



Summer/Fall 2017



The Fruits of Our Labor



Please send your mail to Bob & Jeane Payne at 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) — April 25

Summer issue (June-July-Aug) — July 25

Fall issue (Sep-Oct-Nov) — October 25

Winter issue (Dec-Jan-Feb) — January 25

Encounter Spirit Editor: Jennifer Payne
(631) 599-8441 rayjax77@aol.com

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!**

Structure Pillar

Kevin ♥ Regina Hickson
(516) 883-9649
rnhkah6483@gmail.com

Team Pillar

Bert ♥ Valerie Mota
(516) 414-4266
val@jssperformance.com

Weekend Pillar

Chuck ♥ Maria Reiss
(631) 486-8607
reissent@optonline.net

Community Pillar

Bob ♥ Jeane Payne
(631) 886-2256
Jeane.payne52@gmail.com

INFORMATION SECTION

We ask that you keep in your prayers all these lovers who have said "YES" to helping Marriage Encounter continue to grow and enrich marriages throughout Long Island.

Weekend Pillar

Application Couple
John ♥ Toni Torio
(631) 728-4165
1-877-NYS-WWME

Prayer Couple
Charlie ♥ Geri Peknic
(516) 596-6241
cgpeknice@optonline.com

Weekend Hosting
Peter ♥ Kathy Kelsch
(631) 472-2959
kpkelsch@gmail.com

Weekend Supplies
David ♥ Carmen Venezian
(516) 612-7774
dcvenezian@aol.com

LI Webmasters
Glen ♥ Diane Sherman
(631) 877-2628
www.wmeli@excite.com

Sharing Group Leaders

Nassau Sharing Group
George ♥ Dolores Kraus
Meetings: 2nd Saturday every month
Hosted by George ♥ Dolores
in Mineola

Western Suffolk Sharing Group
Skip ♥ Fran DeBlasio
(631) 367-4224
Meetings: 2nd Friday every month
in Huntington

Central Suffolk Sharing Group
Ed ♥ Olga Ramirez
(631) 274-5715
Meetings: 2nd Friday every month
in Bayshore

Eastern Suffolk Sharing Group
Bob ♥ Jeane Payne
(631) 886-2256
&
Mike ♥ Patti Tafe
(631) 475-8413
Meetings: 2nd Saturday every month
Hosted by Mike ♥ Patti
in Patchogue

East End Twin Forks Sharing Group
John ♥ Toni Torio
(631) 728-4165
Meetings: 3rd Friday every month
Hosted by John ♥ Toni
In Hampton Bays

Region 20 Ecclesial Team

Pat ♥ Mary Jo McLaughlin
Father Larry Brault

Encounter Teams

Jim ♥ Diane Popp
(516) 794-0069
Rich ♥ Rosemary Maikis
Mike ♥ Lisa Savallo

Weekend Team Couples

Skip ♥ Fran DeBlasio
(631) 367-4224
skip10fran@aol.com

Jorge ♥ Monica Nunez
(347) 538-3955

Kevin ♥ Regina Hickson
(516) 883-9649
rnhkah6483@gmail.com

George ♥ Dolores Kraus
(516) 746-0615
Gk90@verizon.net

Ron ♥ Chris Morasse
(516) 731-2055
ron@morassefamily.com

Bert ♥ Valerie Mota
(516) 414-4266
val@jssperformance.com

Luis ♥ Rosa Nieves
(516) 804-3923

Chuck ♥ Maria Reiss
(631) 486-8607
reissent@optonline.net

John ♥ Toni Torio
(631) 728-4165
jtwwme@aol.com

Team Priests

Father Peter Devaraj
(631) 588-7443
peter19812@aol.com

Father Jose K Jacob

Father Roy Tvrdik
258 Eastport Manor Rd.
Manorville, N.Y. 1194
(631) 325-0661
shrineoffice@optonline.net

Dear Lovers and Sharers in the Dream,

It hardly seems possible that this will be our last letter to you as Leaders of Marriage Encounter on Long Island. The two years have flown by so quickly. It has been a joy to humbly serve as your leaders. As we look back we see the faces of so many friends, old and new that bring so much love into our lives.

