

Northeast Kansas SPIRIT

A Newsletter for the Northeast Kansas
Marriage Encounter Community
www.neksme.org

January 2007



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Northeast Kansas Executive Team



Hello Northeast Kansas Lovers!

We are happy to write our first letter to you all as your new Area Leaders. First, a little bit about us. We were married in June 1980. We have three grown daughters, one married, one to be married next summer and one living at home (at the moment) attending college. The best thing that ever happened in our marriage was our ME Weekend in February 2000. We presented our first of many weekends in April 2001. Since that time we have been active in many aspects of the WWME dream. It is our pleasure and honor that Fr. Mike Stubbs agreed to join us in leadership allowing us to have an ecclesial team.

Our vision is to capture the energy and love from the Section 9 Convention last summer and keep it going – to stoke the blazing fire. We want to infuse that enthusiasm and have it sweep across Northeast Kansas like a prairie wildfire – just as it did in the early years of Worldwide Marriage Encounter in this area.

One of our many goals for 2007 is to Encounter 100 couples. We are asking for your help in attaining this goal – by inviting at every opportunity. We have 5 Weekends scheduled for 2007, one in Topeka and four in the Kansas City area.

Another goal is to find facility options for our Weekends. One option is Savior of the World Pastoral Center in Kansas City (convention site). We believe it will be more cost efficient as well as a more spiritual environment. However, we learned that Savior is already booked in 2007 so we are working on scheduling in 2008

We have met many of you but would like the opportunity to visit each Share Group. We value your input, suggestions, ideas, concerns and believe this would be a good opportunity to get to know all of you better.

We plan to pack our website and newsletters with information, happenings, pictures, etc. We believe communication is vital and want you as well as anyone that visits our website to know the great things going on in NEKS.

We hope to use the next two years in leadership as an opportunity to grow in our relationship as well as inspire NEKS Area to move strongly ahead. We cannot do this without the continued love and support all of you have generously given in the many years past. Our decision to say yes to leadership was made easier by knowing that we are blessed with a GREAT Community that is very much alive and well in NEKS.

THANK YOU! To all of you that have helped keep the WWME dream alive. We are grateful for the love you show in what you do for us, our ME family, our world, and especially God.

Then God said, "Let there be light," and there was light.

God saw how good the light was. Gen 1:3-4

The light of your love shines for all to see - and...

"IT IS GOOD"!

Love,

Jackie & Tom Rork

Weekend Dates Go to <http://www.neksme.org/weekends.aspx>.

Weekend REUNION Dates:

February 9th

April 27 – (location to be determined)

June 15th

September 14th

November 16th

All reunions will be held at

Prince of Peace Parish Hall in Olathe.

We are hoping the April weekend will be

in Topeka so a location has not yet been determined.

Pot Luck Dinner starts at 6:00

Everyone is WELCOME!

DIALOGUE QUESTIONS FOR LENT

What can we do to enrich our relationship with each other this Lent?

HDIFAMA?

What can we do to enrich our prayer life this Lent? HDIFAMA?

When I think about the sacrifices Jesus made for me, HDIF?

Will we take advantage of the Sacrament of Reconciliation this Lent?

HDIFAT?

What is a meaningful sacrifice for me to make that will enrich my spiritual life? HDIF making this sacrifice?

COMING SOON!

One day enrichment - June 2, 2007 - Salina, Kansas

The theme is SACRAMENTAL LOVE

(watch for more information & details)

Dear Northeast Kansas Lovers:

Even though we told you hundreds of times over the last three years – we are telling you again! You are loved. Our time in leadership flew by mainly due to the love and support you all bestowed upon us. To say the least, we were blessed! We continue to be blessed to have you all as our friends and companions on our faith journey.

Northeast Kansa is by far the best community! We ask you to give Tom and Jackie Rork along with Fr. Mike Stubbs the same love, support, and friendship you have shared with us. We want everyone to keep their passion alive for the mission of Worldwide Marriage Encounter here in Northeast Kansas. This area is alive and vibrant. Thank you for believing in us – we were very proud to serve as your leaders.

