

The Dialogue



Quarterly Newsletter of the Worldwide Marriage Encounter Community of the Austin Diocese

May 2003

WORLDWIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER CONVENTION

by Raul and Dora Gonzalez

Dear Lovers:

We are Raul and Dora Gonzalez. We made our weekend in June 1973. The weekend put the spark back in our relationship and we've been at it ever since. We attended our first National Marriage Encounter convention the same year we encountered and we got hooked! It was a WOW experience for us and we've attended most of the National conventions ever since. This year's convention is being held July 25-27, 2003 at Northern Illinois University, DeKalb, Illinois. We encourage you to attend.

On the weekend, we learned that there are five tools to keep our relationship a priority: constant attention to our communication (which includes daily dialogue), attention to our sexual relationship, prayer, journeying with others and reevaluation. To this we would add: attending a Marriage Encounter convention every year! It's like attending another Marriage Encounter weekend and the flames of the weekend are rekindled. The convention usually covers one or more aspects of these five tools. It's a great way to reaffirm your weekend experience. We are going to share with you some of our most precious memories from these conventions.

At the airport we've been so excited to see so many couples and priests with smiling faces and laughter wearing Marriage Encounter garb. On the way to the convention site, our excitement has grown as we see so many couples and priests in cars, vans, buses, and motor homes headed for the convention, with Marriage Encounter decals on their back windows or M.E. bumper stickers. People would honk their horns and give the international love sign

as they passed us on the highway. The positive energy was palpable at the registration area as people would spot friends and acquaintances, or hook up with their host couple, couples and priests from all over the United States (and every other year, couples and priests from other countries), young and old, rich or middle class, from different ethnic backgrounds, all united by having shared a common experience, the M.E. weekend. So much love, laughter and holiness in one place. Awesome!

We have stayed with encountered couples, and without fail, it is an instant relationship. It blows us away! Complete strangers who are willing to open up their homes and hearts to us. It's been wonderful to experience the warm hospitality from couples like us, who face the pull of everyday challenges. Throughout the years, we've also stayed in dorms of the host university. Lodging at nearby hotels is another option. Our experiences have all been unique and special.

The convention usually starts on Friday night with everyone participating in an opening ceremony with lively music and a presentation that sets the stage for the weekend. Saturday usually starts with a general session, all united in song and spirit and then off to the different break-out sessions. On Sunday, another general session capped off with a celebration of Mass unlike anything you've ever experienced! Fifty to one hundred priests, and a handful of bishops. WOW! is the only way to describe it. You will definitely feel God's presence in the room.

We hope to see you at the convention!



"...attending a Marriage Encounter convention every year! It's like attending another Marriage Encounter weekend and the flames of the weekend are rekindled."

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You're Invited to a
Marriage Encounter Community Event:

Mass, Dinner and Dance

St. John Neumann Catholic Church

5455 Bee Cave Rd.

(Bee Cave Rd. and Redbud Trail Intersection)

Austin, Texas

Hosted by ME Team of the Austin Diocese
 and Westlake ME Circle

June 7th

5:30pm—Mass

6:30pm—Dinner & Dance, Morris Social Hall

No charge but donations for dinner costs are welcome!

RSVP: Jose and Marilyn Garcia (342-9727 or jegarcia@austin.rr.com)



UPCOMING MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER EVENTS

May 2003

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

June 6-8: ME Section X Board Meeting, hosted by ME of the Austin Diocese, St. John Neumann Catholic Church

June 7: Marriage Encounter Community, Austin Diocese Event—all invited
 Mass—5:30pm
 Dinner and Dance-6:30pm
 St. John Neumann Catholic Church, 5455 Bee Cave Rd.

June 13-15: ME Weekend
 Cedarbrake Retreat Center
 Belton, Texas

July 13: ME Community Family Picnic, all invited
 San Marcos, Texas
 info: Mike Furtado at mfurtado@grandecom.net

July 25-27: WWME National Convention
 DeKalb, Illinois
 For more information:
<http://convention.wwme.org/misc.php>



August 8-10: ME Weekend
 Cedarbrake Retreat Center
 Belton, Texas

October 3-5: ME Weekend
 Cedarbrake Retreat Center
 Belton, Texas

November 14-16: ME Weekend
 Cedarbrake Retreat Center
 Belton, Texas

June 2003

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

July 2003

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		



...And the two of them become one body.

-Genesis 2:24

SPOTLIGHT ON THE COMMUNITY

Daniel and Edwina Deiterman (West ME Circle)

Marriage Encounter at Work

Edwina: Not too very long ago, we had the opportunity to invite another couple to attend a Marriage Encounter Weekend. The weekend was being held at Cedarbrake in Belton. Now in our opinion, a Marriage Encounter weekend at Cedarbrake has to be about the best place in the world for a ME Weekend. Well, the first response we received from that couple was "I don't think so. Anyway, there's nothing wrong with our marriage." We're sure, as ME couples, you have frequently heard responses such as this. Perhaps it's just the mystery of the unknown that makes couples say no so quickly. At least that's what seems to happen around our small hometown community in West. Many of the couples are still in the mind set of "there's nothing wrong with our marriage...why change something that's working okay?"

