

The Dialogue



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

February 2004

REVIVING MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER IN SPANISH

by Jon and Hilary Olson

Spanish-speaking couples are a significant and growing segment of the Catholic church in the Austin Diocese. The 2000 census shows that 32% of Texas residents can be classified as Hispanic or Latino. Unfortunately, it has been several years since a Marriage Encounter Weekend was presented in Spanish in Central Texas. With the aid of Austin's English-speaking ME community, there is a Spanish weekend scheduled for July 9-11 in East Austin. It is hoped that this weekend will be the beginning of a revival of the Spanish-speaking WWME community in Austin.

In the US Secretariat for Worldwide Marriage Encounter, there are 13 English sections, 5 Spanish sections, and one Korean section. Geographically, the different language sections overlap. Here in Texas, Section 10 is the English Section and Section 15 the



Spanish Section. Section 10 leadership, represented by Jose and Marilyn Garcia of Austin, have stated a goal of working closer together with Section 15 to renew the church by providing the ME Weekend experience to all couples and priests in our geographic area, whether they are Spanish or English speakers. The goal for the Spanish WWME community is to support a vibrant circle community and to have local Spanish-speaking presenting teams. The Garcias are working together with the Austin

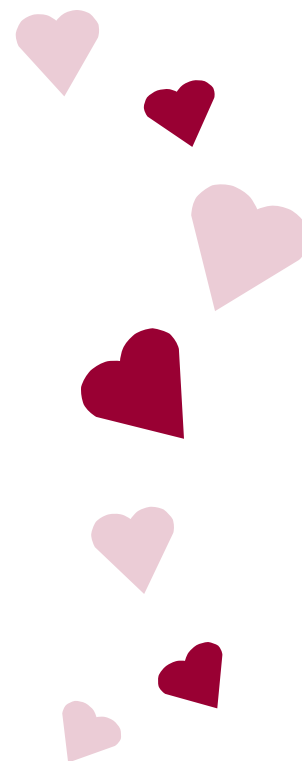
Diocese English-speaking leadership, Raul and Dora Gonzalez, to aid the Spanish-speaking community in WWME to grow. Raul and Dora have a special interest in revitalizing Spanish-speaking weekends. They have been involved in the Spanish-speaking community in the past, and will participate this coming July as one of the presenting couples. The other teams for the Austin Spanish weekend will come from Dallas and San Antonio.

None of this would be possible, however, without the love and support of the Section 15 leaders, Jose and Marcela Muñiz of Dallas, and they have agreed to partnering to meet the common goal of both sections.

To make the July Spanish weekend a

We praise Raul and Dora and the Austin ME Community's efforts to reach Spanish language couples and priests in the Austin Diocese and to organize presenting a weekend here with the help of Section 15.

-Jose and Marilyn Garcia



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success, the word must get out. Raul and Dora are putting out a plea for bilingual couples who can help with pulpit talks. If you are an encountered couple and can speak Spanish, give them a call at 512-280-1002. Also, if you have contacts with priests who are assigned to predominantly Spanish parishes, encourage them to publicize the WWME experience in their parish. Finally, a successful Marriage Encounter weekend requires support behind the scenes: supplies, cooking, prayer couples, etc. If you would like to help make this July Spanish weekend a success, contact Raul and Dora at the number above. ♥

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 (979-693-4808 or markr@iolbv.com).



Here's an idea for dialoguing submitted by Wayne and Sam Miller. Take Saint Paul's description of love (1 Cor. 13:4-7) and write your own definitions of what love *is* and *is not*. What are your feelings about what you wrote? DILD

Love is patient, love is kind. It is not jealous, (love) is not pompous, it is not inflated, it is not rude, it does not seek its own interests, it is not quick-tempered, it does not brood over injury, it does not rejoice over wrongdoing but rejoices with the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.
-1 Cor. 13:4-7

Marriage Encounter Dialogue Calendar

Are you looking for a convenient source of great questions for your daily dialogue? Check out the Marriage Encounter Calendar. Every Sunday there is a scripture-based question, and there are opportunities to expand your dialogue to include your entire family. Calendars are \$10.00 and are available from Charlie and Mary Copeland. Information: 512-388-4616 or copelands@pressroom.com.