“True friendship comes when the silence between two people is comfortable.”- David Tyson Gentry

This quote popped up on our news feed recently. It started us thinking about the times we have silence in our marriage. We don't mean giving each other the “silent treatment” when we are upset with something either of us did or failed to do. That is a completely unproductive use of silence. Appreciating silence is something that you have to grow in to.

For us this growing in silence began during our Honeymoon in a small cottage just off Peconic Bay in Greenport, NY. At night it gets real quiet. Kevin quickly discovered that Regina, a “city girl” was not used to things being so still, especially at night. In fact the silence made her quiet uncomfortable, so much so we had to put the radio on so she could fall asleep. In this world today we have become used to so much noise in our lives that we accept it as the norm. We really have to strain to listen. How many times do we carry on with our motors running and miss what is being said. We fail to hear the language of our bodies which is spoken without words.

It is said by some that almost ninety percent of our communication is done through body language. The look, the glance, the gesture can tell all. Our own words, our noise gets in the way of fully hearing what is in the moment. Perhaps I might give an example of this. The other night, Regina put together a wonderful repast of fresh vegetables we had picked up at the local farm stand that morning. We sat and ate this meal in silence, savoring all of it. Someone seeing this from the outside might think we don't have much to say. It is quite the opposite, for in each bite of lettuce, tomato, and cucumber we savor the joy of just being in each other's presence, savoring the moment, using all the other senses of touch, smell, sight and taste, knowing we are indeed comfortable with each other in silence.

Silence needs to be practiced. Perhaps that is why we enjoy watching sunsets. Try it. Don't say a word; just watch the sky change from blue to orange to lavender to cyan and finally the midnight blue of the night sky dotted by the stars. Get in touch with the emotions. Think on the day just past. Think of the love you have for each other. A few days ago as we pulled into our driveway, we noticed a family of deer eating the grass in our side yard. We watched them without making a sound, the doe, stag, a yearling and two fawns. We just watched them interact peacefully eating then they all sat down and just rested. As I watched them, I wondered what people see when our family is together and how we interact.

You might want to try praying in silence. In the Gospels it is always saying “and Jesus went off to pray.” It is kind of a message that we need to find a quiet place to pray; otherwise we won't hear God responding to us through all the noise in our lives. It takes time to get used to this; especially if you meditate in silence as a couple. You might be surprised by what you hear in the silence. Enjoy!

Wishing you Peace, Love & Joy

Kevin & Regina



Dear Lovers,

Wow, fall 2017, we can't believe how fast time flies by. It has been two years since we were asked to be Long Island's presenting Team Pillar coordinators and now our term is coming to an end. We enjoyed this journey alongside Kevin and Regina, Bob and Jeane and Chuck and Maria.

We presented our first ME weekend in 2010 at the Immaculate Conception Center in Douglaston. We remember feeling scared with the thought of presenting weekends, sharing our lives with a group of people who we did not know. We thought we would be laughed at and judged. We thought, what qualifies us to be a presenting team? We are not professional writers or speakers. Answering the call to being open Long Island Structure Leadership in 2014 was not easy. We judged we were not qualified to and doubted our ability to lead our community. We wondered if we were going to be able to fulfill Long Island's needs. And when we were called to be open to Team Pillar coordinators we looked for our qualifications to lead, enrich and nurture our Teams.

Well, we remember someone telling us: *"God Does Not Call The Qualified, He Qualifies The Called!"* These words had a powerful effect on us and it helped us to discern to becoming a presenting team, Structure and Team pillar coordinators. God saw a gift in us. It's hard for us to recognize our own gifts, but Jesus sees them clearly and he wants those gifts to grow within ourselves. Jesus sees many gifts inside each and every one of us, they may be gifts of compassion, hospitality, wisdom, reliability, leadership just to name a few. Whatever that gift may be; he challenges us to acknowledge them, hone and use them.

