

WorldWide Marriage Encounter on Long Island

(Nassau/Suffolk)



Dear Long Island Family:

This is such a great time of year. But just a few days ago we both were agonizing over getting ready for the Holidays. You know all the stuff that needs to get done. We lug all the decorations out; put them up; go shopping for presents. We are looking for sales for the traditional food fest on Christmas Eve (If You are Italian)!



At Mass on the first Sunday of Advent, the priest challenged us to stop by church when we are out shopping and spend just three minutes in quiet time. He reminded us that the banner that is up in front of our church that reads “ In the quiet stillness He will come”. This quiet time we have, has given us time to reflect on our journey here on Long Island. The New Beginnings Night we presented for community was well attended. So many couples came forward to join us on our journey to bring new life and hope to our Long Island M.E. Community.

As we approach a new year our weekends need to be filled to help bring new life to our community. The first weekends in February are a good time for all of us to get out and invite couples. It’s like taking out the decorations again and putting them up. It can be hard work but looking at the end results brings us all great JOY. Remember how great it is to see the couples coming out on Sunday after the Weekend. This is a beautiful gift to give for Christmas.

WE CAN CHANGE THE WORLD ONE COUPLE & PRIEST AT A TIME

May God bless you and keep you close to Him this season

We Love You John & Toni J

jttorio@aol.com 56 Ocean Ave. Hampton Bays NY 11946



Have a Blessed and Merry Christmas

Dear M.E. Lovers,

When we heard that we had been chosen to receive the St. Agnes Medal from the Diocese, we were overwhelmed and so happy we were chosen as a couple for this award! You see, our many involvements in the parish and diocese began with a weekend back in February 1971 at the Nunnery in Glen Cove! Now, that building has since been torn down, our own bodies are older, one of us has less hair and one of us has lots of silver strands hidden at the roots, but the message we heard on that weekend inspired us as a Catholic couple to become Open and Apostolic in sharing ourselves with the church.

On that weekend, we heard about “Couple Power” and that with the graces of our Sacrament of Matrimony came a responsibility to share God's love with our children and with our church. At the time, we were married for five years, had two little girls and our idea of “involvement in the church” was Mary doing secretarial work for the religious education program on Saturdays while John baby-sat for our kids!

Slowly, we felt a “nudging” to become more involved in the parish, so we signed up to teach a 6th grade religion class TOGETHER (See, we had heard the message of the weekend). Before long, we were involved in Parish Council and Family Mass on Sundays.

In 1975, we joined 2,000 couples and priests for a pilgrimage to Lourdes and Rome. At the Catacombs, we heard a homily we will never forget by Cardinal Wright of Philadelphia. He told us that “The Church needs Marriage Encounter to renew it. We need YOUR couple love to help renew the church.” WOW - coming from a Cardinal in our church, what an endorsement!!!!

We are writing this to encourage all of you, to inspire you to re-visit those feelings and reactions you got on your weekend. Reflect back on where you were and where you are headed as a couple. Some of you may have attended your weekend three, ten, thirty or even forty years ago. Make a date to put time aside and reflect together on that weekend, and ask yourselves “What did we hear? How did we react? How has our relationship changed? Maybe a renewal weekend would be a good idea, perhaps a couple retreat. Whatever you decide, keep up that Couple Love strong because the church, the youth, the world needs it!

At the Medal prayer service there were 133 parishes represented and 43 couples received the award. Sitting behind us were Jerry & Tippy Case, who some of you may know and remember. The Cases were a pioneer team couple, they brought the ME Weekend to Africa! Seeing the Cases at the ceremony really got us thinking about the gift that Marriage Encounter has been to the whole church.

Thanks for listening, God bless you all.

John & Mary Linge

Commack



Montauk Weekend 2009

Many thanks to all the organizers, cooks and couples who took the time out to be in community; yet have time to play games and experience a lot of fun together.



Section Enrichment 2009 @ Latham, N.Y.



More of Montauk during dinner!



**Community
Area Coordinators**

Area 1- Wester Nassau
Kevin & Regina Hickson
(516) 883-9649
Kevinhickson@msn.com
Meets 2nd Friday

Area 2- Eastern Nassau
Michael & Lisa Savallo
(516) 520-2032
Savallo@aol.com
Meets 2nd Saturday

Avea 3—Western
Huntington
Skip & Fran DeBlasio
(631) 367-4224
skip10fran@aol.com
Meets 2nd Friday

Area 4—Commack to
Stony Brook
Ed & Olga Ramirez
(631) 274-5715
edram21741@optonline.
net
Meets 2nd Friday

Area 4—Nichols Road to
Montauk
Manny & Rosemary
Sblendorio
(631) 969-6134
No email
Meets 2nd Saturday

Area 6—Nicols Rd East
on No Folk
Vacant

“Love One Another as I Have Loved You!”

Dear Encountered Couples;

You are the salt of the earth...the light of the world.

As we focus on all that we have to be thankful for during this holiday season, most of us would agree that high on our lists would be the gift of our Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend. For many of us it was an epiphany...a life-changing experience.

Many couples today deserve the opportunity for the same graces we received on the Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend, yet they cannot afford the \$590.00 it costs today to experience the Weekend.

The community of Long Island/Brooklyn Queens Marriage Encounter came up with an idea to put our money where our hearts are in 2010. We hope to raise \$14,500 through gifts, donations and fund raising activities to offset a portion of the cost of the Weekend. This money can be earmarked for use “in support of L.I./B.Q. Marriage Encounter Weekends.” Our hope is to be able to present each couple making a weekend with a certificate for 250.00 towards the cost on the weekend.

