

The Dialogue



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

August 2004

FIRST NON-RESIDENTIAL WEEKENDS HELD IN AUSTIN DIOCESE

Weekends close to home are convenient and infuse local ME Circles

by Jon and Hilary Olson

This summer Austin ME broke new ground by hosting three non-residential weekends at St. John Neumann Parish in Austin (June 25-27), St. Joseph High School in Bryan (July 9-11), and Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish in Austin (July 9-11). The non-residential format is exactly the same as the one used on residential weekends at Cedarbrake, except that each couple returns to their home for the evenings. Parish-based non-residential weekends also help infuse local ME Circles with new members in the local area. As a result of the Spanish-speaking weekend given at Our Lady of Guadalupe, a *new* circle is in formation this month.

The response from the 67 couples who attended one of these non-residential weekends was very positive. For some couples, it is the fact that they are a little closer to home with children who are old enough to take care of themselves, but still need parents within earshot (driving distance) 'just in case.' For others, sleeping in their own bed at night is a luxury they enjoyed having incorporated into the weekend format. And still for others, the simple fact of having the weekend presented in their mother tongue of Spanish was crucial to their intimate communication as husband and wife. The Diocese of Central Texas is very blessed to have pastors who are willing to donate the use of their facilities, a very proactive ME Leadership Team, and both priests and couples who come from outside of Austin to help present these non-residential weekends.



Joe and Ann Kupper, along with Toshi Torres, applaud Fr. Len Stegman, who was part of the team giving the St. John Neumann Weekend.



ME Weekend team & support members belt out the *Outrageous, Efficacious, Sacramental Blues* while attendees set the stage with bubbles at St. John Neumann.



Serving was a 'family affair' at the St. John Neumann weekend.



Karen and Mike Royer soaking up the marital bliss.



Gregg and DeeAnn Paul (below) relax between sessions.



Joe Geisinger and Jim Nickelatti prepare smoked pork loin for the Sunday lunch at St. John Neumann.

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Right: The Encuentro Matrimonial Mundial Team for the Spanish-speaking weekend held July 9-11 in Austin was made up of (from left to right) Jose & Marcela Muniz from Dallas, Pedro & Hilda Aleman from San Antonio, Fr. Abraham Latorre from San Antonio and Dora and Raul Gonzalez from the Austin ME Leadership Team.

Below: Fr. Larry LeVasseur, C.S.C. (right) from San Antonio participated as team at the Aggie Weekend, July 9-11, with three couples from the Austin ME Leadership Team. From left to right they are Mike and Renee Furtado, Mark and Nell Reinberg and Mary and Charlie Copeland.



Right: Couples who attended the Encuentro Matrimonial Mundial weekend put on by Seccion 15 for the Spanish-speaking community in the Austin Diocese pose at Our Lady of Guadalupe Church during the weekend.

UPCOMING MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER EVENTS

August 6-8: ME Weekend, Cedarbrake Retreat Center, Belton, TX

September 24-26: ME Weekend, Cedarbrake Retreat Center, Belton, TX

November 5-7: ME Weekend, Cedarbrake Retreat Center, Belton, TX



October 29-31: Spanish-speaking weekend, location TBA

December 3-5: ME Weekend, Hotel (TBA), Austin, TX

August 2004

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				

September 2004

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		

October 2004

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

A Family of Believers

Section 10 Convention 2004

worldwide marriage encounter

Dallas, Texas

June 18-19, 2004

Photographic Report



Miriam Ortiz and Jeffrey & Jon Olson work on the Central Texas ME banner.



Jim and Miriam Ortiz hold up the finished product.



Bob and Joy Hernandez spoke on their dream for Marriage Encounter. They encouraged everyone to Invite! Invite! Invite!



Attendees from Austin strike a pose with the new banner in the gym at the University of Dallas during the Section 10 Convention. Almost 1/3 of the attendees to the convention were children. Family dialogue was a focus on Friday evening and numerous events were coordinated for kids onsite by the YMCA while couples attended sessions on Saturday.

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5455 Bee Cave Rd.
Austin, Texas 78746

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Community of the Austin Diocese



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Mission Statement: 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.

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