1Peter4:10(NIV)

Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms.

Being open to God's calling has transformed our lives. Our relationship has grown and continues to grow as we serve him. We ask for forgiveness and give forgiveness more readily. We are filled with understanding & compassion. We have grown as a couple and with our relationship with God. Our spirituality has become our top priority; we are filled with the gift of spirituality. We are ready to serve him by presenting weekends where ever we are called to outside of our area and our Country; we recognize our gift of reliability. Jesus knows what gifts we possess. We should trust he will use them in ways we may not comprehend.

Dialogue question: Are we open to using our gifts, as couples, to answer God's calling? How does this affect our relationship? HDIFSTWY?

Much Love to all.
Bert and Val



Dear Lovers,

We would first like to ask you to all join us in prayer for the victims of the Las Vegas shootings, hurricane victims of Florida, Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands and the Caribbean. We pray for our nation, that we may all be unified in our desire for peace, and acceptance of all our fellow brothers and sisters.

As we dip into fall let us all be refreshed by the crisp mornings, the changing of the leaves and adjust to shorter days. Now is the perfect time to rejuvenate your relationship. If your dialogue needs a boost the Region 20 Enrichment is just what you need.

We have been to several of these enrichments and have found them to be just what we needed to fine tune our dialogue. We continue to grow with our sharing group that loves and challenges us to be more for each other and all of you. We hope that you will join us for the events we have planned for the rest of our term as the community pillar. It has been our honor to work with Kevin & Regina, Bert & Val, Chuck & Maria. Their support and guidance has enabled us to give you, the community, the best opportunities for enhancing your relationships, and your connection to Marriage Encounter is strengthened.

We hope you will use the dialogue questions we provided, they will challenge you, and bring you closer to each other. Maybe even unlock a whole new area of growth in your relationship. All of you are very special to us, our prayer for you is that you grow in wisdom and love.

Love,

Bob & Jeane



A Look Back...

From *The Encounter Spirit* Vol 1 #3 October 1969

Reflection Before Dialogue

What a beautiful experience our Marriage Encounter was! The elation, the love so intense we felt we could fly home, the wonderful dialogue we had on the way home (we didn't play the radio once.)

Claudia and I kept up our dialogue almost every day. Soon we were getting to be pros at it and started taking short cuts. We felt we didn't need to reflect and write in our books, we could just dialogue. We spent all our time together. Pretty soon we found out we weren't understanding each other, many times we unknowingly hurt one another, and more often than not we were somehow losing track of what we were really dialoguing about.

We call this problem we developed "The Mask of Dialogue." Sounds ironic, doesn't it? It all reverts back to one of the first talks, "Encounter with Self." We all know that it is sometimes hard and painful to see and then express our true feelings. Many times we do whatever we can to avoid this. Claudia and I were doing it by dialoguing without (*written*) reflection. As a result we weren't sure of our own feelings when we dialogued. How could I expect to Claudia to understand my feelings if I didn't myself?

We now realize just how important it is for us to have personal (*written*) reflection before we dialogue. We need the time when we can reflect in solitude (and I mean without the presence of the spouse) to come to grips with ourselves and to write our feelings down on paper. It is the water which with the help of the Holy Spirit that will become wine in a fruitful dialogue.

Jim & Claudia Mulvaney



Upcoming Events

Save these important events on your calendar!

November 2017

November Weekend: November 3 - 5
@ The Immaculate Conception Seminary

December 2017

December 17th: Marriage Encounter Christmas Celebration
@ St. Hugh's of Lincoln - 21 East 9th Street, Huntington Station, 11746.
More details in this issue!

February 2018

February 2nd: WWME Mass & Dance @ Villa Lombardi's.
Rooms will be available at Fairfield Marriott
Inn & Suites in Coram. More details in this issue!



