



## Fall Edition 2009

Dear Long Island Family:

Exciting News: New Beginnings have come to Long Island. We are now a separate area again with our own local leadership.

We are John & Toni Torio. We were affirmed as your new Long Island Leadership. With humble hearts we have accepted this position to serve the Long Island Community. We made our original weekend in 1973. We have four grown children, three foster grown children and six grandchildren with another grandson arriving in November. We are formerly from



Brooklyn/Queens. We have past experience there as B/Q Leadership couple for three years and also as Community Pillar and most recently as Weekend Pillar. So we have experience serving the ME Community at large. What we don't have is the knowledge of the workings here on Long Island, and do not know all of you. But we are meeting new people every day.

We have a great team of couples to work with us. They are Ron & Chris Morasse serving as Weekend Pillar, Kevin & Regina Hickson serving as Team Pillar and Jeff & Claudia Fishman serving as Community Pillar. We four couples cannot do the job alone of rebuilding Long Island into the vibrant, loving and enthusiastic Area it used to be. We need all of you. We ask that you stand by our sides and support each other's dialogue and willingness to invite new couples to make a Marriage Encounter Weekend.

We are open to any suggestions comments and ideas you have to help us fulfill our dream. Long Island is the heart of Marriage Encounter. This is where it all started. Our dream is to start pumping new blood into the area that gave ME life to begin with. Our weekend has never been more needed than now in today's world.

So please write, email or call us at the information below.

[jttorio@aol.com](mailto:jttorio@aol.com) 631 728 4165 56 Ocean Ave. Hampton Bays NY 11946

May God bless you and we would love to hear from you.

We Love You J&T ☺

The Long Island Community is emerging again. We are feeling blessed that John and Toni Torio have taken the reigns of Structure Pillar. They come to us with ample experience having served as a Team Couple, Community Pillar and Structure Pillar in Brooklyn/Queens. Their energy, enthusiasm and willingness to serve are an inspiration to all of us who serve with them. We look forward to continued growth on Long Island both in the expansion of new couples experiencing the Weekend and in a renewed commitment of Encountered Couples to living the lifestyle.

As your Community Pillar, we are so grateful to all our new Area Coordinators for stepping up to the challenge of re-igniting our Community membership. They have each made great strides to contact couples, who have dropped out of touch, and invite them back. They all believe, as we do, that the dream of Marriage Encounter can only be sustained through a strong and committed Community. We ask that all of you support them in whatever way you can and say “Yes” when you are asked to give of your time and talent.

When thinking of our Community, we are reminded of the Scripture reading where we are called to be one Body in Christ. We in Community are all parts of the same body. We each have our own unique gifts to share that are invaluable to the life of Community. There are no insignificant members. Each of us is called to do our part. Weakness in Dialogue, not attending Area Board, and lack of support of Community events all has a negative effect on the whole of Community. As shares in the gift of the Weekend, we all share in the responsibility to keep that gift alive in each other. Leadership needs your support, but more importantly, your fellow Marriage Encounter Couples need your presence in their lives. Each time we are at a Community Meeting, we come away better in our relationship than when we went in. The power of Community is in its ability to keep us on track and connected to our Weekend. Let us all join together to renew our enthusiasm and commitment to Dialogue and Community. We need each other!

Love,

Jeff & Claudia

Dear Lovers:

We wanted to write to thank everyone for their enthusiasm and dedication in helping LI get back on its feet. It has been a gift working with you and getting to know you better. We will have many opportunities for Brooklyn/ Queens and Long Island to get together, like the upcoming picnic and dance, but we will miss seeing you more frequently. Please keep your daily dialogue strong, recruit for the weekend-couples and priests- and enjoy each other as we all try to live out our Mission. Please pray for and support John and Toni Torio in their leadership with all you've got. They are great and are a gift to our Movement and to Long Island. We will keep you in our hearts and prayers as we all go forward.

Peace and Love,

Bob and Melinda Nobbs

## INFORMATION SECTION

We all share the beautiful challenge in Long Island. The following have said, YES, to actively working within each designated area and they need your prayers, love and support.

Please send your newsletter article to: Vinnie & RoseMarie Giaime

E-mail: [momgi@optonline.net](mailto:momgi@optonline.net)

The SPIRIT is published four times per year.