We thank you
Bill and Carol Lafferty
Fr. Jim Shaughnesey

“THAT’S AMORE’ ”

FEB 17, 2007

5:00 MASS

6:00 COCKTAILS

6:30 DINNER

7:30 DANCING

AT CORPUS CHRISTI CHURCH AND SOCIAL HALL --- 6001 W. BOB BILLINGS WAY
(ALSO KNOWN AS 15TH STREET)

NOT ONLY DO WE WANT TO HAVE A WONDERFUL EVENING WITH OUR M.E. FAMILY, BUT, WE ALSO WOULD LIKE TO USE THIS NIGHT AS AN INFORMATION NIGHT. WE WANT TO ENCOURAGE YOU TO INVITE A COUPLE OR 2 TO JOIN US FOR THE EVENING.

WE WILL AGAIN HAVE OUR "ITALIAN LOVERS" THEME. WE WILL SUPPLY THE ENTREE.

WE ASK THAT EVERY ENCOUNTERED COUPLE BRING A SIDE DISH TO SHARE, AND ALLOW THE PROSPECTIVE COUPLES TO BE OUR GUEST. PLEASE CONTACT MARY OR CARL INZERILLO AT 785-749-3666 OR ["nanainzy@sunflower.com"](mailto:nanainzy@sunflower.com), TO FIND OUT WHAT TO BRING, BY FEB 14TH.

FOR SOME EXTRA FUN BRING A WRAPPED GIFT 1 PER PERSON, ABOUT \$5 FOR A EXCHANGE!!!

COME FOR ALL, OR COME FOR SOME, JUST COME !!

THE LAWRENCE COMMUNITIES ARE LOOKING FORWARD TO SEEING YOU!!!

SPOTLIGHT ON COMMUNITIES:

Baldwin RAP Group Lawrence



Hello!

This is a picture of our Rap group at our son's wedding. This past summer and fall we have had 3 children get married in our group. This pix was taken at the Baldwin wedding, Ken & Kathie are not pictured. From left to right is: Barb & Ray Diedel, Don and Mary Boucher, Nancy & Mike Brune.

Kristin Brune got married May 13 to Jerod Kruse

Jake Baldwin got married June 24 to Laura Millikan

Denise Diedel got married Nov. 4 to Larry Sanders

What a blessing for us all! Kathie & Ken Baldwin

Topeka's Love Circle.



When we first began planning to write about our "stellar" community, our heads were filled with all sorts of "star and light" puns about our sharing group. But the more we played the article over, something just didn't seem to fit. Finally, we realized using all of the clever language just made us seem unnatural, when in actuality the beauty of Topeka's Love Circle (TLC) shines all on its own.

We are a diverse group, with couples in various stages of our lives. But the differences don't divide us, they link us

pictured left to right: Duane & Lois Smith, Joe & Natalie Wrobel, Julie & Paul Kuestersteffen, Jackie & Tom Rork, Kyle & Denise Mead: They meet on the 1st & 3rd Sunday of each month at 6:30 PM

closer allowing each sacrament to remember, cherish, and grow in the stage in which we are. But perhaps the quality that truly bonds us all is our overwhelming commitment to marriage and Marriage Encounter that we all share.

Of the five couples that make up TLC, two are currently presenting couples and one is a former presenting couple. The couple that started the circle, and maintained it even during times of just two active couples was just selected as the Executive Team for Northeast Kansas. Three of the couples give pulpit talks and all of us are there to help out with inviting after the Mass. All of our couples are active prayer couples and invite others to experience the benefits of community. Every couple was involved in some way during the recent Section 9 Convention in August-one as a presenting couple, two as a backup presenters, three in the choir, one behind the scenes, and all obviously attended.

Last summer, due to a variety of unexpected events and conflicts we went at least a month without meeting. Then one morning, one of the couples thought, "We need to get together." After calling the others and finding out how much we all missed each other, we dropped everything and got together at the spur of the moment. And, oh what a joyous reunion it was! It felt like a homecoming. While there weren't marching bands and parades, the spirit of unity and support were clearly echoing through the room. We all agreed that such a lapse in gathering should not happen again.