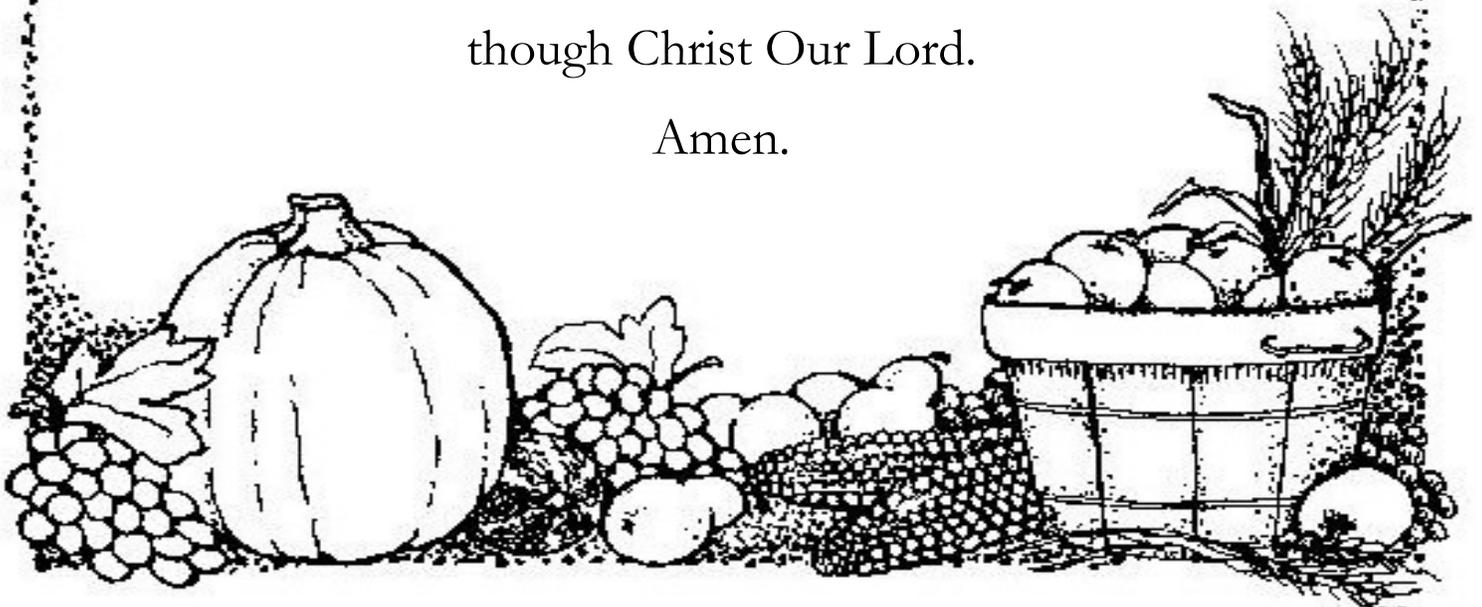
A Prayer in Thanksgiving for Marriage

Almighty God,
source and sustainer of all good things,
by the workings of your grace,
on this Thanksgiving Day,
inspire us with a spirit of gratitude
for the love that originates in you.

Pour your grace into our hearts
and enkindle in them the desire for heaven.

May we,
united to you in the Sacrament of Matrimony,
be a holy and grateful sign of your loving faithfulness,
through Christ Our Lord.

Amen.



Welcome to...
CAPTREE
STATE PARK

Dialogue at the Beach



Photo used with permission of Christine Miller

Harvest of the Hearts

Enrichmic 2017





It's that time of year again...

CHRISTMAS PARTY

WHEN: Sunday, December 17, 2017 from 2pm-6pm

WHERE: St. Hugh's of Lincoln, 21 East 9th Street,
Huntington Station 11746

We have a wonderful afternoon planned!
There will be a Christmas Cookie Exchange.

If you'd like to participate in the Cookie Exchange, all you have to do is bring one dozen *home-baked* cookies with you.

We'll also have a visit from Santa Claus!

We ask that you please bring finger sandwiches for the Sharing Table. You may also bring a dessert, if you like. We look forward to seeing you!

