



# Engaged Encounter Notes

Diocese of St. Augustine



October 2008

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## A Love Letter From Our Leaders

Dear Lovers,

It's hard to believe that the year is almost over. It seems like only yesterday we were gathering under the cabana at the Granados' for the Christmas party. It has been a busy year and the upcoming 8 months until the District Convention are going to really fly by. If you are not already on a committee for Convention, please contact our Convention Coordinators, Chris & Bill Kelly and let them know where you would like to help out.

For those who may not have heard, Dawn and I have discerned in as the new District III Coordinators for the upcoming 2 years. We had a wonderful spiritual weekend in the cabins in the Smokey Mountains of Pigeon Forge, TN. Our term begins January 1st. We have big shoes to fill, but are excited about this next step in our lives.

Speaking of discernment, our local discernment will be Saturday, February 28th at St. Joseph's. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend, whether or not you are open to leadership. This is a great opportunity for everyone to help in the future of the ministry.

Thank you to all who have signed up for so many of the 2009 weekends already. It is an exciting year with the new facility—Hampton Inn. There are still some holes to be filled in and if you haven't already signed up for your weekends, please look at the back page and let us know when you would like to sign up for.

We hope that everyone can join us for the November gathering. Denver and I will have our annual turkey fry-off and you get to reap the benefits. We will have a wonderful social and enrichment to go along

with the wonderful food. Bring your favorite side or dessert to share.

We need to be ever diligent in recruiting. We need to bring some new couples to the ministry. We have so many couples who are so excited after their weekend but they seem to slip away. If you know a couple from a weekend you presented or a friend who would be interested, please invite them to come. We need an extraordinary amount of help with convention so please invite people to join us. We had 2 new couples join us at the October social and Dawn Preston has spoken with several couples who are interested in joining us. Recruitment is an issue in all communities and a big concern for the district and national leadership. We need to tap into the wealth of youthful knowledge and energy that is in so many of the couples we

see on our weekends.

The November weekend will be the last one we present at Marywood. We are going to be the "Guinea Pigs" in January for the first weekend at the Hampton Inn. We are revising our Intro and Vision talks and will share the modifications with all presenting teams to incorporate.

Thank you for all that each of you do for the ministry. It is your ministry and so successful because of your hard work and dedication.

Love to all,  
Jamie ♥ Dawn

## Prayer Requests

- ♥ For the Pendleton's.
- ♥ For the Widener's.
- ♥ For the Preston family.
- ♥ For all of our priests.
- ♥ For all vocations.
- ♥ For families in the foster and adoption processes.
- ♥ For the Engaged.
- ♥ For all our couples in the Community.
- ♥ For all the other Communities in our Unit and district.
- ♥ For upcoming discernments.
- ♥ For our new NET, Fr. Joe Mozer and Rick & Patty Ruppert.
- ♥ For our new district coordinators, Jamie & Dawn Oehmann.

## 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 Oehmann**

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# October Gathering Highlights

For those that have a hard time getting to our meetings, you may be surprised to know that our coordinators have decided that we will have no more meetings! Read on for the specific details!

This was another great meeting with an excellent turnout. We welcomed two new couples, Greg & Luchy Stratton and Joe & Pat Draude, and then proceeded to introduce ourselves by sharing our names and wedding date. Everyone passed the “can you remember your anniversary” test – even Matt and Bri with dates of February 11, 2006, November 4, 2006, and finally August 8, 2007. If you missed the gathering, you missed the chance to get them to talk about the reason for the three dates! Just one more reason to never miss a gathering!

Our opening prayer of thanksgiving was led by our own Deacon Bill Joyce. Bill had come to the meeting directly from participating in a “stand for life” and it was both windy and rainy. So he came into the room very wet and windblown, but he showed his great sense of humor, when he began his prayer of thanksgiving with praise to our Lord of wind and rain. Following his prayer we sat down to a meal of fine Italian food and delicious homemade treats.

The business portion was short and to the point. The first item was to select the Convention logo. We had many options but the vote for the one chosen demonstrated an overwhelming majority favored it. You probably have already seen it in this newsletter. It will be used in both our written documents and on our convention t-shirts. The straight forward presentation will be used in written documents and the t-shirts will feature the logo in an oval format. T-shirts will have the EE logo on the front and convention logo on the back. Ron Pendleton will contact Peter Malloy of ML/XL printing for cost information. We will begin to have separate Convention meetings to work on the upcoming District Convention in June, 2009. They will be starting soon, so watch your e-mail inbox for more details.

Jamie and Dawn shared their Wichita EE convention experiences. The joy and enthusiasm they demonstrated as they shared convention information said it all! Bubbling over with love is about as close as it can be explained. They brought us up to speed on a number of areas. One of particular interest was the discussion of the progress being made to update the EE weekend experience by updating verbiage and making the couple participation more interactive. The end product is still quite a ways away, but I think we all agree that we need changes to better minister to today’s couples.

We then completed an exercise to get us to know each other better – BINGO. We were given sheets with specific statements and we had to find a couple that met that statement. The first to complete the task of matching couples to statements were the winners. Andrew Klusman and Erin Hutchinson were our two big winners!