Our commitment to dialogue is evident as it is an integral part of each get together. In addition, dialogue challenges and blunt questioning, "Are you dialoguing?" help us all keep focused on the importance of communication in keeping our relationships healthy, strong, and growing. There is level of trust that exists that make this accountability, not threatening but a welcome embrace-the knowledge that we are loved and cared about.

It is probably that same trust that enabled three of our TLC couples to put their desire to dance, ability or no, out in the open as they jointly joined a dance class together. We enjoy other social get-togethers as well: a boat outing, a picnic and hayrack ride with families as the most recent.

We don't know where we'd be without the love of our group. They all were there to support us with our recent move and the birth of our youngest son. We have reached out to help a couple in need who for personal reasons chose to drop out of the group. We have prayed for those struggling with family issues or illness....we could go on and on. But ultimately, we'd end up right back at the beginning for we are, in fact, Topeka's Love Circle.
Submitted by Kyle & Denise Mead

Why is Marriage Good for Men and Women?
(From the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops)

Mutual Benefits

- Married people have longer life expectancies than unmarried peers. (Witherspoon Institute, *Marriage and the Public Good: 10 Principles*, 2006, p.20, www.princetonprinciples.org)
- Married couples have more meaningful sexual relationships. They have sex as frequently as cohabiting couples, but also report higher emotional satisfaction in their sexual relationships. (Linda Waite, *Does Marriage Matter?*, 1995, p. 491)
- Married people are more productive, have higher incomes, and enjoy more family time than the unmarried. This is due in part to the division and specialization of labor, where spouses each take responsibility for specific tasks. (L. Waite & E. Lehrer, *The Benefits from Marriage & Religion in the U.S.: A Comparative Analysis*, Population & Development Review, Vol 29, No. 2, June 2003, p. 264)
- The argument for marriage extends beyond the benefits for children and society and encompasses significant advantages for couples. Men and women equally benefit from marriage but in gender specific ways (Popenoe and Whitehead, *Top Ten Myths of Marriage*, 2002).

Benefits for Men

- Marriage encourages better relationships between parents and children, especially father-child interactions. (Brad Wilcox, Institute for American Values, *Why Marriage Matters, 2nd Edition, 26 Conclusions from the Social Sciences*, 2003, www.americanvalues.org)
- Married men earn 10-40% more than similar unmarried men (Popenoe & Whitehead, National Marriage Project, *The State of Our Unions 2005*, p16).
- Married men gain substantial physical health benefits; they are physically fitter and less prone to illness or disability. (Witherspoon Institute, *Marriage and the Public Good...*, p.20)
- Married men have lower levels of testosterone which is associated with a reduction in aggressive and risky behavior, as well as promiscuity. (Wilcox, *Why Marriage Matters...*, p. 17 & Witherspoon Institute, *Marriage and the Public Good...*, p.20)
- Married men are less likely to have alcohol and drug addictions, to commit crime, and to be abusive. (L. Waite, *Does Marriage Matter?*, p. 468)

Benefits for Women

- Compared to unmarried women, married women without children have higher incomes and married mothers are less likely to live in poverty. (Witherspoon Institute, *Marriage and the Public Good...*, p.20)
- For women, marriage combats depression, provides particularly high psychological benefits, and significantly lowers the risk of suicide. (Wilcox, *Why Marriage Matters...*, p.28 & Witherspoon Institute, *Marriage and the Public Good...*, p.20)
- Marriage normally decreases the likelihood that a woman will be domestically abused. Only 5% of married women report abuse compared to 14% of cohabiting women. (Waite & Lehrer, *The Benefits from Marriage & Religion...*, p.261)

Conclusion

- Marriage is good for children, society, and for the spouses themselves. Social science shows that there are specific benefits for men and women in marriage, which are gifts of a loving relationship between two people who are equal but different. While avoiding any generalizations concerning gender, research does find that marriage helps men to become better fathers, reduces their likeliness to quarrel and fall prey to addiction, and provides many physical health benefits. Women on the other hand, are more likely to gain financially, to be protected from crime and abuse, and to receive psychological benefits. These findings resonate with the teaching of the Church on the complementarity and equality of men and women, as well as on the goods of marriage.

