

Enhancing the Sacraments of Holy Orders and Matrimony

The Sacraments of Holy Orders and Matrimony are often referred to as the Social Sacraments, each focused on relationships, the priest with his people, those he serves and husband and wife with their spouse and children. And, because of the focus on relationships, that is why the Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend is an excellent experience for both priests and married couples. The Weekend experience is focused on improving communication in a relationship and much more. Please read below, Fr. Peter Rau's testimony of his experience with Worldwide Marriage Encounter.

Dear people,

I will always be grateful for my experience with World Wide Marriage Encounter. As a participant and past presenting priest, the experience helped to deepen my understanding of the power of the Sacrament of Matrimony as well as my own priesthood. Marriage Encounter has been a blessing to me.

As a priest, the aspects of relationships and the process of going from Romance to Disillusionment to Joy has always helped me in my working with sacramental couples: couples who have been married for many years as well as in my work with couples preparing for marriage. Many of our couples do not realize the power and grace they hold as a living sacrament of the Church. I find it a joy to encourage this awareness in couples thanks to Marriage Encounter.

On a personal note, my own vocation has been affirmed when I am in the presence of Encountered Couples. They have a beautiful way of lifting me up and encouraging me on my journey. They are the priesthood's greatest cheerleaders. Thanks to my experience with Marriage Encounter, I've learned a lot about myself and am grateful to Marriage Encounter for helping me to deepen my appreciation for my priesthood in relationship to God's People-the Church.

It is my prayer that many of our priests will expand their vision of priesthood by participating in the Movement. I pray that our couples will deepen their vision of the grace of the Sacrament of Matrimony by taking time to make a weekend for themselves and thus strengthening our families and Church.

Sincerely in Christ, Very Reverend Peter J. Rau, V.F., Pastor of Saint Peter Chanel