



Winter 2016



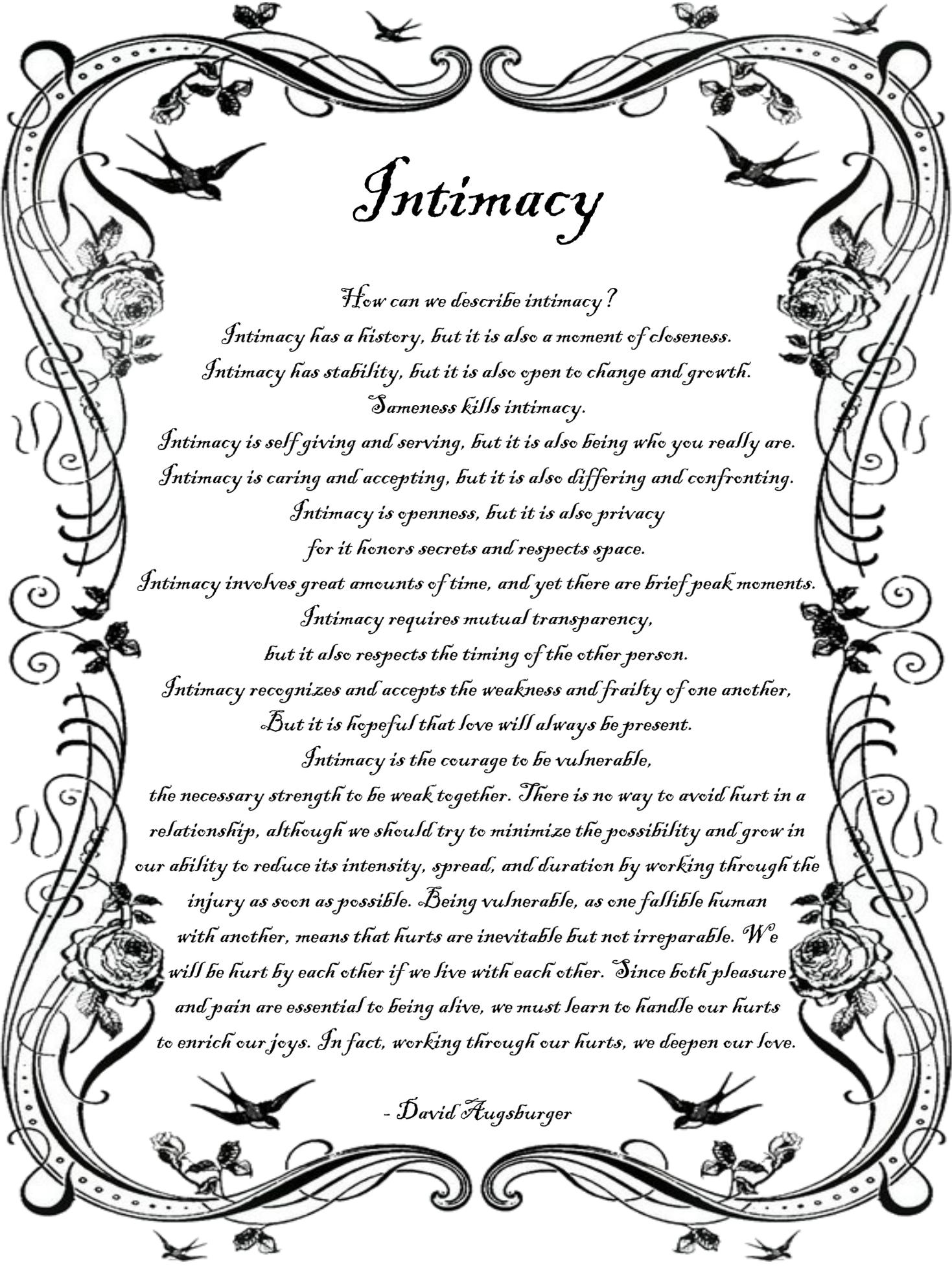
# Relationship



Romance

Renewal

\*\*Bonus points to anyone who knows where I got the 'new' logo from!