As the song goes, we've only just begun. We truly believe in our hearts, that with Prayer Hard Work, Trust, Jesus' words "Love one Another as I have loved you " will spread and the miracle of His weekend will continue.

## EXECUTIVE TEAM LONG ISLAND:

### Area Leader/Structure Pillar:

**John & Toni Torio, (631) 728-4165**

[jttorio@aol.com](mailto:jttorio@aol.com)

### Team Pillar:

**Kevin & Regina Hickson (516) 883-9649**

[kevinhickson@msn.com](mailto:kevinhickson@msn.com)

### Weekend Pillar:

**Ron & Chris Morasse (516) 731-2055**

[ron@morassefamily.com](mailto:ron@morassefamily.com)

### Community Pillar:

**Jeff & Claudia Fishman (631) 751-3118**

[fishjc0426@yahoo.com](mailto:fishjc0426@yahoo.com)

## COMMUNITY AREA COORDINATORS:

### Area 1 –Western Nassau

Kevin & Regina Hickson

(516) 883-9649

[kevinhickson@msn.com](mailto:kevinhickson@msn.com)

**Meets 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday**

### Area 4 –Commack to Stony Brook

Ed & Olga Ramirez

(631) 274-5715

[edram21741@optonline.net](mailto:edram21741@optonline.net)

**Meets 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday**

### Area 2 –Eastern Nassau

Michael & Lisa Savallo

(516) 520-2032

[savallo@aol.com](mailto:savallo@aol.com)

**Meets 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday**

### Area 5 –Nichols Rd to Montauk

Manny & Rosemary Sblendorio

(631) 969-6134

no E-mail

**Meets 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday**

### Area 3 – Western Huntington

Skip & Fran DeBlasio

(516) 367-4224

[skip10fran@aol.com](mailto:skip10fran@aol.com)

**Meets 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday**

### Area 6 –Nichols Rd East on No Folk

**Community Nights Last Saturday of the month @ St. Matthews, Dix Hills.**

(continued on next page)

## COMMUNITY COUPLES:

### Financial Couple

Fran & Kate Mayerhoffer  
(516) 777-8222  
[franmayo@yahoo.com](mailto:franmayo@yahoo.com)

### L.I. Webmasters

Glen & Diane Sherman  
(631) 877-2628  
[wwmeli@excite.com](mailto:wwmeli@excite.com)

### Registration Couple

Glen & Milly Goldfarb  
(631) 656-8358  
[fourfarbs@verizon.net](mailto:fourfarbs@verizon.net)

### L.I. Encounter Spirit Editors

Vinnie & RoseMarie Giaime  
(631) 643-8986  
[momgi@optonline.net](mailto:momgi@optonline.net)

### Prayer Couple Coordinator

Charlie & Gerri Pecnic  
(516) 596-6241  
[cgpecknic@optonline.net](mailto:cgpecknic@optonline.net)

### Pulpit Talk Coordinator

Vinny & Isabell McGuire  
(631) 587-6135  
[Visible624@yahoo.com](mailto:Visible624@yahoo.com)

### Weekend Hosting Couple

Pete & Kathy Kelsch  
(631) 472-2959  
[pkelsch@optonline.net](mailto:pkelsch@optonline.net)

## TEAM COUPLES:

Hector & Lourdes Anguita  
(515) 785-4211  
[anuigonza@verizon.net](mailto:anuigonza@verizon.net)

Skip & Fran DeBlasio  
(631) 367-4224  
[skip10fran@aol.com](mailto:skip10fran@aol.com)

Kevin & Regina Hickson  
(516) 883-9649  
[Kevinhickson@msn.com](mailto:Kevinhickson@msn.com)

Ron & Chris Morasse  
(516) 731-2055  
[ron@morassefamily.com](mailto:ron@morassefamily.com)

Bert & Val Mota  
(516) 414-4266  
[hmota@optonline.net](mailto:hmota@optonline.net)

John & Toni Torio  
(631) 728-4165  
[jttorio@aol.com](mailto:jttorio@aol.com)

