



Engaged Encounter Notes



Diocese of St. Augustine

April 2008

Volume 15, Issue 3

A Love Letter From Our Leaders

Dear Lovers,

We have just returned from presenting a weekend in Charlotte. We feel blessed to had this opportunity to feel the power of our National EE family. To think, our ministry is helping to promote healthy, strong marriages all over this country and others every single weekend of the year. We all hear all the bad news about rising divorce rates and rising numbers of couples who just never bother to get married. Take heart in the fact that our ministry is help to improve marriages around the world one couple at a time.

This also reminded us again what a great strong community we have. The community up there is very spread out and is unable to have the strong sense of closeness that we have here. Their community covers the whole state of North Carolina. We also were able to see a weekend run differently than ours and feel that we do everything we can to have a holy, strong, and informative weekend based on the strong history and traditions that we have in this community.

The votes are in for the convention theme and it has been decided, again, finally. The theme for the 2009 convention is set. It is **Love Bridges us Together**. Thanks to all who took the time to vote. We appreciate all the time and hard work that everyone had put in so far and we look forward to all the continued work that will make this the best convention ever!!!

Love to all,
Jamie ♥ Dawn

Prayer Requests

- ♥ For the Preston family.
- ♥ For all of our priests.
- ♥ For all vocations.
- ♥ For Bri's 2 1/2 year old niece and family as they cope with her leukemia.
- ♥ For the Engaged.
- ♥ For all our couples in the Community.
- ♥ For all the other Communities in our Unit and district.
- ♥ For the Hutchinson's as they prepare for the arrival of their new bundle of joy.
- ♥ For Patty Pendleton's father.
- ♥ For the Joyce's as they present their first weekend in our community.

Contact Info

Thanks to those who have given me your updated info. If you notice anything that still needs to be corrected or need a new copy of the roster, please let me know.

Thanks,

Jamie Behmann

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April Meeting Minutes

Before getting down to business, we opened the evening with prayer and a great picnic style feast. There was fried chicken, rotisserie chicken, spicy chicken wings, salads, fruit, and desserts aplenty! The meal was followed by a short discussion of last month's happenings:

We started with a recap of the March weekend – it was a great weekend and the couples were earnest in their desire for marriage preparation – an awesome response to vision requests with 3 full scholarships, and many generous offerings – including time and talents! Special thanks go to Fr. Tim for celebrating the Saturday morning mass with us and then returning for the rap and prayer service, and to Fr. Seamus for celebrating our Sunday closing mass with us. What a joy they both were!

Convention updates were next – convention coordinators Bill and Chris reported that it is time for the committees to begin to form and begin work. Updated progress made with the continuing negotiations with the Wyndham Riverfront hotel. On the last EE weekend a representative from the world golf village and her fiancée made the weekend and offered to help us with the convention as part of her vision – so perhaps the location will move from Jacksonville to the World Golf Village – more on this next month. The convention speakers need to be identified, but we need a theme and topics to present first. Bill and Judy Joyce reported from their New Jersey home that their Priest would love to participate in our convention as a speaker. There was not a consensus on the theme, so Denver and Camille agreed to send an e-mail to the community requesting feedback regarding the theme. Convention dates are June 17-21. District meetings will be on the 17th and 18th. In the morning of the 19th, an enrichment will be conducted and the actual convention will begin in the afternoon of the 19th. It will end by noon on Sunday the 21st. Another committee position, that of Treasurer, was filled. Dawn and Jim Preston will be our convention treasurers.

We visited the Deanery Meeting lead by Fr. Donal and discussed the joy of being involved in EE and how EE through building church builds strong marriages. We are now in the process of following up to see if any of the priests will accept our offer and consider becoming involved in EE as presenting priests.

Next was a request from Jamie and Dawn for us to fill the holes in our schedule, especially the Junior and Behind the Scenes teams for June, The Senior and Priest for October, and registration assistance for all weekends.

We were reminded to send Jamie and Dawn a copy of our talks – they will put them in a safe place – where in the event of a hurricane, they will be preserved – the request is for a hurricane backup – nothing else for the talks.

Our world famous EE Beach Party will be held July 13 at Anne Storch's home, who once more has invited us into her home for the celebration of EE family.

Registration couples were reminded to make sure the cut up sheets with updated addresses and information make it back to the Family Life Office.