# Intimacy

*How can we describe intimacy?*

*Intimacy has a history, but it is also a moment of closeness.*

*Intimacy has stability, but it is also open to change and growth.*

*Sameness kills intimacy.*

*Intimacy is self giving and serving, but it is also being who you really are.*

*Intimacy is caring and accepting, but it is also differing and confronting.*

*Intimacy is openness, but it is also privacy*

*for it honors secrets and respects space.*

*Intimacy involves great amounts of time, and yet there are brief peak moments.*

*Intimacy requires mutual transparency,*

*but it also respects the timing of the other person.*

*Intimacy recognizes and accepts the weakness and frailty of one another,*

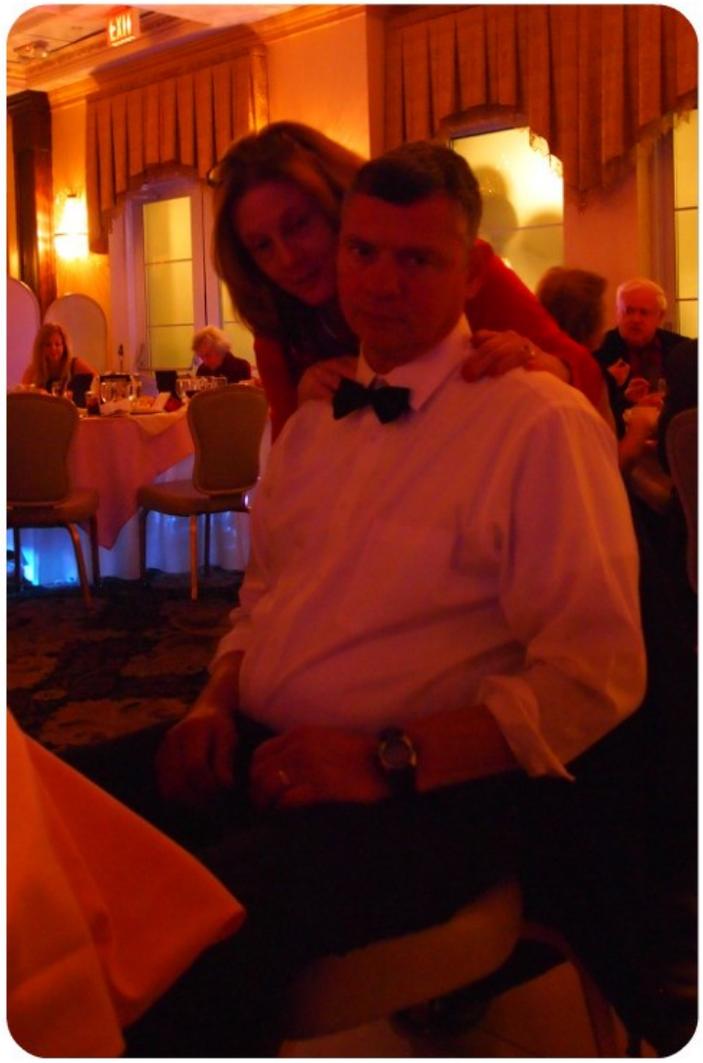
*But it is hopeful that love will always be present.*

*Intimacy is the courage to be vulnerable,*

*the necessary strength to be weak together. There is no way to avoid hurt in a relationship, although we should try to minimize the possibility and grow in our ability to reduce its intensity, spread, and duration by working through the*

*injury as soon as possible. Being vulnerable, as one fallible human with another, means that hurts are inevitable but not irreparable. We will be hurt by each other if we live with each other. Since both pleasure and pain are essential to being alive, we must learn to handle our hurts to enrich our joys. In fact, working through our hurts, we deepen our love.*

*- David Augsburger*



Please send your mail to Bob & Jeane Payne at [jeane.payne52@gmail.com](mailto:jeane.payne52@gmail.com). Letters and articles designated for publication should be in WORD file format and limited to 200 words or less. Thanks!