UPCOMING MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER EVENTS

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

May/June (TBA): Aggie Weekend in Bryan/College Station (TBA)

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

February 8: World Marriage Day

June 25-27: ME Non-residential Weekend at St. John Neumann Catholic Church in Austin

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

March 26-28: ME Weekend Cedarbrake Retreat Center Belton, TX

July 9-11: Spanish Speaking weekend in Austin (TBA)

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

May 14-16: ME Weekend Cedarbrake Retreat Center Belton, TX

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



February 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						

March 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			

April 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	



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

-Genesis 2:24

SPOTLIGHT ON THE COMMUNITY

Jim and Miriam Ortiz (Temple/Killeen ME Circle)

Servant Leadership Through Marriage Encounter

Marriage Encounter is a wonderful opportunity to serve others. Matthew 20:25-28 says, "The son of man did not come to be served, but to serve and give His life as a ransom for many." Servant Leadership means living your life to help others and love unconditionally. Servant leadership is about serving and not being self-serving. What better role model for serving than Christ? In Jesus we have the greatest role model a person could ever want for leading others. Why was Jesus such a good role model? First of all, Jesus was a good teacher and developer of people. He wanted his disciples to be strong in faith and strong in spreading the gospel. He wanted them to be "fishers of men" and not just fishermen.

As we bring new couples into the ME experience, we should follow Jesus' way and work hard to teach and develop couples to serve our ministry. Jesus was also a good role model because he wanted what's best for others, not unlike those of us in ME wanting all couples to have the very best sacraments/marriages possible.

How many kings throughout all of history died for their people? Most of them sent others out to die for them. Jesus was truly a servant leader and we should strive to lead like Jesus as we carry out our ministry in ME.

Leadership is an influence process. We are all leaders, whether it be leading at home, leading in the community, or leading at work. As we get to know couples on the ME weekend and share our experiences with them, we have a lot of influence on them. Hopefully we show them that we are true servants of the Lord doing His work to promote stronger marriages and the ME lifestyle.

We most often fail at being servant leaders because of our ego. Our ego keeps us from being humble servants and focusing on God's will. Freud defined the ego as the conscious part of a person's psyche, the part that controls thought and behavior and interprets external reality. In short, he said ego is our self-awareness. We all are egomaniacs at

times, letting our pride and fears come before being humble and thinking of others first.

Matthew 23: 11-12 says, "He who is greatest among you shall be your servant, and whoever exalts himself shall be humbled and whoever humbles himself shall be exalted." We should work to remember this verse and humble ourselves as we serve others in our ministry. Instead of letting our ego get in the way (where EGO = EDGING GOD OUT), we should work more to be like Christ (where EGO = EXALTING GOD ONLY).

Pride and fear are the biggest culprits to keeping our egos in check. When we don't check our pride we become boastful, self promoting, demanding of attention, and self-serving. When we fail to check our fears we have an insecure view of the future and we tend to be dishonest with ourselves. Fear leads us to hide behind a make believe person that fails at responsibility and commitment. Just as we have episodes of disillusionment throughout our matrimony, we often have pride and fear directing our ego.

As we serve other couples and each other in the ME ministry, we should strive to be the very best we can be. Having strong values, not letting our egos interfere with our work, and treating others with respect and love will help us lead like Jesus and become the true servant leaders that our Lord calls us to be.



Jim and Miriam Ortiz have been married for 23+ years and have served as an Austin area team couple since 1999.

Jim and Miriam's Dialogue Question for you:
How do I Edge God Out in our relationship?
HDIFAT?

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

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



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AUSTIN, TEXAS
PERMIT NO. 2585

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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 Raul and Dora Gonzalez at (512) 280-1002, 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 Saturday 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, TX 77845 ph: 979-693-1931
email: light@brain-doc.com
Meets bi-monthly.

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 3rd Saturday of every month.

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.

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710 Livingston Ct., Temple, TX 76502 ph: 254-780-3116
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Waco: Jim and Anna Fitzpatrick

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Meets various times.

West: Eddie and Charlotte Klaus

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email: eddieklaus@aol.com
Meets various times.