Marriage Encounter Community Coordinators---January 2007

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WWME Prayer Calendar

1. Bob ♥ Janet Goupil (Robertgoupil@sbcglobal.net)
2. Chris ♥ Julia Seago (jseago43@cox.net, cseago@cox.net)
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12. Jim ♥ Barb Goering (bjgoering@everestkc.net)
13. Father Sam Hayes (samha@tribcsp.com)
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27. Keith ♥ Patty Redman (paredman@everestkc.net)
28. Tom ♥ Jackie Rork (tomjackie@att.net)
29. Tom ♥ Katie Watson (planmark@comcast.net)
30. George ♥ Bridget Gyulafia (gygeorge@swbell.net)
31. Neal ♥ Karen Farron (farron1@cox.net)

Has it been a while since your parish heard about a WWME WEEKEND?

Please contact your parish priest and let him know that we have some very great speakers that are ready to come speak at the Masses. Then contact Karen & Kevin Mead (785)266-7573 or meadkr80@hotmail.com and they will make the arrangements

2007 WORLDWIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER CALENDARS

ONLY \$12.00

Contact: John & Jeannine Binder (913)469-8098

Jbinder2@kc.rr.com

PRAYER INTENTIONS:

TOM RORK & LOIS SMITH – they both had total knee replacements on January 9th.
Please keep them in their prayers as they recover.

For Karen Mead's brother, Larry Lambrecht, who died of a stroke in January.

For Karen Schemmell's mother, Sylvia Roder age 95, who has had pneumonia, bladder infection, followed by a fall breaking her left wrist, then a fall out of bed breaking four ribs, then most recently a fall breaking her right arm.

For Deb Banchor from NE Nebraska who will be having surgery on her neck to remove a damaged disc, bones spurs, and fuse two vertebrae.

For Duane Henson who has bladder cancer.

For Father John Reynolds.

For Jim Goering's sister, Jo St Pierre, who died in January.

This is a great website. Check it out sometime!

It's packed full of information including presentations, dialogue questions. etc.
<http://erl.wwme.org>

[Worldwide Marriage Encounter](#)

Encounter Resource Library



Internet Links

Worldwide ME Website
WWW.WWME.ORG
The Northeast KS Website
WWW.NEKSME.ORG



[Check out the latest edition of eMatrimony](#)

The online magazine for WWME.

You can also get email updates
on *eMatrimony!* by sending a blank email to:

signup@eMatrimony.org

WOULD YOU BE A PRAYER COUPLE?

Please contact: Karen & Dennis Schemmel

(913)897-5079

dschemmel@umkc.edu

CHURCH BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS

We are in the process of expanding our list of notifications to NEKS parishes.

If you do not see a regular notice in your parish bulletin advertising the upcoming WWME weekends please contact Karen & Kevin Mead (785)266-7573 meadkr80@hotmail.com

Please send them your parish name, contact person, phone #, fax # and email address.



Donations Accepted

We would greatly appreciate any donation you could make to the "Spirit" to help offset the cost of printing. We lovingly donate our time and energy to make this newsletter possible, but the printers want to be paid. Help us out with a tax deductible donation.

Make checks out for WWME and mail to:

Ron & Sharon Heyse

5508 W. 98th Terr.

Overland Park, KS 66207

Spirit Input Please send us favorite poems, readings, recipes, dialogue questions, jokes, etc. Also pass along any prayer requests and special occasionsbirths, deaths, anniversaries; we all benefit when we share. E-mail Jim & Barb Goering at bjgoering@everestkc.net

1) Jesus is Condemned

Theme: Private lives are set aside for us

Talk: Introduction of Friday night

Jesus, to achieve your Father's Plan, you had to die to self and choose to live for us. It is our self-centered behavior, which leads to sin that is condemned. When choosing to accept your plan for us to be married, I, too, condemned that private, self-centered life in me. But the desire for such a life still tempts me and distracts us both. Our weekend and our daily dialogue are a big help for us to live our marriage more faithfully. Jesus, condemned to death for our sins. Cast out from us the demon of independence so we can live our lives as a couple.

