



Engaged Encounter Notes



Diocese of St. Augustine

October 2007

Volume 14, Issue 9

A Love Letter From Our Leaders

Dear Lovers,

We have just returned from our first Unit Meeting and first and foremost, we want to say **THANK YOU** for all you do. The willingness and helpfulness of everyone is often taken for granted but we can't tell you how much we appreciate you. Also, we as a community are very lucky for all we have. There are many other communities that are facing struggles and obstacles that make things we worry about seem petty. Please keep the other communities in our Unit in your prayers.

We have some great ideas that we want to discuss and think you will agree would be great additions to our week-

ends. To assist with one of these ideas, we would ask that each couple **bring 3 or 4 pictures to the October meeting**. Please make sure these pictures are ones that the community can keep. They can be cut out from a magazine or an actual photo. We would like the pictures to have several things in it. For example, not just a picture of the sun or moon, but a couple sitting on the beach watching the sun set or rise above the crashing waves or a family at the beach would be great.

We would like to have everyone either e-mail us a copy of your talks if you have them on the computer or bring us a hard copy so we can create an archive. We heard horror stories of couples who

lost their talks in hurricanes or other tragedies so the thought is to keep a copy in a safe place for everyone.

Please note that the **meeting will NOT be at St. Joseph's this month**. Look at the meeting reminder for directions. We will have our annual Turkey Feast. Denver and Jamie will fry the turkeys so bring your favorite side dish. We will not have a meeting in November and then the **Christmas Party has been moved to Dec 1st**.

Don't forget, we'll be deciding on a theme for convention so bring your ideas for that. Our next chapter in sharing our stories will be the proposal.

Love to all,
Jamie ♥ Dawn

Act of Love

O my God, I love you above all things, with my whole heart and soul, because you are all good and worthy of all my love. I love my neighbor as myself for the love of you. I forgive all who have injured me and I ask pardon of all whom I have injured.

Prayer Requests

- ♥ For the Day family as deal with complications in her pregnancy.
- ♥ For the Preston family.
- ♥ For all of our priests.
- ♥ For all vocations.
- ♥ For Anne Storch as she continues to receive therapy for her hip.
- ♥ For the Engaged.
- ♥ For all the other Communities in our Unit, especially those who are struggling with difficult times and those who are trying to start new communities.
- ♥ For our Unit Coordinators, Jack and Claudia.
- ♥ Congratulations to the Holloway's on the birth of Matthew Garrett, born 8/1/07, 8 lbs, 13 ounces, 21.5 inches. All are doing well.

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,
Matthew Graves

tato220@aol.com

Meeting Recap

EE Meeting Notes - September 2007

It was another gang buster of a meeting! We began with prayer, welcomed Kevin and Laurie – who were on the August Weekend and decided to join us, and proceeded to celebrate the return of the pizzas! There were pizzas of every kind plus plenty of side items and desserts. What an incredible feast – and we ate it all!

Following the meal we discussed the following as part of our business meeting.

Recap of June and August weekends – resulted in the conclusion that they were both the “greatest weekends ever”. What a joy it is to hear the excitement of living and sharing a sacramental marriage.

Weekend reminders:

- There is no Friday night dinner provided anymore.
- If any issues arise during the weekend let Jamie or Dawn know as soon as possible following the weekend – helps them discuss it with Marywood if necessary.
- It is recommended that presenting teams discuss the flow of the weekend’s talks before they are given – especially the rap, Prayer Service, and Sexual Intimacy in Marriage talk.
- When advising couples how to vacate their rooms do not have them strip their beds – leave them as is – Marywood will take care of all room clean-up.

The 2007 Schedule is filled – and the 2008 and 2009 weekends have been scheduled and contracted for with Marywood. For 2008 and 2009 we have dropped the May weekend and added a June weekend. Now is the time to sign up for 2008 to ensure you get your favorite weekend!

Discussions with Family Life office resulted in the following information:

Beginning January 2008, FOCUS will not be given at Marywood – it will only be offered online.

In addition to the “Sponsor Couple” marriage preparation, there is an online Marriage prep program being embraced by the diocese – it will be used on an exception basis (for those unable to make the traditional programs due to unavoidable separation, etc.) initially. We do not anticipate any immediate affect on our marriage preparation ministry.

2009 Convention Update – Bill and Chris Kelly gave us an update of activities they have done and areas needing our attention. They have solicitations out for a facility – but we still need a site, theme, and date! Based on the District Guidelines, six major committees are needed, but the Kelly’s identified additional needs. Here are the committees we need to have – Hosting and Hospitality, Facility, Speakers, Registration, Liturgy and Program, Printing, Fund Raising, and Child Care. So between now and the next meeting – Find a committee you would like to chair or serve on and think of a suggestion for the convention theme.

Following the business portion of the meeting we concluded by having our couple enrichment – You may recall that at our last meeting we shared how we met – this time it was the “first kiss”! Rather than have you match couples with experiences, I thought I’d just share them like they were presented.

Kevin and Laurie – how blessed we are to have them joining our EE family. They met at a gathering at Holy Family – Kevin entered Laurie’s life by being her knight in shining armor as he skillfully extracted her from an undesirable and uncomfortable situation. Then they adjourned to a restaurant, where they talked so much they did not order any food – but they did stay until closing! Somewhere in those discussions the kiss occurred – I think!

Matt and Bri – While at a movie- a chic flick no less – Bri noted that Matt was sniffing and had teary eyes. Being overwhelmed with emotion at his sensitive nature she leaned over and gave him a great big kiss on the cheek!