Deadlines are as follows:



Spring issue (Mar-Apr-May) — Feb. 15

Summer issue (June-July-Aug) — May 15

Fall issue (Sep-Oct-Nov) — August 15

Winter issue (Dec-Jan-Feb) — Nov. 15

As the song goes, "We've only just begun." We truly believe in our hearts that with prayer, hard work, and trust, Jesus' words, "Love one another as I have loved you" will spread, and the miracle of His weekend will continue.

**THIS IS YOUR  
NEWSLETTER,  
KEEP IT ALIVE—  
WRITE!**

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Dear Community of Lovers,

We come before you today humbled in acknowledging that we have been nominated and affirmed once again for leadership of the Local Worldwide Marriage Encounter on Long Island. We first wish to thank Bert and Val Mota for their wonderful work and tireless efforts these past two years in serving this long Island Community and to thank them for taking of the role of Team Pillar. We also thank Bob and Jeane Payne for staying on as Community Pillar and we welcome Chuck and Maria Reiss as Weekend Pillar. Together, we seek to build on the foundation that stretches back almost fifty years. We see this community standing on the shoulders of those that have gone before us. We trust that the many qualities that you saw present in us will be put to good use for our Long Island community.

There are needs in all areas of our movement, structure, team, weekend and community. One of the needs cited by our community is interdependency. Just as we are interdependent on the other Local Encounters and they are on us, so are we interdependent with those involved in our community, the weekends, the teams and our pillars. We must work together to spread the good news of our movement. The presentation of enrichments, presenting more weekends and vibrant community events are all linked to our interdependency on the local area.

As leaders we see it as our responsibility to foster this interdependency so that the vision of WWME, "Love on another as I have loved you" and the mission of WWME, "to proclaim the value of Marriage and Holy Orders in the Church and in the world" can continue to be a reality here on Long Island and reach even more couples and priests.

To accomplish this we hope to live the Charism of our movement, "Faith through relationship." Central to this charism is the open, honest, tender and trusting relationship between the husband and wife, between the couples and priests, between the priests and religious and their communities, between the leadership teams and those they lead, and the relationship of everybody with God.

Our spirituality is one of the things that sets us apart from the modern world and its view of marriage as just a contract. A strong spirituality is fundamental to living out a covenant marriage and it is important for our community to foster our personal and communal spiritual growth. To help develop our spiritual growth, we would urge all couples in our Long Island community to start taking advantage of the weekly Thursday night online Rosary that has been reinstated on our regional level to pray for our weekends, our community and the needs and intentions of all of us. Additionally, since this is a Holy Year of Mercy as proclaimed by Pope Francis, a pilgrimage for married couples is being planned for later this year to take place at the Shrine of Our Lady of the Island. This pilgrimage is being sponsored by Long Island with our neighbors in Brooklyn/Queens and by the Spanish Region that overlaps our own Region 20 and will be open to all married couples. This looks to be a great day of prayer and reflection around the theme of mercy, forgiveness and healing.

In closing let us say, we see ourselves as your servant leaders. Our commitment to daily dialogue, to you, the whole Marriage Encounter community on Long Island and our commitment to the values of Worldwide Marriage Encounter is firm. We hope to provide the spiritual and foundational focus our community needs. We hope to see all of you soon at your sharing groups or community events. We thank you for your trust in us.



Peace, Love and Joy,  
Kevin & Regina Hickson



Dear Lovers:

When we got married 25 years ago a friend gave us some marriage advice; he said “everything in a marriage is 50/50. You dirty, the other cleans. You cook, the other eats. You make the money, the other spends it”. We know our friend was kidding but most marriages live around a 50/50 concept. The truth is marriage requires 100% of oneself and if for some reason one can't give the 100% the other needs to pick up the slack. Marriage requires 100% of mutual respect, loyalty, honesty and communication.