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Dear WWME Family, PRAISE GOD!! It has been a few years since the August 14-16, 2009 teams have presented a weekend. That does not mean we have been idle. On the contrary, all of us have been busier than ever. Chuck & Mary Jane Young, Hector & Lourdes Anguita and us are YES people and give willingly of ourselves for the mission of WWME. We believe in our mission statement of Renewing the Church and changing the world. All the presenting teams have recently been Area Leaders at one time or another and upon hearing, we would be presenting the August weekend, our hearts and pens raced to finish our talks and updating some. We thank our workshop couples, Bob & Melinda Nobbs, who workshopped the Youngs and Artecas and Jim & Gerri Gibney, who workshopped the Anguitas. Their patience, understanding and love saw us through with flying colors. All of the couples on the weekend were open to our presentations, which were very powerful, specially the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> set of talks. There were many tears in the eyes of the participants. Each talk built on top of the next, like a layer cake until it reached its crescendo. The icing on the cake was having Fr. Chris Coleman, from Brooklyn, make an anniversary weekend. On Sunday afternoon when all of the B/Q & LI community came in and sang our song, all of our eyes were misty and the tears dripped down until it was hard to continue singing. We love all of you and were so honored to have had the opportunity to represent you on this Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend. Thank you all for your support, all the beautiful prayer letters and gifts. God Bless you all and our Mission. HUGS & KISSES, Richard ♥ Pinky Arteca

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Dear Lovers,

We are Ron & Chris Morasse. We have been encountered for 6 ½ years now. We are very excited with the fact the Long Island has local leadership again! John & Toni Torio are a wonderful couple and will bring much experience into their new leadership role. They have asked us to stay on as weekend pillar for Long Island, and we have graciously accepted. Our next weekend is November 5-7 and will be held in Bay Shore at the Montfort Retreat House. It will be here before you know it. Please continue inviting for the weekend – Recruiting is so important to the continuation of our mission.

WWME has recently updated the brochure. It is very eye catching and appealing. If any of you would like copies to distribute give us a call and we will get them to you. Our phone number is 516 731-2055 If anyone has a pastor in their parish that would be willing to have us give a 2-3 minute pulpit talk please let us know. Also on November 14<sup>th</sup> we will be having a marriage enrichment night at St James Parish in Seaford. We will be showing the Left Brain, Right Brain video that was used for last year's Albany enrichment. The video is a humorous look at how men and women think and react. It was a huge success in Albany and had everyone in stitches. You can bring your un-encountered couple friends as well and make it a great recruiting night. Call us to sign up or for more details.

Love , Ron & Chris

Dear Awesome Lovers,

We went to the “welcome out” of the Marriage Encounter weekend. It was a hot summer day – as we gathered in the very warm room and hall at Douglaston, to await the end of the weekend; we were struck by the awesomeness of our Marriage Encounter community. No one complained at how very warm it was – and it was uncomfortable. Instead the conversation was a buzz with excitement of the good news of the couples on the weekend. Many there had also been present on Friday evening hosting. We couldn’t help the sense we had of being surrounded by modern day saints. We felt blessed by this beautiful community we’ve belonged to for the last 37 years. It never gets old when the Holy Spirit is present. You could feel the Spirit in the Holy-Fun, as couples laughed, shared and caught up with each others lives.

Seeing veteran couples and “newbie’s” from February weekend, all sacrificing their Sunday afternoons with smiles on their faces and love in their hearts, was inspiring. We weren’t a prayer couple we just filled in for another, but as we greeted “Giovannie and Karen” we were very aware of their vulnerability and emotion. They had an amazing weekend and we were privileged to “stand in” to greet them. How exciting to be at the weekend. The team was radiant. The Priest making the weekend was smiling. It was contagious. How blessed are we to be part of the miracle of the weekend. How honored we are to be called forth to serve the Lord by reaching out to others in this beautiful marriage ministry.

We’re thanking God for each of you who walk-the-walk and give back. You are such a vital part of making the dream possible. We’ve always believed we can never repay the gift we received on the “Marriage Encounter weekend”. But we can try by “passing it on”. We are humbled to be part of all Long Island & Brooklyn, Queens couples and Priests who do this continually creating a new world by how they love one another. May God bless us all and keep us united in His love. Awe Struck,  
In Jesus - Skip & Fran DeBlasio

**THE BALLAD OF JEFF AND CLAUDIA** (as they became Community Pillar)

They are here on Long Island, we’re as happy as can be,  
The effervescent Fishmans, Claudia & Jeff-er-ee.  
He thinks he’s a good doctor, she fancies herself a nurse.  
If you think this rhyme is silly- wait-it’s gonna get worse.