Our next meeting will be May 30, but it will not be at St. Joseph's. Look for the information regarding the location in an e-mail from our bosses.

We closed our meeting by continuing to share our "Cup of Our Story" This month's sharing was "The Wedding Day". The length of our marriages ranged from 56 years, the Brodeurs, to 3 years, the Hutchinsons. Following the sharing, we closed in prayer and thanksgiving for being blessed with such a loving and caring community.

See if you can match the remembrance of the day with the couple.

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| 1. Anderson | A. Had two weddings, both on St Francis Feast day – different St. Francis' though. |
| 2. Brodeur | B. Made her own wedding dress, peeled potatoes on day of wedding – best man was married before their wedding and did not invite them to his wedding |
| 3. Hutchinson | C. Bride Ordered His tux and made all plans. He showed up evening before wedding and enjoyed the view. |
| 4. Kelly | D. She only wanted one thing – for him to be on time! Was given her wedding dress by a complete stranger. |
| 5. Kluzman | E. Musician was a bagpiper. Was a relaxing marriage – men went to waffle house in tuxes before big event. |
| 6. Oehmann | F. Ceremony in the little church at St Joseph – nice – Honey moon was more memorable – but since that is not the theme it will not be shared here! |
| 7. Pendleton | G. He was calm, cool and collected until his dad said "Thumper calm down" because his foot was thumping fast and furious from nerves. Her dad was not sure of groom until he saw the movie of the cere- |
| 9. Preston | H. She with a list, and him with buckling knees had three priest on alter, served as Eucharistic ministers, and when asked if the would lovingly accept children – shouted YES! |

Answers: H-6; G-1; F-9; E-5; D-3; C-2; B-4; and A-7

May Meeting

Love Taps

Be kind to each other, tender hearted, forgiving one another, just as God through Christ has forgiven you.—Ephesians 4:32.

The Kingdom of Heaven is like a king who prepared a wedding feast for his son.—Matthew 22:2.

Honeymoons can last forever.—Anonymous

The May meeting will be at Holy Family Catholic School (located on Baymeadows Rd, just west of Southside Blvd.) in the School library on May 30th at 6:45pm. We will have a belated Mother's Day and early father's Day theme. The community will provide the main dish —please bring your favorite side dish or dessert. Feel free to invite a couple to join us if you know someone who might be interested. See you there. Watch your e-mail for more information and reminders.

Excerpts of Love

Thank you for pushing us to our physical and mental limits. At times, we didn't understand why we were doing so much, so early and so late, but we feel so much more enriched as a couple now. We thank you all so much for sharing your stories and knowledge with us.

Victoria ♥ Andrew—March 2008

It was a blessing to have an open honest forum where the 2 of us could share our thoughts and feelings. Above all, it was great the way no one was judged. As a Lutheran at a Catholic encounter, I was worried for all of 5 minutes. Thanks again for your wonderful stories and openness.

Scott ♥ Jennifer—March 2008

What an absolute pleasure this weekend has been! Stephen and I have found the spark that created a flame we hope will last long into our upcoming marriage. We have grown so much as a couple this weekend and invited God to be a continuous part of our union.

Caren ♥ Stephen—March 2008

Weekend Schedule 2008

Weekend	Priest	Senior	Junior	BTS	Registration	NFP	Prayer Coordinator	Follow Up Mtg
January 11 - 13	Fr. Donal	Pendleton	Oehmann	Anderson	Klusman	Schretzmann	Graves	1/18/2008
February 15 - 17	Fr. Murphy	Kelly	Anderson	Granados	Hutchinson	Schretzmann	Graves	2/29/2008
March 28 - 30		Pendleton	Oehmann	Wilkey	Hutchinson	Schretzmann	Graves	4/4/2008
April 25 - 27	Fr. O'Flynn	Joyce	Klusman	Graves	Oehmann	Schretzmann	Graves	5/30/2008
June 27-29	Fr. Bernie	Joyce	Kelly		Anderson	Schretzmann		
July 13	Beach Party - Anne Storch's							
August 8 - 10	Fr. Lozier	Gibson	Oehmann	Granados		Schretzmann		8/22/2008
October 17 - 19			Klusman	Hutchinson		Schretzmann		10/24/2008
November 14 - 16	Fr. Donal	Pendleton	Schretzmann	Graves		Schretzmann		11/21/2008
December	Christmas Party - TBD							