Brian and Erin – Don’t know if this was the first kiss or not – but it’s in my notes! While at the first street grille, Erin noted that Brian was called Robert by the waitress. Thoughts going through her head ranged from – Who is this guy - do I know his real name? – Is he using his dad’s credit card to pay for the meal? But Brian came through, and explained that his full name was Robert Brian ... That must have been worth a kiss!

Andrew and Julia – Julia was ready – but alas, poor Andrew was shy. After two weeks of intense dating – smack the first kiss landed!

Jamie and Dawn – Talk about a story out to “Father Knows Best” – Jamie could not date Dawn until he met her dad. So, he had the dad meeting – once the dad found out that Jamie was an Eagle Scout – all was perfect and he got the ok to date Dawn. They immediately drove to the beach and – bingo the moment of the kiss arrived!

Denver and Camille – Ever notice that Denver is not only clever and conniving – but he is always prepared. Seems that Camille never had a chance to think about, much less dread the first kiss, following their first date, Denver started looking puzzled and begin to search for something he had forgotten – wasn’t his wallet, not his keys either, then it hit him – he had forgotten to kiss her goodnight – and bam – he planted one right on her red lips!

Jim and Dawn – Happened at a Toga party. You had to have been there for this one – seems one “lady” (not Dawn) even brought an inflatable bed to the party (but that’s another story). Let’s just say that their first kiss was at the party.

Ron and Patty – Needless to say Patty pursued Ron at the office for many years before he finally noticed her. Then, at a farewell party for a co-worker, she literally shoved her girl friend out of her seat and indicated to Ron that is was available. Once Ron sat down Patty began to talk – and he figured that there was only one way to get her to quiet down – so he kissed her right on the lips! (This may not be the version you remember from the meeting – but these are my minutes!)

Jim and Donna – It was following a St. Valentine’s Day dance. Jim asked her to go and she said yes – Jim was disappointed - he doesn’t like to dance! Well, on the way back to the dorm – he led her to the “pit” (The place in the dorm where the serious necking took place before the good night) – leaned her against the wall – surrounded (or entrapped) her with his arms – and smooched!

Bill and Chris – They shared memories of the good old Appletree Camp Ground – and nights spent pulling tent stakes out of the ground and hiding while watching the tents collapse on unsuspecting campers. Seems Bill had just pulled stakes, jumped behind a bush to watch the tent collapse and, low and behold, Chris was already occupying the bush – so he did the obvious – he kissed her. Must have liked it – because after the kiss he asked her out on their first date.

Harry and Norma – remember last month and one of the first dates being at a drive in – well somehow a kiss did not happen there (but I still remember something about seat kicking). Their first kiss happened when Harry followed Norma to the beach – She in her natural beauty and he in his car – POW the miracle of the first kiss happened. And they are now celebrating 55 wonderful years of marriage.

Next meeting – our enrichment will be “The Proposal” – Plan on attending – the stories are truly much better in person!

October Meeting

Love Taps

"Love is not sweet talks and flowers, but love is forgiving and compromising."

"Marriage may be made in heaven, but the maintenance must be done on earth."

"Determination is the key to a successful marriage."

Our October meeting will **NOT** be at St Josephs but at Jamie's office on Friday, October 19th at 6:45pm. We will be having our Turkey Feast. Please R.S.V.P. so we know who is coming and what you are bringing. **Also we will not have a sitter this month, kids should bring something to entertain themselves during the meeting.**

Directions: To get to McVeigh and Mangum Engineering: take 9A to Baymeadows Rd. Go East on Baymeadows and make your first Right on Annie Eliza. At the stop sign, turn Right on R.G. Skinner Parkway and it is the first building on the left (9133 R.G. Skinner Pkwy). Call Jamie if you need more information (673-1557). NOTE: if you look it up on the computer or your GPS, you will not find the correct location.

Excerpts of Love

Allen and I came to Marywood with an open mind, full of spirituality, love, and freshness, but we are leaving with much more. Our Christian faith and devotion to God lacked definition...not anymore. Throughout the wonderful weekend, we have exposed ourselves to new ideas, and have learned a great deal not only about ourselves, but about how important it is to live our lives for God and include Him in our future. Allen ♥ Nancy—August 2007

We truly enjoyed the prayer with the candle and hands. We had not prayed together, just the two of us, prior to coming here. We read our betrothal letters aloud to each other and this brought out emotions and gave us feelings of true unity and peacefulness.

Kristin ♥ Chad—August 2007

This weekend we received a better understanding of each other and the ways we can invite God into our marriage. We've learned the importance of keeping the lines of communication open and our responsibilities to each other and the community. Going forward, we plan to work hard at making our marriage the best it can be and try to be a reflection of God to those around us.

John ♥ Brandi—August 2007

Weekend Schedule 2007

Weekend	Priest	Senior	Junior	BTS	Registration	NFP	Prayer Coordinator	Follow Up Mtg
October 12-14	Fr. Sullivan	Brodeur	Klusman	Hutchinson	Helgeson	Schretzmann	Graves	10/19/2007
November 16-18	Fr. Bernie	Gibson	Oehmann	Wilkey	Hutchinson	Schretzmann	Graves	NO MEETING
December 1st	Christmas Party - home of Manny & Yvonne Granados 7pm							

Weekend Schedule 2008

Weekend	Priest	Senior	Junior	BTS	Registration	NFP	Prayer Coordinator	Follow Up Mtg
January 11 - 13	Fr. Donal				Klusman			1/18/2008
February 15 - 17	Fr. Murphy	Kelly		Granados				2/29/2008
March 28 - 30								
April 25 - 27			Klusman					4/4/2008
June 27-29		Kelly						
July	Beach Party - TBD							
August 8 - 10	Fr. Lozier			Granados				8/22/2008
October 17 - 19			Klusman					10/24/2008
November 14 - 16								11/21/2008
December	Christmas Party - TBD							