Q: HDIFA dying to self that you may live?

2) Jesus Takes up His Cross

Theme: Saying yes to you.

Talk: Focus on Feelings

Jesus, in saying yes to us in your Father's Plan, you are calling me to say "yes" to my bride by sharing myself in conversation and listening to her with my heart; you are calling me to say "yes" to my husband by trusting him completely and submitting to him according to your will. Lord, help us to call forth from our Sacrament the grace to say yes to our beloved in sharing our feelings.

Q: HDIFA saying yes to you by sharing feelings in dialogue?

3) Jesus Falls

Theme: How to handle disillusionment.

Talk: Encounter with Self

Jesus, in all our eagerness to do your Father's will, in your desire to carry the cross for us you fell down. In our desire to love one another, in our yearning to become one in mind and heart and flesh, we too, fall into disillusionment. The weight of being faithful to my beloved in dialogue seems to much to bear. Falling Jesus, give us the grace to rise and renew our Sacrament each time we fall.

Q: HDIFA us when I fall away from you in dialogue?

4) Jesus meets His mother

Theme: Memories; how we used to be.

Talk: Marriage in the Modern World

Jesus, as you started on your way with the cross. Mary stood with you wondering through bitter tears; "what has the modern world done to my Son?". Lord, we could cry too, when we see how we have allowed the spirit of the modern world to divert us away from our early dreams and

plans for our marriage. We are pulled apart by our sinfulness and the self centered life-style of this modern world – Jesus and Mary, draw us together again, and again in our couple love.

Q: HDIFA the modern world life-style separating us?

5) Simon helps Jesus

Theme: Our stake in each other.

Talk: Areas for Reaching Out to One Another

Jesus, as pressing as your work was and as important as it was for YOU to do it, you permitted Simon to help, you made room for him. As important as it is for me to be an individual, teach me to share with my beloved, my feelings about deeply sacred areas of life. As important as it is for us to be that unique and special couple, teach us to make room in our lives and our hearts and our home for others, that we may be receptive to encouragement and support from them.

Q: HDIFA when you offer to help me in the area of _____?

6) Veronica Cleanses Jesus' Face

Theme: Listening

Talk Openness to God's Plan, The Art of Listening. Jesus as you were completely involved in your work, you still listened and responded to your beloved. You stopped a few moments, even when

the world was depending on you, to lovingly respond to someone's kindly deed. Lord, help me also to be attentive to my beloved in listening – no matter how busy I am – so I can respond in a loving way with a willing heart.

Q: HDIFA listening to you when I'm really busy?

7) Jesus Falls a Second Time

Theme: Hurting, then healing each other.

Talk: Marriage in the Plan of God

Jesus, as you were getting closer to your goal, the going seemed to get tougher. So, as we dare to get even closer to one another by sharing our feelings more deeply in dialogue, we can hurt and be hurt more deeply and painfully. But, your Father's Plan for us is to be one even if it does bring more pain. Jesus, you would have it no other way – only your Father's Plan would do. Help us to keep striving to live God's Plan for our marriage: to be two in one flesh.

Q: HDIFA when you have forgotten me?

8) Jesus Comforts the Women

Theme: What is our limit?

Talk: Gift of Daily Dialogue

Jesus, you responded to the goodness of the women who wept for you. The risked ridicule and rejection in letting their feeling for you be known. You encouraged them to preserve the goodness of

their children at all costs. Lord, help us to have confidence in the goodness of our beloved so we can trust each other more fully in sharing feelings in dialogue and daily living.

Q: What was the greatest confidence I placed in you since our weekend?

HDIFAT?