Attached is a gift sheet giving three ways to participate in this effort to make the Weekend more affordable for young couples with families in today’s difficult economy. In addition we are asking images, areas or regions that may normally do a grab bag for Christmas, to instead Gift that money to this fund. Among the team community we have replaced are annual grab bag with a “Spiritual Bouquet of Prayers” and will be taking up a collection for the fund. We believe that once these couples make the Weekend, they will find ways to give back just as we are doing now.

Please review the attached sheet to make the decision if you would like to allocate a portion of your charitable giving in 2010. Checks would be payable to: Worldwide Marriage Encounter and write in the memo section “For the support of L.I./B.Q. Weekends”. Donations can be sent to the L.I. Financial couple at the address below. You will be able to track the progress of our fundraising on the web at <http://www.wmeli.org/fundraising>.

We thank you for your sacrament, which is a fountain of grace for God’s people. We wish all of you a very Merry Christmas and a healthy and Happy New Year.

With much love,

Your Long Island Leadership,
John & Toni Torio
Ron & Chris Morasse
Jeff & Claudia Fishman
Kevin & Regina Hickson

Checks can be sent to:

Fran & Kate Mayerhofer
106 Nelson Street
Farmingdale, NY 11735

**Please send your
newsletter article by
mail to:**

**Vinnie & RoseMarie
Giaime
39 Homestead Drive
Wheatley Heights, NY
11798**

**Or
Email: Momgi@optonli
ne.net**

**The Spirit is published
four times per year.**

**THIS IS YOUR
NEWSLETTER
Please write!!!!**

Support for L.I. Worldwide Marriage Encounter
Weekends in 2010

We have approximately 50 to 60 active community couples and team couples on Long Island and Brooklyn Queens. If each couple gifted \$20.00/month we would accomplish 80% of our goal in this simple act.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Tel# _____

Gift:

We believe in the W.W.M.E. Weekend and gift \$_____ monthly to support Local Weekends in 2010. **Make checks payable to Worldwide Marriage Encounter and mark in the memo section "For the support of L.I./B.Q. M.E. Weekends".**

Donation:

We prefer to make a one time gift of \$_____ to support Local Weekends in 2010. **Make check payable to: Worldwide marriage Encounter and mark in the memo section "For the support of L.I./B.Q. M.E. Weekends."**

Fundraiser:

We are willing to organize a fundraiser as described below with the proceeds going to Worldwide Marriage Encounter in support of L.I./B.Q. M.E. Weekends

Describe
idea: _____

Send completed forms to:

Fran & Kate Mayerhofer
106 Nelson Street, Farmingdale, NY 11735



**ARE YOU AWARE THAT WORLDWIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER IS A
NONPROFIT MINISTRY?**

Did you know that all donations are tax deductible?

So you don't forget: hang it on the frig

Community Notes December 2009 –June 2010

Community Night: Saturday 12/26/09 7PM –10P.M. @ St. Matthews Parish Center

Saturday 01/30/10 7PM –10P.M. @ St. Matthews Parish Center

February, March, April, May, June, Last Saturday of the Month @ St. Matthews Parish Center

DIRECTIONS: LIE coming from the West going east bound, Get off exit #51 Stay on the service road to Carl's Straight Path Road; make a left over the bridge—then another left unto the service road going west; about 1/4 mile down is the entrance to the Parish Center.

Coming from the East going west on the LIE get off Exit #53 Commack Road.

Celebrate Marriage: Saturday 01/23/2010 @ St. James Parish, Setauket, N.Y. (Jeff & Claudia's Parish) Will be presented by Brooklyn./Queens and LI Team & Community Couples. A full day Marriage Enrichment for un-encountered couples. If you would like to present a talk or can help us please call Jeff & Claudia (631) 751-3118.

WWME Mass and Dinner Dance: Saturday 2/6/10 @ Immaculate Conception Center, Douglaston, N.Y. Registration Form Due: 1/15/10!!! Please see flyer for details by going to our website wwmeli.org

WWME Weekend: Starts Friday, 02/12/10 @ Montfort in Bay Shore, N.Y.

WWME National Convention June 25-27 2010 in Atlantic City, N.J. Early registration till 12/31/09 link to convention website on our website in the upcoming events section



A HAPPY
NEW YEAR



Dear LI Community:

Ho, Ho, Ho, it was a wonderful Family Christmas Party at Our Lady of Lourdes on Saturday December 5th. Everyone was greeted at the door by our own Vinnie McGuire as the Cat in the Hat. Music and Caroling were provided so festively by Glen & Diane Sherman. Lisa Savallo and Olga Ramirez assisted the children in making Christmas ornaments. The children were entertained by the talented Floppy the Clown who mesmerized them with tricks and balloon animals which allowed their parents time for food and conversation. Last, but certainly not least, Santa and Mrs. Claus arrived with their elves to see if the children had been naughty or nice. Of course all of our children were nice. Photos with Santa were artfully taken by Ritch & Karen D'Alimonte Joe & Linda Cardalli and sons were the best production assistants any host could want-coffee pot fixer, table and chair movers, The Claus' dressing room attendants and clean up crew pros! The food was tasty, the company was lively. The Christmas Spirit was in the Air! It was wonderful for us to see such a large turnout of approx. 60 parents, grandparents and children enjoying themselves. We feel affirmed in our leadership role when we see such a tremendous outpouring of support through your attendance at Community events. It is like the feeling of biting into a York's Peppermint Patty-cool, delicious and exhilarating. The party ended with the Shermans leading us in "Our Song" There's A New World Somewhere, with arms linked in a circle. What a wonderful way to start the holiday season in a circle of love to our relationships and to Marriage Encounter. We wish all a Merry Christmas and a Healthy, Happy New Year!

Love,

Jeff & Claudia