**(Refrain)** Jeff & Claudia Fishman, King & Queen of Community,  
Jeff & Claudia Fishman, always there for you & me.

If they were to leave us, it would be plain scare-ee,  
’Cause Claudia is so cute, and Jeff..well he’s pretty hair-aree.  
They’ve boosted up their couples, the infamous and “Rockin 4”  
They spread their love to all, as we’ve never been loved before**(Refrain)**

Giving from their hearts, they now are moving on,  
But their couple love still shines, so they aren’t really gone.

We all say “Thank You”, and that’s for sure.  
For their loving ways, so kind and so pure! **(Refrain)**

On this special occasion, we’re all here to celebrate,  
The many of us showed up just to drink and eat some cake.  
’Tho this song does teases them, we love them with great joy,  
Our wonderful friends the Fishmans - part kosher and part goy. **(Refrain)**

God Bless & Love

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**The team of the August 14-16<sup>th</sup> weekend**



**Fr. Bill Gaffney, Chuck & Mary Jane Young,**  
**Richard & Pinky Artecca,**  
**Hector & Lourdes Anguita**

**Greetings to the Couples on the Worldwide**  
**Marriage Encounter**  
**of August 14-16<sup>th</sup>,**

1. Jean & Rose Baptiste , Valley Stream
2. Fr. Christopher Coleman, Brooklyn
3. Anthony & Mia Lee Conde, Bronx
4. Giovanni & Karen Correa, Valley Stream
5. Jose Antonio & Maria Diaz, Laurelton
6. Justine & Wen Dombrowski, New York
7. Robert & Maureen Foley, Brooklyn
8. Al & Mary Garcia, Coram
9. Roshan & Janiece George, Brooklyn
10. Anthony & Gwyn Giaquinto, Forest Hills
11. Bill & Barbara Gordon, Bethpage
12. Edwin & Kairy Marquez, Holtsville
13. Bradley & Marcella Rodriguez, Forest Hills
14. Gabriel & Norma Sarmiento, Lindenhurst
15. Donnie & Toni Sasanelli, East Moriches
16. Richard & Karen ST-Cyr, Forest Hills
17. Peter & Lynne Torpie, New Milford

## Section II Enrichment October 16-17, 2009

*“Let Us Be Your Servants”*

Ramada Inn – 946 New Loudon Rd.

Latham NY 12110

518-783-6161

(Please print)

**Last name** \_\_\_\_\_

**First names** \_\_\_\_\_

**Street address** \_\_\_\_\_

**City & state & zip** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone number** \_\_\_\_\_

**E-mail** \_\_\_\_\_

**Local area** (Circle) Albany Arch B/Q Long Island Rochester Syracuse

Other \_\_\_\_\_

**Special needs** \_\_\_\_\_

Our/my choice for dinner Saturday evening (circle and indicate how many if both are the same)

**Entrée** **Number**

TBD \_\_\_\_\_

TBD \_\_\_\_\_

**Medical diet** \_\_\_\_\_

Costs include: Lodging at Ramada Inn, 3 meals Saturday & Breakfast Sunday

(circle one)	Priest/Religious cost	Couple cost
Without lodging:	<u>\$108.00(no breakfast)</u>	<u>\$ 54.00(no breakfast)</u>
1 night lodging:	<u>\$178.00</u>	<u>\$124.00</u>
2 nights lodging	<u>\$248.00</u>	<u>\$194.00</u>

Registrations and payments must be received by **Sept 15, 2009**

Donation to help supplement the cost for other couples/priests \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**(amount of donation)**

(continued on next page)

Please mail registration form with check payable to: **Worldwide Marriage**

**Encounter**

**Mike & Nancy Reisinger**

**6015 Park Place**

**Schenectady NY, 12303**

**518-357-2457**

**nreising@nycap.rr.com**

Registration/check-in Friday Oct. 16 from 5:00 pm – 9:00pm, Saturday Oct 17, from 7:00 am – 9:00 am

Presentations begin promptly at 9:00 am Saturday.



## Worldwide Marriage Encounter Long Island



### Help Carry Out Our Mission

#### *WWME Mission Statement*

Worldwide Marriage Encounter's mission of renewal in the church and change in the world is to assist couples and priests to live fully intimate and responsible relationships by providing them with a Catholic "experience" and ongoing community support for such a lifestyle.