Then Jamie dropped the bombshell on us. He announced that there will be no more EE meetings for our community. Yep, you read it right – there will be no more monthly EE

meetings. Instead of meetings, Jamie and Dawn have come up with a novel way for us to stay in touch. Effective immediately, we will begin the practice of having EE gatherings for our community. Our gatherings will be special times for us. They will provide time for us to pray, dine, work, and enrich our relationships with the community and ourselves as a couple. This is just one more example of another great idea and innovation from our coordinators. I, for one, am looking forward to our next official gathering – in November – our annual Thanksgiving Turkey Cook-off. That is one gathering no one should miss! There will also be changes made to our gathering dates – instead of always being on a Friday, three gatherings will be on Saturdays. Our Saturday gatherings are January 3, 2009 which will be an Epiphany party at the Andersons. Then in February our Saturday gathering will be for discernment – see below. And the final Saturday gathering will be August 15, 2009 which falls on a Holy Day (Assumption of Mary) will be celebrated with Mass and a gathering.

The final discussion area concerned discernment of our new local coordinators. It’s hard to believe, but early next year Jamie and Dawn’s leadership role will come to an end. They have arranged for Jamie and Cathy Herzog from Tallahassee to lead us in our discernment of new leadership. The discernment is scheduled for February 28, 2009, so mark your calendars to make sure this date is open and reserved for Engaged Encounter. This will be one of the three Saturday gatherings.

Our couple enrichment enabled us to consider the main focus point of each of our 15 talks and discuss which was most evident during each of the five or so “high points” in our life together. We then had to opportunity to honestly assess where we were, on a scale ranging from “best” to “pits”, in our relationship during those times. It was interesting to note that, for most, experiencing a high point did not necessarily coincide with a positive point in our relationships. The exercise gave us a great opportunity to explore areas we may not have talked about before.

Following the enrichment, we closed in prayer. Hope to see everyone at our next event celebrating our gathering format – the Thanksgiving Turkey Cook-off. Check it out – Friday, November 21<sup>st</sup> at St. Joseph’s! More details to follow...

## Love Taps

*Among those whom I like or admire, I can find no common denominator but among those I love, I can: all of them make me laugh.—*  
W. H. Auden

*Do what is easy as if it were difficult and what is difficult as if it were easy—Baltasar Gracian*

*Most people are about as happy as they make up their minds to be.—Abraham Lincoln*

## Excerpts of Love

## November Gathering

This weekend was very enriching for both of us. We have learned a lot that have changed our relationship in a good way. The weekend was more that we expected. You all are a blessing to all new engaged couples. We will be taking a lot of valuable lessons in life and love home with us.

Jennifer ♥ Ben—October 2008

We enjoyed learning about the couples' experiences and wisdom. The candle light prayer ceremony was very nice. Thank you so much for sacrificing your time and sharing your gifts. We really appreciate it. Christina ♥ Ryan—October 2008

The weekend was very rewarding and brought us closer together. The dialogues reaffirmed the decisions we have made for our marriage in come cases and brought to our attention several areas we need to explore and discuss further. Laurel Ann ♥ Paul—October 2008

The November Gathering will be our annual Turkey cook-off and will be Friday, November 21st at Joseph's at 6:30pm. The community will provide the Turkey —please bring your favorite side dish or dessert. We ask that everyone bring at least 1 or 2 couples who might be interested in our ministry. See you there. Watch your e-mail for more information and reminders. **Please RSVP to Jamie & Dawn by November 14th!**

### Weekend Schedule 2008

Weekend	Priest	Senior	Junior	BTS	Registration	NFP	Prayer Coordinator	Monthly Gathering
November 14 - 16	Fr. Donal	Pendleton	Anderson/Schretzm mann	Graves	Oehmann Clemens (training)	Schretzm mann	Klusman	11/21/2008

### Engaged Encounter 2009 Schedule

Weekend	Priest	Senior	Junior	BTS	Registration	NFP	Prayer Letter Coordinator	Monthly Gathering
January 9-11	Fr. Ed	Kelly	Oehmann	Hutchinson	Klusman	Schretzm mann		1/3/2009 - (Sat) Epiphany Party - (@ Anderson's)
February 6-8		Charbonneau	Anderson	Granados	Stratton	Schretzm mann		2/28/2009 (Sat) Discemnt
March 13-15	Fr. Bernie	Joyce	Anderson	Wilkey	Hutchinson	Schretzm mann		3/20/2009
April 24-26	Fr. O'Flynn	Pendleton		Graves	Preston	Schretzm mann		5/1/2009
May 29-31		Joyce	Klusman	Granados		Schretzm mann		6/5/2009
June 19-21	District III Convention - "LOVE BRIDGES US TOGETHER"							
July	Summer Party - TBD							
August 7-9		Gibson	Klusman	Hutchinson		Schretzm mann		8/15/2009 - 5:30 Sat Mass & Gathering
October 16-18	Fr. Tim	Pendleton	Oehmann	Graves	Hutchinson	Schretzm mann		10/23/2009 - (@ Holy Family)
November 13-15		Kelly			Klusman	Schretzm mann		11/21/2009 - (Sat)