



Engaged Encounter Notes

Diocese of St. Augustine



September 2008

Volume 15, Issue 5

A Love Letter From Our Leaders

Dear Lovers,

As fall approaches, the end of hurricane season is in sight and 2009 is not far away. We would like to thank everyone for your selfless giving to the ministry. We are having our next social event in October, on Friday the 10th at Holy Family. For this social, we are asking everyone to bring several couples who you think will enjoy our ministry. We are in need of help not only for the weekends and the community but for the upcoming convention as well.

At our last meeting, we had some very important discussions and decisions to make. The biggest of these is the location for our weekends. As you know very well, we have been blessed for many years to hold our weekends at Marywood. Over the years they have increased our rates and

although we raised our rates a few years ago, we have been losing money on most of our weekends. After much research, searching, praying, and discussion, we have been able to find a new location that will be more affordable. This will allow us to not raise our rates and stop losing money on our weekends. We found the Hampton Inn that is conveniently located at Baymeadows & 9A. It is a new facility where we are excited about holding our 2009 weekends. For those who were at the last meeting, we will not bore you with all the details again. For those who were unable to attend, please contact us if you would like an explanation of the details that went into this decision.

This is not a decision that we have taken lightly. We hate to lose the ambiance of Marywood but we have to be practi-

cal and remember the reason we are in this ministry – the Engaged couples. There are many practical details that we will be putting together and sharing with you in the coming months to make the transition easier.

Before the October social, we ask everyone to come up with some logo design ideas for the Convention. Remember the theme is “Love Bridges Us Together”. We will spend a few minutes of the social making a decision on the logo. If you have not already signed up for a Convention committee, please see the Kelly’s to see where you can help out.

The 2009 weekend schedule is in this newsletter. Please look at your calendar and fill in your weekends now. We have 4 active senior couples so each should only have to present 2 weekends. We have 3

active junior couples so each need to present for 2 or 3 weekends. We have 4 active BTS couples so each only needs to sign up for 2 weekends. If this happens, the schedule for 2009 will be full and no one will be stressing trying to rearrange their schedule at the last minute. We hope to have some new couples get involved and they can help with registration and BTS. Please help everyone by accepting this challenge and sign up for your 2009 weekends now.

We know what a commitment you all have to the Engaged Couples of our Diocese and we appreciate you making a commitment to be active in our ministry.

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 National, District, Unit and local discernments.
- ♥ The those traveling to and hosting the National Convention in October.

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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September Meeting Minutes

What a wonderful & productive meeting we had last Friday! If you missed it make sure to keep reading because we discussed lots of new stuff that is happening in our ministry!

We started with an opening prayer and welcomed everyone who joined us. First up was a recap of the June & August weekends. June was presented by the Joyce's & the Kelly's. The weekend was wonderful but they stated how much they missed having a BTS team with them throughout the weekend! They were thankful to the Wilkey's & the Anderson's for the help they provided but they would have loved to have a BTS team with them as well! They experienced a pretty good thunderstorm on Saturday & lost power for over 2 hours but went with the flow & kept presenting!

The August weekend went extremely well also. The ministry received desperately needed scholarships which was a true gift.

The 2009 schedule is now available; please make sure to let Jamie & Dawn know which weekends you would like to sign up for. If everyone signs up for 2 – 3 weekends we will fill the schedule in no time! We discussed the date for the Christmas party & decided to hold our celebration the weekend of 1/2/09 – (an Epiphany party) additional details to follow at a later date.

Next, Dawn Preston asked everyone to keep the Widener family in their prayers as Nancy begins chemo treatment. As a reminder, she still has openings for meal opportunities for the family in October and November so please contact Dawn at 333-1199 if you would like to sign up to help.

We then discussed the recruitment enrichment we will be having on October 10th. Please invite your friends to join us....they don't have to be newly married – a couple that is looking for a ministry to do **together!** Jamie & Dawn will be sending teams lists of couples from prior weekends so you may contact interested couples from your weekends as well. But please make sure to tap into other ministries that you may be involved in is also!

Next up we discussed the new pricing that we received from Marywood. We were hoping when we raised the weekend rate to \$280 two years ago that we would not have to have an increase for 5 years but the rates have continued to increase significantly each year & as we are all aware the visions have been decreasing. Knowing that we could not raise our prices anymore we have been investigating other cost cutting ideas which ranged from having all weekends in the Pod (which would limit us to 16 couples per weekend) to using an alternate facility for the weekends. We contacted at least 6 different hotel chains for pricing and received firm num-

bers from about 3 of them. After reviewing the information it was decided that it would be cost effective to move our weekends to the Hampton Inn at 9A and Baymeadows. The Hampton caters mostly to corporate clients during the week and was extremely excited and eager to have an opportunity for weekend business. They have waived the rental of the meeting room if we book 20 hotel rooms per night. A hot breakfast would be included each morning as well which is a huge savings. We would also be able to bring in our own food and / or caterer for lunch and dinner on Saturday.