Through mutual respect, loyalty, honesty and communication we are able to pick up each other's slack during times of weakness. When one spouse is angry, the other should be calm; when one spouse is down, the other should be supportive. On our Marriage Encounter weekend, we adapted the tools into our relationship to help us achieve this: 100% of mutual respect, loyalty, honesty and communication.

Through daily dialogue we are able to listen with the heart and invest 100% into our mutual respect by putting our own thoughts and feelings aside and take in the thoughts and feelings of our spouses.

Through daily dialogue we have learned to accept that feelings are neither right nor wrong, leading us to 100% of mutual honesty; we strive to accept our own feelings and those of our spouses in our daily lives.

Through daily dialogue we risk to trust our spouse with our deepest feelings, going beyond our obstacles and fears and becoming vulnerable, leading us to 100% of mutual loyalty.

Through daily dialogue and couple prayer we can give 100% of each other into our mutual communication. We are open and filled with love and understanding. We are there for each other to love one another when we are feeling down. The more we open ourselves to each other, the more we hunger for each other's love.

Dialogue Question:

What distracts me from investing time and attention in our marriage right now? How Do I Feel About That (HDIFAT)?



Much Love To All,  
Bert and Val Mota



Hellooooo Long Island,

We are Maria & Chuck Reiss from East Northport. We have been blessed with the opportunity to be your weekend pillar for the next 2 years. We follow in the footsteps of Kevin and Regina Hickson and with their love and guidance we plan to serve our Long Island community to the best of our ability.

We were encountered in September of 2011 in Massachusetts, A 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary gift to each other. To quote the Marriage Encounter mission – “we wanted to make our good marriage a great one.” During 20 years of marriage we had been working opposite schedules to raise 3 great children. Maria as a recovery room Nurse and Chuck as a NYPD Detective. Along with obligations to children, family and community it didn’t leave a lot of time for “us”. Our weekend was better than we could have hoped, it was a transformative reconnection. After our weekend we were asked to be team, but we felt we couldn’t make WWME a priority at that time in our lives. (Even with the encouragement of John and Toni Torio). Our daily dialogue was sporadic and we couldn’t seem to fit community events into our schedules. We spoke to Skip and Fran DeBlasio numerous times but still couldn’t get it together.

Finally in February 2013 we attended the World Wide Marriage Day dance. We had forgotten how joyous it was to be with other couples involved in the WWME community. Our hearts and eyes were reopened. We started to go to area meetings regularly, dialogue more frequently and put “us” as more of a priority in our lives.

In 2014 we were asked again to be team by Skip and Fran DeBlasio and Bert and Val Mota. We prayed about it and accepted God’s plan. Our deeper weekend was another incredible experience. We got to shout our love from the top of the Rocky Mountains and returned home to an overwhelming reception from our WWME community. Since then we presented 2 weekends, another unbelievable experience. We are presently working on our 2<sup>nd</sup> set of talks and excited to present again soon.

Since embracing the World Wide Marriage Encounter community we have had so many wonderful experiences with so many incredible couples. We are forever grateful for the gift of daily dialogue and to share our life’s journey with other believers in the dream.



God bless you all,  
Chuck & Maria Reiss  
Weekend Pillar



January 2016

Dear Long Island Lovers,

We hope you all had a wonderful Christmas and New Year. Here we are, a new year and a new opportunity for all of us to rededicate ourselves to investing in our relationships through daily dialogue. Bob & I have recommitted ourselves to making sure we have our love letters written to each other before I get home from work. This is what works best for us. You may have to re-evaluate what works best for your relationship.

This past October we made the commitment to attend the Section 20 enrichment day in Milford Ma. I can't tell you enough how wonderful this day was. We were challenged and nourished by the presentations; the group sharings opened us up and stretched us to grow in new directions. The comradery we experience with our companions on this journey was inspiring. I felt thankful, blessed and grateful for all those who presented and planned and attended the day. We returned with a new sense of the meaning living each day to the fullest. We encourage all of you to mark this year's enrichment date on your calendars and plan to attend October 1, 2016. We hope even more couples from Long Island will attend.