9) Jesus Falls a Third Time

Theme: What is our limit?

Talk: Gift of Daily Dialogue

Jesus, you are near your goal; more than anything you desired to fulfill your Father's Plan by dying on the cross for us. And yet you fall again under its crushing weight. What is your LIMIT? Lord, there is no limit to your Divine Love for us. The gift of daily dialogue is an invitation to go, the limit for my beloved – it's a call from you, Lord, to endure the 3rd fall with you. As you "went beyond the limit" for us, help us to go beyond the limit for each other.

Q: HDIFA you reaching out to me in daily dialogue?

10) Jesus is Stripped

Theme: My beloved is number one; self is stripped away.

Talk: Cana and Saturday night sharing

Jesus, you scarcely needed anyone to prepare you for the cross. From all eternity you prepared for this moment – you stripped away our sinfulness with more willingness than the soldiers stripped away your blood-stained garments. Lord help us strip away all self-centered behavior so we can keep our beloved number one in everything we do.

Q: HDIFA giving up my "no power" to keep you No. 1?

11) Jesus is Nailed to the Cross

Theme: Our Vocation – to be an outward sign for Christ – to be a Sacrament.

Talk: Sacrament and Its Graces

Suffering Jesus, you submitted to being nailed to the cross you offered your hands to the executioners as our gift to us. Nails would hardly have been needed. Is there any power that could have kept you from hanging on the cross for us? This was your vocation from the Father – to love away our sins on the cross and you choose to do that with all your heart. Jesus, our daily dialogue is offered to us as "nails" to keep us fastened together in our Sacramental love. Help us to be even more faithful to the Sacrament we became for you.

Q: HDIFA being a Sacrament with you?

12) Jesus Dies

Theme: Our new Life together

Talk: Matrimonial Spirituality – How we live our lives as a couple in love.

Jesus, this is the moment of moments all in history.

All mankind yearned and ached for this supreme moment. But not nearly as much as you did – you laid down your life for us. You gave us a new way to live by laying down our lives for our beloved – by denying self and taking up our cross daily. That is now our spirituality as a couple – to daily die to self in order to delight in our beloved. Lord, help me to find my joy and delight in my beloved.

Q: HDIFA finding my delight in your happiness?

13) Jesus is Taken Down

Theme: Making room for others

Talk: Recruiting and Finance; Open & Apostolic

Lord Jesus, it is time to be taken down, the moment of redemption is accomplished. Now you must begin the task of preparing and send apostles to be witnesses to you and to recruit others to follow you. On our weekend, after being prepared through dialogue, we were invited to share in a deeper way in the missionary work of our Church. We were called to make recruiting a way of life and that is a change for us – we aren't used to that. Being a witness means recruiting for you. Lord,

help us keep your memory alive by supporting and recruiting for the weekend and for the Church.

Q: HDIFA our efforts at recruiting?

14) Jesus is Buried

Theme: Aldonza is dead; Dulcinea lives!

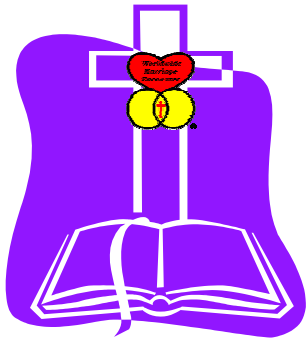
Talk: Final Sharing and Mass

Jesus, your lifeless body is tenderly placed in the tomb, but only to remain there a short time.

There is now new hope for all of us and a new way to live with one another. As our weekend closed, our bodies were exhausted too, but there was a new spirit alive in us. Even since then we have a new hope with a tool on how to live it out each day. Risen Lord, help us keep alive in our hearts the desire to live your Father's Plan for us to be one in our Sacramental love.

Q: HDIFA living one life with you?

**A DIALOGUE
WAY OF THE CROSS
FOR
ENCOUNTERED
COUPLES**



*The Dialogue Way of the Cross is intended
as an aid for Encountered couples to pray
the Passion of Christ*

Father Paul Oborny