Everything that happens behind the scenes to put our weekends together is done by couples and priests who want to change the world. If you would like to help us carry out our mission statement, please fill in your name below, check the areas in which you would most like to help and mail or e-mail to:

John & Toni Torio  
56 Ocean Ave  
Hampton Bays N.Y. 11946  
(631) 728-4165  
[jttorio@aol.com](mailto:jttorio@aol.com)

Please know how greatly we appreciate your giving of yourselves. Thank you so very much.

Husband/wife names: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

Area (if known) \_\_\_\_\_

(Continued on next page)

***We would most like to help with:*** (Check as many as you want!)

Become a prayer couple (Write a prayer letter and pray for a special couple on a future weekend & greet them on Sunday at the welcome out.) This includes building a relationship with the couple or priest, supporting their dialogue and helping the couple get into community after their weekend.

Provide a warm greeting when couples arrive on Friday night and help show them to their rooms.

Give a pulpit talk sharing your Marriage Encounter experience and present it during mass at a local parish.  
(There are samples of pulpit talks and help to write them.)

Hand out brochures and answer questions at a local parish after another couple gives a pulpit talk during mass

Contact your pastor and arrange for pulpit talks during Sunday mass.

Write and present a short talk for a local Community meeting. Sample topics and outlines and help are available.

Work in the Community to help strengthen it (e.g., take responsibility for an area, plan or help with a community activity, help with post or community nights).

Contact your pastor and arrange for a one day enrichment for married couples of your parish called .Celebrate Marriage Day..

Host a meeting where one of the presenting teams or another couple gives information about the weekend to your friends and family.

Help with other Catholic Marriage Ministries.  
(Pre-Cana, Engaged Encounter, etc.)

Other

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**COMMUNITY NIGHT UNDER THE STARS – 6/09**





# **SO YOU DON'T FORGET**

**HANG IT ON THE FRIG**

## **CALENDER OF EVENTS FOR 2009**

### **SAVE THE DATES!**

Meet us in Atlantic City, New Jersey  
Worldwide Marriage Encounter  
NORTH AMERICAN CONVENTION  
June 25-27, 2010  
Go to [wwme.org](http://wwme.org) for more Information

### **SECTION 2 ENRICHMENT**

October 16-17, 2009 Latham N.Y

**Saturday 9/26/2009 LI Community Night 7:00 to 10:00 PM**

**Saturday 10/24/2009-Enrichment Community Night 7:00 to 10:00 PM**

*Rookie Weekend @ Monfort Retreat House*

**26 south Saxon Ave. Bay shore NY 11706**

**November 6 to 8, 2009**

**Help carry bags and check in new couples on Friday. Come back on Sunday to see the transformation. You can be a part of the Weekend**

**Saturday 11/28/2009 LI Community Night 7:00 to 10:00 PM**

**Saturday 12/05/2009 Christmas Party at Our Lady Of Lourdes  
455 Hunter Ave. West Islip 11795**

**Saturday 12/26/2009 LI Community Night 7:00 to 10:00 PM All  
community nights are held at  
St Matthews in the parish center Room 211  
35 North service road LIE Dix Hills NY**

**DIRECTIONS: LIE coming from the West going east bound, Get off exit #51  
Stay on service road to Carl's Straight Path road; make a left then another  
left onto the service road. About ¼ mile down is the entrance to the hall.  
From the East going west on the LIE get off Exit #53 Commack Road**

**WEEKENDS FILL UP QUICKLY, SO A QUICK RESPONSE IS ENCOURAGED.**

**SHARE YOU'RE NEW FOUND WAY OF LIFE WITH A FEW FRIENDS.**

**A WEEKEND is SCHEDULED FOR:  
NOVEMBER 6-8, 2009**

**Call 1-877-NYS-WWME or your team to find out where to send you friend's registration:**

**Weekend Registration Form (Please Print)**

**His First Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Her First Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Last Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Wedding Date** \_\_\_\_\_

**Home Phone** \_\_\_\_\_

**Work Phone** \_\_\_\_\_

**City/State/Zip** \_\_\_\_\_

**EMAIL** \_\_\_\_\_

**Parish/Church/Synagogue** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**His Faith** \_\_\_\_\_

**Her Faith** \_\_\_\_\_