We have been working on many events for all of you, our encounter family, this year. We hope you will make an effort to support all of us by attending. There are details of what's coming up in this issue of the Spirit.

Bob & I would like to encourage all of you that have not been on a M.E. weekend in a while to think about treating yourselves to one this year. Also check out the dialogue question page for helpful tips and questions.



Love,

Bob & Jeane





# Worldwide Marriage Encounter

Worldwide Marriage Encounter Office · 275 West Hospitality Lane, #102, San Bernardino, CA 92408  
Phone: 909/332-7309 Fax: 909/332-7409

November 16, 2015

Dearest Long Island Lovers,

We write this letter, as we approach one of our favorite times of the year, Thanksgiving, and we can't imagine a more perfect time to thank all you who continue to promote the Mission of Worldwide Marriage Encounter in your daily lives. Change is definitely in the air – in the seasons, in our Church, and in Worldwide Marriage Encounter – changes that keep our movement strong and vibrant! Today, change is coming to you as well. We're certain God is smiling down on you Long Island lovers as He sees how faithfully you carry out His Mission – and how the virtues of Faith, Hope, and Love bless your community so abundantly. As you gather for today's selection process, we also give thanks to the amazing couples who have opened their hearts to serving as area leaders. WOW! We know Ralph & Jane and Fr Larry will lead you in a loving, prayerful process that will bring new life to your whole community. Please be assured of our prayers as the process unfolds!

We especially want to thank your out-going leaders, Bert & Val Mota, for their generous hearts, tenacious spirits, and enormous trust in God as they lovingly guided your area over the last two years. BUT - we know they could not have done it without the strength, passion and dedication of ALL you Long Island lovers! Your ongoing inviting efforts mean couples are experiencing the gift of the Weekend. The "Invitation to Mission" has been extended and your team community is growing. You are nurturing your communities through "Enrichnics" (what a great idea!) and empowering couples to use their gifts to change the world. YOU, dear lovers, are like gold that's been tested in fire. Your life-giving relationships are simply irresistible to the Body of Christ!

On behalf of the US Council and those whose lives you continue to touch, we thank you for your dedication to the Mission, Vision and Values of Worldwide Marriage Encounter. We are humbled by your passionate love and dedication to each other and to our Church. Never doubt that you ARE proclaiming the value of Marriage and Holy Orders in our Church and in the world, where the signs of your beautiful sacraments are needed now more than ever. Few are called to this ministry; fewer still are willing to say "yes". We thank you for answering God's call with your true servants' hearts - and for always believing in the dream. You are a blessing to us!

Praying that God will continue to shower you with abundant blessings,  
*Joe & Sue Talarico and Fr Tom Ogg*

United States Ecclesial Team

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World  
Wide

Marriage Encounter

Presents

# MOVIE NIGHT

*All Married Couples Welcome!*

*Date: March 12th, 2016*

*Time: 6:00pm*

*Place: St. Peter & Paul R.C. Church*

*781 Wading River Road*

*Manorville, NY 11949*

*Film: War Room*

Synopsis: Tony and Elizabeth Jordan have it all--great jobs, a beautiful daughter, and their dream house. But appearances can be deceiving. Their world is actually crumbling under the strain of a failing marriage. While Tony basks in his professional success and flirts with temptation, Elizabeth resigns herself to increasing bitterness. But their lives take an unexpected turn when Elizabeth meets her newest client, Miss Clara, and is challenged to establish a "war room" and a battle plan of prayer for her family. As Elizabeth tries to fight for her family, Tony's hidden struggles come to light. Tony must decide if he will make amends with his family and prove Miss Clara's wisdom that victories don't come from accidents.

*Please bring snacks for the sharing table  
and a bottle of soda! Thanks!*



# *Upcoming Events*

Save these important events on your calendar!

