



# Couple Talk

Worldwide Marriage Encounter Northwest PA- Erie Diocese

July 2011



A message from your Area Leaders:

As we approach our warm summer days, here's hoping your relationships are also warm and sunny. Each day the sun comes out, we count our blessings. Some of the blessings we have received throughout our involvement in Worldwide Marriage Encounter include positive changes in our relationship, meeting wonderful couples and priests, a deeper spirituality gained through our dialogues and Community involvement; and of course delicious food and fun. It never ends. 2011 has been a year of growth so far. The April Weekend was wonderful. Couples came from all directions, Fairview, Erie, Franklin, St Mary's, Hermitage, and even NY State. We hope these couples will settle into Communities to help keep their marital journey on track.

Our new presenting priest, Father Chuck Schmitt, has completed his talks and will present his first weekend this August. He is full of wisdom and love, and yes, another blessing in our lives. Not to worry Father Zeitler, (Z) is still with us. He is just getting some well deserved assistance from Father Chuck. Speaking of blessings, Father Z has been blessing couples with his involvement with Marriage Encounter for nearly forty years!!

We hope your summer goes well. Just don't take a vacation from Marriage Encounter. Summertime gives you more exciting things to dialogue about, and Community can be held outdoors in the sun or under the stars.

We are praying for all of you and your relationships. We challenge you to keep them warm and sunny or better yet hot and sizzling!

Peace and Love, Jim & Betty Dalessandro  
WWME Erie Area Leaders

## WWME Weekend Dates

**August 26 -28**  
**Olmsted Manor**  
**Ludlow PA**

**November 4-6**  
**LakeChautauqua**  
**Retreat Center**  
**Bemus Pt. NY**

**Worldwide Marriage Encounter**  
For more information:  
Visit

[www.wwme.org](http://www.wwme.org)

Or send Name,  
Address & Phone  
to  
[wwme.ERIEPA@gmail.com](mailto:wwme.ERIEPA@gmail.com)

**814-823-4600**



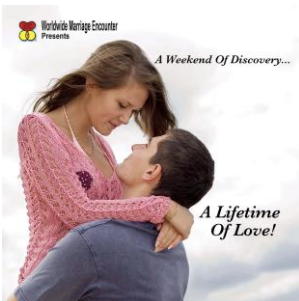
## World Marriage Day Celebrations

Holy Cross Church – Fairview PA  
Father Scott Detisch and Mark and Joyce Kulyk organized a Marriage Celebration at their Parish. Father gave a wonderful homily on marriage and how couples are called to live a radical lifestyle in love (sound familiar)? All married couples were invited to the altar to renew their vows. It was very touching!! After Mass, a breakfast was held for all in attendance. A wedding cake was served and the longest married couple in the parish was honored. Couples enjoyed displaying their wedding portraits and those in attendance signed a special guest book. World Marriage Day is celebrated every February. Why not celebrate in your Parish next year?

St Judes Church – Erie PA  
The annual World Marriage Day Celebration was held on Saturday, February 12, 2011 at St. Jude's Parish Center. The celebration began with great food, dialoguing, and fellowship with our WWME friends. We also played "Bonco" and "The Newlywed Game" where each couple was tested on how well they knew their spouse. Prizes were given throughout the night.

We would like to thank our team leaders, Jim and Betty Dalessandro, for giving us such a memorable night! We are truly blessed to have them as our leaders!

**Congratulations**  
**John & Judy Skuce**  
**celebrated 50 Years**  
**of marriage in**  
**February 2011**



Dialogue Questions  
HDIF about trying to  
dialogue again?

How can we enjoy a  
vacation at home?  
WAMF?

How would I describe  
happiness?

What is the greatest  
gift I have ever  
received from you?  
HDIFSTWY?

Recall a memorable  
family celebration.  
HDIFAMA? (Family  
Dialogue)

Is our relationship  
where it should be?  
DILD



## New Community Event by Rich & Chris Gosnell

### Community Enrichment

We'd like to introduce ourselves; we are Kris and Richard Gosnell. We have been Encountered for 10 years and are members of the West (Erie) County Community and live in Venango, PA. We have two boys ages 12 and 7.

We would like to take this opportunity to inform you about a new WWME initiative in our Diocese that hopes to build up inter-community relationships through family-friendly activities. It is our intention that these activities will enrich not only couples but also entire communities. Also, we will be coordinating local efforts to find ways to connect newly encountered couples with local communities. We are trying to duplicate the very successful efforts of Rochester, NY area communities in bringing together couples from across that area on a regular basis for marriage rejuvenating activities.

The first of these events was the World Marriage Day celebration held on February 12, 2011 at St. Jude's in Erie. This event was the idea of Area Leaders, Jim and Betty Dalessandro. It brought together seven couples from two communities plus two un-Encountered couples for an evening of fellowship and fun.

Future events are in the works for this summer and November. Stay tuned for more details on these events. We will be emailing updates to all of the communities in the Diocese once the planning is complete.

