to get there.

### **Deacon being ordained.**

Matthew Luft, son of Dennis & Sarah Luft is very excited to be taking his solemn vows and deaconate ordination July 11. If you'd care to send him a few words of congratulations and encouragement you can do so at Matthew Luft, OSB, Saint John's Abbey, 31802 Country Rd. 159, Collegeville, MN 56321-2015, mluft@csbsju.edu, (320) 363-3987.

We understand, but do not have the particulars, that Dennis and Sarah traveled to Hawaii to watch another one of their sons be commissioned a second lieutenant in the army.

Speaking of Hawaii, Mike and Maxine Murray are traveling there in July to listen to daughter, Debbie, present her doctoral paper.

Speaking of Mike and Maxine Murray, their youngsters organized a surprise 50th wedding anniversary party for them May 15. Lots of friends turned out. Among the Marriage Encounter friends were Anne McNally and Donna Schreier who both lost their long time husbands in recent years.

Speaking of Donna Schreier, she reports that their daughter will marry this fall.

# Welcome !

## WORLD WIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER WEEEKEND

Dubuque Weekend

June 4-6, 2004

### TEAM

Msgr. Francis Friedl  
Dubuque, IA

Mark & Rosann Sandersfeld  
Solon, IA

Craig & Lori Diggins  
Marshalltown, IA

Dennis & Deb Jones  
Waverly, IA

### PARTICIPANTS

Barry & Charlotte Davis  
Macomb, IL

Brian & Angella Link  
Dubuque, IA

John & Michelle Dawley  
Marshalltown, IA

Joe & Carrie Mauss  
Peosta, IA

Rich & Karen Glover  
Dubuque, IA

Dewey & Jane Meyer  
Dubuque, IA

Todd & Jill Kramer  
Spencer, IA

Steve & Sue Olson  
Dubuque, IA

### **ATTENTION SECTION 6 & 7 CONVENTION GOERS**

For all of you who went to the Section 6 & 7 Convention June 25-27 in Columbus, OH ... please be sure to send us a digital photo or two (or scan in your favorite photo) for the next Spirit Newsletter !!

Also, if you have some reflections on the power of the convention, please be sure to send those articles in too!!

# Welcome !

## WORLD WIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER WEEEKEND

Des Moines Weekend

March 26-28, 2004

### TEAM

Fr. Don Bruck  
Shenandoah, IA

Bob & Sara Hrdlicka  
Charles City, IA

Steve & Lisa Wozniak  
Rockwell City, IA

Jim & Melissa Hindt  
Perry, IA

### PARTICIPANTS

Mike & Lisa Boyles  
Urbandale, IA

Brad & Claire Reiman  
West Des Moines, IA

Jim & Mary Cooper  
Des Moines, IA

Chad & Erin Schmitz  
Granger, IA

Tim & Sandy Even  
Waterloo, IA

Eric & Ammy Webster  
Panora, IA

Tim & Mary James  
Des Moines, IA

Mike Wettengel & Angie Youngblut  
Hudson, IA

Mike & JoAnn Loughran  
Johnson, IA

Cory & Sandra Witty  
Clive, IA

Chris & Connie Olson  
Mt. Vernon, IA

### **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.

**\*\*\* IMPORTANT SPIRIT RENEWAL INFORMATION \*\*\***

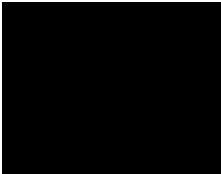
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