## *June 2016*

Pilgrimage to Our Lady of the Island Shrine in Manorville.  
Our Lady of the Island shrine has been selected by our Holy Father  
to participate in the Year of Mercy

WWME convention: Tampa Fla. June 17-19, 2016 (see flyer).

## *July 2016*

Dialogue at the Beach @ Captree State Park  
Fun in the sun, relationship & dialogue fellowship with community.

## *September 2016*

We are in the planning stage for a North Fork couples getaway  
for September. More info in the next Spirit!

## *December 2016*

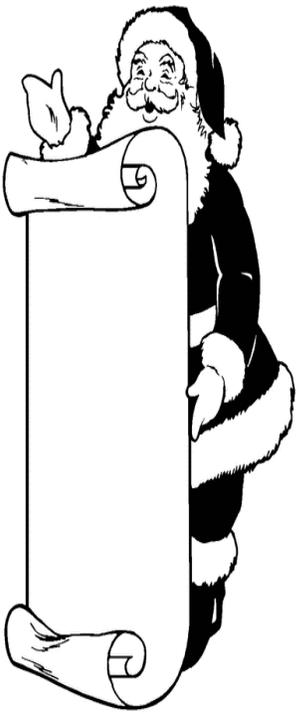
WWME Family Christmas Party December 4th, 2016. Mass will be  
celebrated prior to the party. Fun for Couples and families.

## *Upcoming Weekends*

If you haven't made a weekend in a while, why not book on  
one of our upcoming weekends: April 29, 30 & May 1, 2016;  
November 4-6 2016

Section 20 Marriage Encounter Weekend: Oct 1, 2016  
Milford Ma. This one-day enrichment is packed with  
fun & relationship. Well worth the trip.

# WWME CHRISTMAS PARTY



# SAVE THE DATES

WORLDWIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER  
2016 NORTH AMERICAN CONVENTION



Follow us On Facebook at: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/405996172925580>

On Twitter at: <https://twitter.com/wwme201>

On the web at: <http://www.wwme2016.org>

**REGISTRATIONS WILL BEGIN IN SEPTEMBER 2015  
LOOK FOR ANNOUNCEMENTS**

# VISION

“Love one Another as I have Loved you”- John 15:12

# MISSION

The Mission of Worldwide Marriage Encounter is to proclaim the value of Marriage and Holy Orders in the church and in the world.

1-877 NYS WWME or [wwmeli.org](http://wwmeli.org)



## INVITE A COUPLE TO THE WEEKEND

Weekend Application Form  
(Please Print)

His First Name \_\_\_\_\_ Her First Name \_\_\_\_\_

Last Name \_\_\_\_\_ Wedding Date \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Which weekend? \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

His Faith \_\_\_\_\_ Her Faith \_\_\_\_\_

**Make Check Payable to: Worldwide Marriage Encounter  
Mail to application couple with \$50.00 Non-Refundable Application**