Kris and Richard Gosnell



### A Message from your Editors – Christina & Fred Amendola

We were honored to be asked to be the editors of the WWME Newsletter. Fred and I have been encountered now for two years and are in the West (Erie) County Community. We have four children, 9, 6 and 4 and an eldest daughter 23 who is married.

#### Faith Magazine:

Worldwide Marriage Encounter was the headline for the January issue of Faith Magazine. Fred and I had the honor of being chosen to have our family featured in it.

The feedback we received from family, friends, parishioners at our parish Blessed Sacrament, and acquaintances was unbelievable. We didn't realize how many people this magazine had reached. The article has benefitted WWME greatly with getting the word out about what it can do for a couple's marriage.

Fred and I have been blessed to have WWME come into our lives and we are always happy to share our experience with other married couples. God Bless

### Recent Encountered Couples

Bob & Kathleen Cappel  
Mike & Mary Daniels  
Fred & Annette Dunn  
Dave & Peggy Jacquel  
Butch & Lorena Lesniak  
John & Janice McInchak  
Howard & Carol Richards  
Bill and Linda Samec  
Pat & Lisa Swick  
Michael & Kathy Walusiak  
Lew & Theresa Davis  
Kathy & Robert Heffern  
Bob & Bernie Oatman  
Ted & Melanie Forsberg  
John & Mary Eckel  
Tom & Christine  
Buchleitner  
Ray & Mary Ellen Frank  
Daniel & Mary Ann  
Lukowich  
Carl & Mary Poniatowski  
Mike & Mary Barr

### WWME Weekend Aug. 26-28<sup>th</sup> at Olmsted Manor in Ludlow

This will be the first summer Worldwide Marriage Encounter weekend we've had in several years and our first at the lovely Olmsted Manor. It will also be Father Chuck Schmitt's first weekend as a presenting priest. How can things get any more exciting??

The Weekend is a gift meant to be shared. We are asking you to share this gift by inviting couples to the weekend. You may even want to be a prayer couple and experience their Weekend journey with them. We want this to be a full weekend and are counting on you to help spread the word and carryout our mission.

***Invite, Invite, Invite, Invite***

**Prayer for Inviting**

*(Please Pray at Community)*

Lord, you once more remind us of your harvest being ready. Strengthen and renew our souls. Enliven our bodies and make them joyful partners to go out again into the vineyard, Let your Spirit stir up our imagination. Help us once again to dream dreams of the kingdom and your plans for us. When we open up our lives and our mouths, give us the courage to speak your weekend. Lord, help fill our weekends so that your plan for marriage, family and Church may be fulfilled. Amen

**Worldwide Marriage Encounter Community Celebration**

**For all Encountered Couples, their families and Priests:**

**Saturday, July 30<sup>th</sup> 12:00 - 3:30PM**

Meet at the East Pier at the Picnic Shelter and look for the ME signs. Bring your own table setting, drinks, and a dish to share. Hamburgers and hotdogs will be provided.

**Agenda:**

12:00 – Introductions

12:15 - Lunch

1:15 to 2:00 - Family presentation by Kris and Richard Gosnell

2:00 to 3:00 - Socializing

3:00 to 3:30 Flash Mob (a spontaneous action from a crowd which quickly gathers & disburses)

3:30 - Families go to enjoy themselves at Presque Isle State Park to swim, walk, bike, etc. Google "Marriage Encounter Videos" and you will find samples of Flash Mobs on YouTube.

We will gather at Perry Monument surrounding the fountain. We will have posters made in advance with your names and "happily married ----- years" and our ME logo, which one spouse can wear around their neck, facing front or back. Each couple will strike a pose together for about 5 minutes (kids too) perhaps clinking champagne glasses; kissing; hugging; proposing on one knee; sitting on a rented tandem bike; carrying fishing poles with a note "I'm hooked on you"; etc. The ideas are as unique as your relationship. After 5 minutes we will unfreeze and move away from the fountain, each going our separate way to enjoy the rest of the day at Presque Isle. The event will be taped and put on YouTube, as the first "Erie Diocese Marriage Encounter Flash Mob". Don't miss it!

Please RSVP by July 23<sup>rd</sup> to Richard and Kris Gosnell at 814-398-9165 at

[kandrgosnell@gmail.com](mailto:kandrgosnell@gmail.com) informing them how many will be attending the picnic and participating in the Flash Mob.



**ADOPT A WEEKEND**

Attention Communities! We are asking you to "adopt" a weekend. As a group, decide to do an inviting activity like hosting a Romance Dinner; give a pulpit talk or help hand out brochures; or even commit to inviting 10 couples or your favorite priest to the weekend. Many couples are struggling today and we will not turn anyone away so why not consider assisting a couple by paying their \$50 registration fee.

There are many other ways you can help (i.e. make door banners for couples; assist with set-up; carry luggage and help with registration on Friday night; and assist with clean up after the weekend). Why not volunteer to be a prayer couple and attend the weekend reunion with them. Invite these couples into a warm and welcoming community and encourage them to continue their journey.