Next up was convention! We looked at some logo ideas and feel that we are on the right track! Thanks so much to those that brought their ideas. We will ask that everyone bring any additional logo ideas to the next meeting so we can make a firm decision. We will be sending the save the date reminders soon (without the logo) so that communities are aware of the date and mark their calendars. The Kelly's have contacted a few potential speakers for breakout sessions and the Klusman's will be requesting a demo tape from a possible keynote speaker that came highly recommended for us to listen to as well. Bill and Chris will be arranging individual meetings with teams to start working on additional convention items as well...we realize that much of the items will need to be discussed separate from our community time together.

We also discussed fundraising for the convention and the need to have a fundraising chairperson. Although that position was not filled we were pleased to issue the raffle tickets for our first fundraiser – the Jaguar ticket giveaway! Please make sure to contact Denver & Camille if you should need more tickets – we only have 15 days left to sell – the drawing will be held on 9/27! We encourage you to have an announcement placed in your bulletin listing you as a point of contact for your parish to sell additional tickets or perhaps you could sell some after your weekly Mass. Another incentive....remind people that just because they win does not mean they have to go...for \$10 they could sell them on E-bay & actually make money! As a reminder, all tickets and money will need to be turned into to Denver & Camille by 9/27.

Lastly, Jamie & Dawn asked that we keep them in their prayers as they travel in October for EE. October 2nd they will be traveling to KS for the National Convention and October 24th they will be traveling to Knoxville, TN for District Discernment – that is correct, they have said yes to the possibility of being our new District Coordinators. We pray that they and all the couples who will be attending convention and discernment have a very uplifting and enriching experience.

Love Taps

We must always change, renew, rejuvenate ourselves, we harden.—Johann von Goethe

To be nobody but yourself—in a world which is doing it's best, night and day, to make you like everybody else—means to fight the hardest battle which any human being can fight, and never stop fighting.—E.E. Cummings

Until you value yourself, you won't value your time. Until you value your time, you will not do anything with it.—M. Scott Peck

October Social

The October gathering will be a social evening aimed at recruitment will be Friday, October 10th at Holy Family in the Library at 6:30pm. The community will provide the main dish —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!

Excerpts of Love

Thank you for helping us spin out of wedding plan mode and focus on and focus on the true commitment that marriage is. It was helpful to reflect and be guided on all of the occasions that will arise in which we will have to choose to be life-giving.

Courtney ♥ Jeremy—August 2008

We have learned how to communicate better and open ourselves up to each other and God. We are definitely leaving as a different and stronger couple with a better understanding of each other's feelings and needs. We have thoroughly enjoyed our time and will definitely recommend anyone to this retreat. It has changed us and given us a priceless opportunity to cherish as we enter our new life together. Nyree ♥ Ray—August 2008

We did not know what to expect from this weekend prior to coming here. But we both are glad we did. Together we plan to explain to other couples who are engaged the rewards of the engaged encounter retreat. I'm not Catholic but felt very welcome here. I am certainly going to go back to my faith and spread the word. Kim ♥ Bryan—August 2008

Weekend Schedule 2008

Weekend	Priest	Senior	Junior	BTS	Registration	NFP	Prayer Coordinator	Monthly Gathering
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	Klusman	
July 13	Beach Party - Anne Storch's							
August 8 - 10	Fr. Lozier	Gibson	Oehmann	Granados	Anderson	Schretzmann	Klusman	8/22/2008
October 17 - 19	Fr. Walsh	Parassi (Tampa)	Klusman	Hutchinson	Oehmann	Schretzmann	Klusman	10/10/2008
November 14 - 16	Fr. Donal	Pendleton	Anderson/ Schretzmann	Graves	Oehmann Clemens (training)	Schretzmann	Klusman	11/21/2008
December	Christmas Party - TBD							

Engaged Encounter 2009 Schedule

Weekend	Priest	Senior	Junior	BTS	Registration	NFP	Prayer Coordinator	Monthly Gathering
January 9-11		Kelly	Oehmann		Klusman			
February 6-8								
March 13-15	Fr. Bernie		Klusman					
April 24-26								
May 29-31								
July	Beach Party - TBD							
August 7-9			Klusman					
October 16-18	Fr. Tim		Oehmann					
November 13-15		Kelly						
December	Christmas Party - TBD							