**To  
John ♥ Toni Torio  
5 Ocean Ave  
Hampton Bays NY 11946  
1877 NYS WWME  
697-9963**

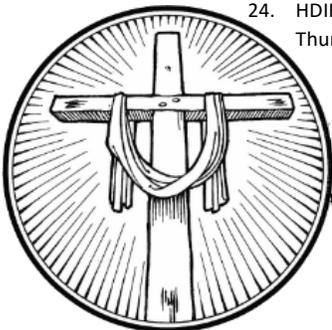


### LENT/HOLY WEEK

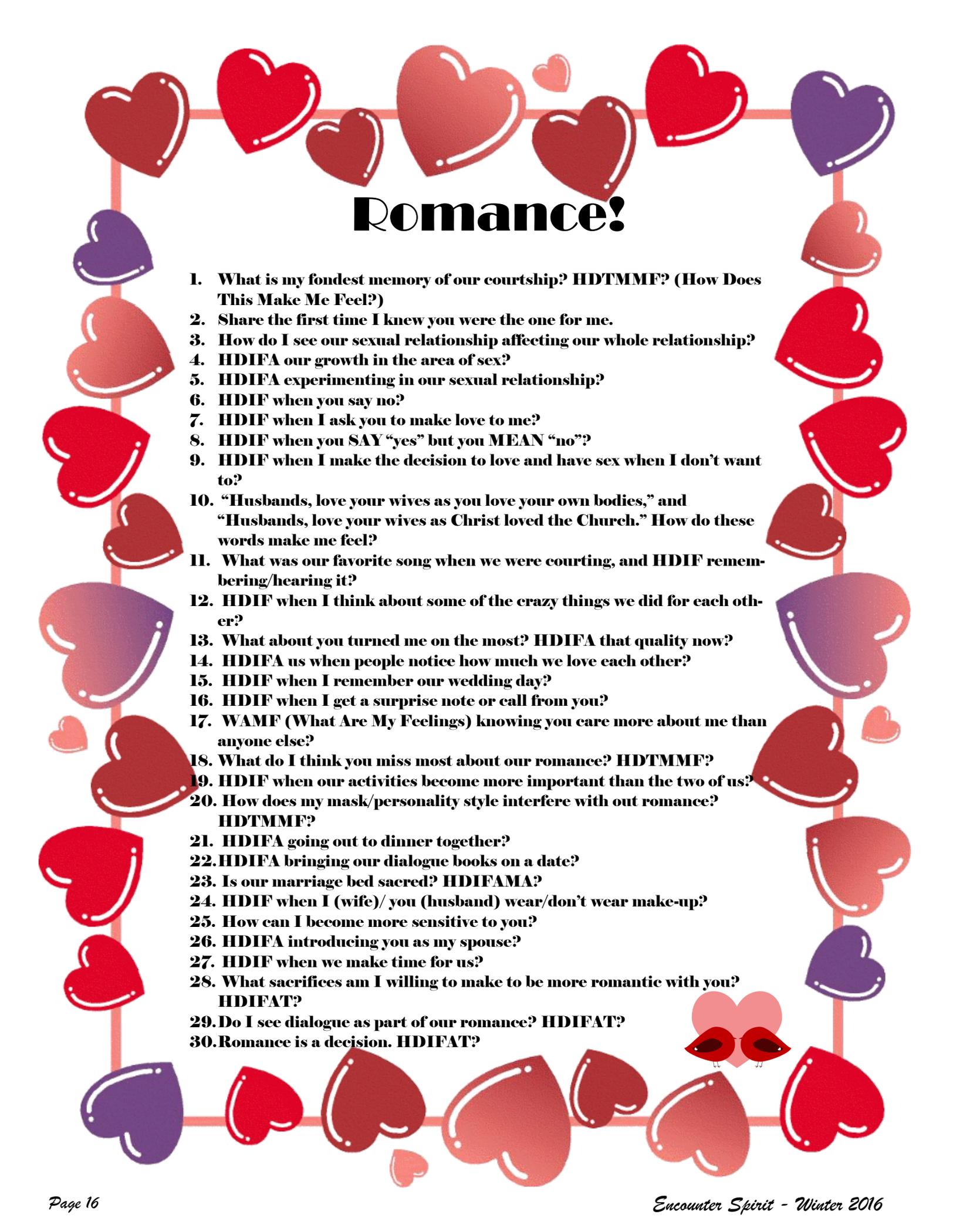
### EASTER

1. What can we do to enrich our relationship with each other this Lent? HDMAMMF?
2. What can we do to enrich our prayer life this Lent? HDMAMMF?
3. HDIF when we attend Stations of the Cross?
4. What is a meaningful sacrifice for me to make that will enrich my spiritual life? HDIFA making this sacrifice?
5. HDIFA involving our children in a Lenten tradition?
6. Will we eat meat on Fridays this Lent? HDIFAT?
7. Will we take advantage of the Sacrament of Reconciliation this Lent? HDMAMMF?
8. How specifically can we as a couple/priest be salt and light? HDMAMMF?
9. HDIFA offering sacrifices?
10. Are we giving back to God a portion of our first fruits? HDMAMMF?
11. When I think about the sacrifices Jesus made for me, HDIF?
12. If I were on trial for being a Christian, would there be enough evidence to convict me? HDIFAMA?
13. Does Lent remind me of our Marriage Encounter weekend? HDMAMMF?
14. What can we do to renew our romance and passion? HDMAMMF?
15. HDIF when I receive ashes?
16. HDIF walking around in public with ashes on my forehead?
17. Do I believe we are children of light? HDIFAT?
18. What is the chaff I need to separate from the wheat in my life? HDMAMMF?
19. God already knows my heart. HDIFAT?
20. HDIF when we read the Passion during Holy Week?
21. HDIF when I sin?
22. HDIF when I am forgiven?
23. HDIFA dying to self?
24. HDIF when I see washing of the feet on Holy Thursday?

1. Is it important to be at the Easter Vigil to welcome new members into our church? HDIFAT?
2. How will we celebrate Easter? HDIFAT?
3. What are my feelings about the Easter bunny?
4. What are my feelings about having an egg hunt for the kids?
5. How do I feel when I see an overflowing church on Easter Sunday?
6. It is said that we are an Easter people. Are we an Easter couple? HDIFAT?
7. How do I feel during the candlelight reading or singing of the Exultet on the Easter vigil?
8. HDIFA hearing all 7 readings on the Easter Vigil?
9. Do I believe in heaven? WAMFAMA?
10. HDIFA Jesus' resurrection?
11. Can I identify with Thomas? HDIFAMA?