Daniel: We felt the same way, that is until several years ago when we started noticing a couple from our Church. Now, we have known this couple for years, but all of a sudden they began acting and looking different. We talked about it. We even discussed it with a few of our friends, but none of us could ever pinpoint what had happened. We were still wondering what was happening until one Sunday at Church our priest, Father Ed, got up and began to introduce a couple who was going to talk about Marriage Encounter. Before Father Ed could introduce them, it was clear it was going to be Eddie and Charlotte Klaus. That was their secret. That was why they had changed. As they stood in Church that morning and talked about Marriage Encounter and how it had changed their lives, the Holy Spirit moved to encourage us to go on a weekend as well.

Edwina: I was at Mass without Daniel that morning when Eddie and Charlotte spoke. I went home and talked to Daniel, telling him

what had happened in Church that morning and that I wanted to go on a weekend. I wanted that specialness that Eddie and Charlotte had. Now, just for the record, Daniel and I have a great marriage. We didn't have any problems but after seeing the change in Eddie and Charlotte, I was bound and determined to find out what had changed them. So after a little persuading (and a weak moment), Daniel agreed to go on a weekend. I was totally blown away. We were signed up.

Daniel: We made our Weekend in November of 1997. Arriving at Cedarbrake, we certainly didn't know what to expect. And, when we walked into our room, my first response was "Let's go home, nobody knows we're here yet." But, we stayed and words will never be able to express what a wonderful and meaningful weekend we had. We knew that our lives had changed forever. We believe so strongly in the Weekend, we volunteered to assist with cooking for other Weekends.

Edwina: I'm the talkative one in our relationship. Daniel is quiet and reserved. But we certainly don't have a problem inviting other couples to go on a Weekend. In fact, not too long ago, we were gently persuaded by the Klauses to do pulpit talks, something Daniel said he would absolutely not do. Guess what, we did it and he was great.

Daniel: We hope and pray that other couples will say "Yes" when they are approached. We know for a fact that it will be one of the best "Yes" responses that they will ever do for their marriage.

Consider being a prayer couple during a Marriage Encounter Weekend for one of the attending couples. If you are interested, please contact Mark and Nell Reinberg (markr@iolbv.com).



"As they stood in Church that morning and talked about Marriage Encounter and how it had changed their lives, the Holy Spirit moved to encourage us to go on a weekend as well."

Marriage Encounter Dialogue Calendar for 2003

Are you looking for a convenient source of great questions for your daily dialogue? Check out the Marriage Encounter Calendar for 2003.

Every Friday there is a scripture-based question, and on Sundays there is an opportunity to expand your dialogue to include your entire family.

The price for calendars is \$10.00 and they can be purchased from Wayne and Sam Miller (gwmiller4445@earthlink.net).



St. John Neumann Catholic Church
5455 Bee Cave Rd.
Austin, Texas 78746

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Newsletter contacts at
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Phone: 512-328-3220 x109
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Email: holson@sjnaustin.org

As always, we need your help to invite couples to experience a Worldwide Marriage Encounter. We are confident that the brilliance of your love for each other as husband and wife, and the gift of daily dialogue to keep that relationship strong, will be the light that attracts other couples to want what you have and to attend a Marriage Encounter in whatever format their schedule allows. If you need additional information please contact Jose and Marilyn Garcia at (512) 342-9727, or visit our local WWME website, www.austinme.org.

Austin Diocese Marriage Encounter Circle Information:

Austin Central: Matt Kerwick and Lynne Kammer

3911 Walnut Clay Dr., Austin 78731 ph: 512-453-4967
email: lynne@visionaryresearch.com
Meets various times.

Austin South: Raul and Dora Gonzalez

10511 River Plantation Dr., Austin, TX 78747 ph: 512-280-1002
email: rpiegonzo1@aol.com
Meets various times.

Austin Westlake Hills: Barry and Kathleen Meyer

11800 Lake Stone Drive, Austin, TX 78738 ph: 512-402-0740
email: barry@meyerbox.com, Kathleen@meyerbox.com
Second Friday every month, 7:00pm.

Caldwell: Nathan and Mary Ausley

5760 CR 324, Caldwell, TX 77836 ph: 979-535-4867
email: nmausley@tconline.net
Meets various times.

College Station: Randy and Irene Light

2100 Bent Oak, College Station 77845 ph: 979-693-1931
email: rlight@tca.net
Meets bi-monthly on Monday night.

LaGrange: Louis and Mary Frerich

1002 Nink Road, Smithville, TX 78957 ph: 512-369-5127
email contact: Dave & Dorinda Hickey, ddhickey@prodigy.net
Meets various times.

Pflugerville: Michael and Laura Cowan

17909 Dansworth Drive, Pflugerville, TX 78660 ph: 512-251-6797
email: lauraanncowan@hotmail.com
Meets various times.

Round Rock: Marcos and Marie Palacios

1109 North Riviera Circle, Cedar Park, TX 78613 ph: 512-918-1931
email: marcospalacios@yahoo.com, mariepalacios@yahoo.com
Second Friday every month, 7:30pm.

San Marcos: Michael and Renee Furtado

PO box 1733, San Marcos, TX 78667 ph: 512-396-3620
email: mfurtado@grandecom.net
Meets various times.

Temple/Killeen: Jim and Miriam Ortiz

710 Livingston Ct., Temple, TX 76502 ph: 254-780-3116
email: Anjell7107@aol.com
Meets various times.

Waco: Jim and Anna Fitzpatrick

3812 Austin Avenue, Waco, TX 76710-7344 ph: 254-753-2745
email: jafitzp@msn.com
Meets various times.

West: Eddie and Charlotte Klaus

2575 Brickyard Rd., West, TX 76591 ph: 254-826-5604
email: eddieklaus@aol.com
Meets various times.