Facilitating a Marriage Encounter Weekend is wonderful blessing, but a lot of work. It takes a village, not just a handful of people. We promise the rewards of helping another couple or priest are worth your efforts. You are enriching lives and Communities!

If your Community wishes to Adopt the Aug 26-28 Weekend in Ludlow or the Nov 4-6 Weekend in Bemus Point, contact Jim and Betty at (814) 602-8045 and we will help get you started.

*Every little bit helps.*

**Worldwide Marriage Encounter Recognizes Longest Married Couple in Pennsylvania**

Charles and Mary Ventrello are pictured above with family and friends celebrating their 75<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary. Charles and Mary met at a picnic long ago and Charles explains that he immediately fell in love with her beautiful face. Charles, 98 and Mary, 97 married on December 14, 1935 and are now recognized, by Worldwide Marriage Encounter, as the longest married couple in Pennsylvania. They also received certificates from the County of Erie, House of Representatives, and the State of Pennsylvania. Four generations of the Ventrello family gathered to celebrate this wonderful day in history.

Pictured from left to right are the Ventrello family; Mary and Charles holding their WWME Marriage Certificate; Mark Kulyk, Mary & Charles, Joyce Kulyk and standing behind them Betty & Jim Dalessandro, WWME Erie Area Leaders; and Joyce & Mark Kulyk, WWME Section 3 Leaders, being interviewed by the local news media.

WWME Weekend Application – Mail to: Pat & Susan Cronmiller  
101 8<sup>th</sup> Street  
Youngsville PA 16371

Couple Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email address \_\_\_\_\_

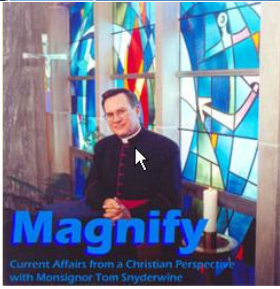
Wedding Date \_\_\_\_\_

ME Weekend Date Preferred \_\_\_\_\_

Enclose a check for \$50 payable to Worldwide Marriage Encounter

## Magnify

News and Interviews from a Christian Perspective with Msgr. Tom Snyderwine, Pastor of St. Luke Catholic Church, Erie, PA



On Sunday June 26th. Area Leaders Jim & Betty Dalessandro had the good fortune to be interviewed by Monsignor Tom Snyderwine Pastor of St. Luke Parish for his Radio program Magnify. The interview lasted 15 minutes and he asked various questions about Marriage Encounter. The interview is available on his web site [www.magnify.libsyn.com/](http://www.magnify.libsyn.com/). Click on the POD icon to listen or download.

### WORLDWIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER COMMUNITIES ERIE DIOCESE

#### ERIE

Meets 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday at 7 PM  
Rich and Carrie Tyree  
(814) 866-4765  
[carrie.tyree@erieinsurance.com](mailto:carrie.tyree@erieinsurance.com)

#### GROVE CITY

Meets Saturday  
Chris and Mike Brown  
(724) 748-4170  
[mjbrown@zoom.net](mailto:mjbrown@zoom.net)

#### FAIRVIEW/GIRARD

meets 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday  
Jeff and Mary Hausmann  
(814) 833-8969  
[jhausmann2@verizon.net](mailto:jhausmann2@verizon.net)

#### CORRY

Meets 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday  
Jeanne and Bill Saborsky  
(814) 664-8077  
[travelers.2@verison.net](mailto:travelers.2@verison.net)

#### FRANKLIN/OIL CITY

Meets 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday afternoon  
Joanne and Bill Wood  
(814) 432-5173  
[joannewood2010@hotmail.com](mailto:joannewood2010@hotmail.com)

#### ST. MARYS

Meets Monday evening  
Deb and Bill Wurm  
(814) 781-7960  
[debandbillwurm@gmail.com](mailto:debandbillwurm@gmail.com)

#### WARREN

Meets 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday at 7 PM  
Mary Beth and John Zdarko  
(814) 723-9580  
[bjajzdarko@gmail.com](mailto:bjajzdarko@gmail.com)

#### DUBOIS/PUNXSUTAWNEY

Call for meeting date and time  
Frank and Marie McSteen  
(814) 618-5044  
[MariaOMc@comcast.net](mailto:MariaOMc@comcast.net)

LUTHERAN CONTACT – Damond and Angel Rose (412) 788-9432

If you have never attended a reunion or community, please come and join us and relive part of your weekend experience. A presentation, 10/10, optional sharing time, and of course, good company, food, and fellowship. If you would like to attend a community in your area please contact one or the above community coordinators. Why not give it a try!

**Don't forget to make your reservation for The Worldwide Marriage Encounter Community Celebration July 30<sup>th</sup> at Presque Isle State Park Contact Richard & Kris Gosnell - See details on page 3 to register.**