12. Do I recognize Jesus in the breaking of the bread? HDIFAT?
13. Do I believe good will triumph over evil? HDIFAMA?
14. Do I believe the dead are in a better place? HDFAMA?
15. HDIFA celebrating Easter for 7 Sundays?
16. How do I experience the trinity?
17. HDIF when I see Easter lilies?
18. HDIF when we sing the Gloria?
19. HDIF when we use incense at Mass?
20. HDIF being sprinkled with holy water?
21. Is Jesus my shepherd? HDIFAMA?



L E N T



# Romance!

1. What is my fondest memory of our courtship? HDTMMF? (How Does This Make Me Feel?)
2. Share the first time I knew you were the one for me.
3. How do I see our sexual relationship affecting our whole relationship?
4. HDIFA our growth in the area of sex?
5. HDIFA experimenting in our sexual relationship?
6. HDIF when you say no?
7. HDIF when I ask you to make love to me?
8. HDIF when you SAY “yes” but you MEAN “no”?
9. HDIF when I make the decision to love and have sex when I don’t want to?
10. “Husbands, love your wives as you love your own bodies,” and “Husbands, love your wives as Christ loved the Church.” How do these words make me feel?
11. What was our favorite song when we were courting, and HDIF remembering/hearing it?
12. HDIF when I think about some of the crazy things we did for each other?
13. What about you turned me on the most? HDIFA that quality now?
14. HDIFA us when people notice how much we love each other?
15. HDIF when I remember our wedding day?
16. HDIF when I get a surprise note or call from you?
17. WAMF (What Are My Feelings) knowing you care more about me than anyone else?
18. What do I think you miss most about our romance? HDTMMF?
19. HDIF when our activities become more important than the two of us?
20. How does my mask/personality style interfere with our romance? HDTMMF?
21. HDIFA going out to dinner together?
22. HDIFA bringing our dialogue books on a date?
23. Is our marriage bed sacred? HDIFAMA?
24. HDIF when I (wife)/you (husband) wear/don’t wear make-up?
25. How can I become more sensitive to you?
26. HDIFA introducing you as my spouse?
27. HDIF when we make time for us?
28. What sacrifices am I willing to make to be more romantic with you? HDIFAT?
29. Do I see dialogue as part of our romance? HDIFAT?
30. Romance is a decision. HDIFAT?