Don't forget to have
your little one's picture
taken with Santa!



Please bring your own
camera for pictures.

Thank you!



World Wide Marriage Encounter Long Island presents

The World Marriage Day Mass & Dinner Dance



When: Friday, February 2, 2018
Mass at 6pm, Sit-down Dinner to follow
Where: Villa Lombardi's, 877 Main Street
Holbrook, New York, 11741

*Please arrive by
5:15pm to have
your Souvenir Photo
taken before Mass!*

Invite family
and friends to
make your
own table!
All married
couples
welcome!

**Choice of Four
Entrees: Beef,
Chicken, Fish, or Pasta
UNLIMITED
Beer, Wine & Soda
Theme baskets raffled,
Chance book
prize drawing,
and 50/50**

★ ★ ★ ★ ★
DJ Bobby "G"

Admit One **\$135/Couple** Admit One
Includes:
Dinner, Dancing, Music,
Gratuity, Souvenir Photo

Please see the following page for hotel information

Please send all raffle and dance payments made out to W.W.M.E. to: Pete & Kathy Kelsch, 218 Singingwood Drive,
Holbrook, New York, 11741. They can be reached at: (631) 472-2959

Payment must be received no later than January 15, 2018!

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____ WEDDING SONG: _____

IF POSSIBLE, PLEASE SEAT US WITH: _____

*If you are making reservations for more than one couple, please
make copies of this form and fill one out for each couple.*



Enhance your Valentine's Dance Experience by making it a Weekend Getaway

We have made arrangements with the Marriott's Fairfield Inn of Medford to provide discounted rooms to our couples. The room rate is \$94.00/night and includes an enhanced continental breakfast: waffles, pancakes and eggs, with juice, coffee or tea.

If arriving via the LIRR at Ronkonkoma Station, you can arrange for free pickup from the station to the Inn for check-in, and from the Inn back to the station after you check out (you must be staying the night at the Inn for this service)—a nice feature for our Brooklyn/Queens couples, who can get there without the long car drive. There will be a shuttle bus from the Inn to and from Villa Lombardi's.

This deal must be booked thirty days in advance, so you must be booked by January 2, 2018. After this date, the remaining rooms that have not been picked up will be released. For a full refund, you may cancel up to 24 hours in advance—that's by February 1, before 6pm.

If interested, call the Fairfield Inn and don't forget to use our group code: MEGS !
Raffle tickets will be available soon!



Fairfield Inn by Marriott
2695 Route 112
Medford, New York 11763
(631) 447-6200

<http://www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/ispmf-fairfield-inn-medford-long-island/>



SAVE THE DATES



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



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

Fall Into Dialogue

1. What is the most difficult situation facing us as a couple right now? HDIFA this situation?
2. What is my biggest challenge right now? HDIFSTWY?
3. How was your love life-giving to me today? HDIFAT?
4. In what areas do I feel vulnerable to you? HDMAMMF?
5. What about you am I grateful for today? HDMAMMF?
6. What is my most vivid memory of our honeymoon? HDIFTYT?
7. If we could go anywhere for a romantic weekend, I'd take you to.... HDIFTYT?
8. What am I most thankful for? HDTF?
9. What have you done for me today that I am most grateful for? HDMAMMF?
10. What is my favorite Christmas tradition? HDIF recalling this?
11. What one gift would I enjoy this Christmas? HDIFST?
12. What is my favorite childhood memory of Christmas? HDIFST?
13. If I had only one gift to give you this Christmas, what would it be?
14. HDIF beginning another year with you?
15. What are my goals for the coming year? HDIFAT?
16. How do I like to celebrate New Year's Eve? HDMAMMF?
17. What is my fondest memory of last year? HDIFSTWY?

growing marriage
intimacy
knowing
meaningful need
communicate
strength
detail
giving
journey
accepting
uplift
joy
relationship
want
together
thoughtful
caring
openness
tender
couple
describe
kind