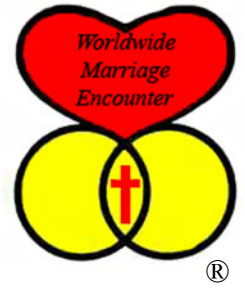


WWME Mission Statement:

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



Atlanta's Spirit

From your area leaders

Volume 16, No. 5

May 2012 *Deadline for next E-Spirit articles & Love Notes -5/26/2012*

Dear WWME Family,

We trust that you all had a happy and holy Easter and a family-filled Spring Break, if that was on your radar. The weather has been a myriad of seasons this Spring, but we hope that the beauty of God's creation has inspired you either to "play in the dirt" or just take time out to enjoy the beauty around you.

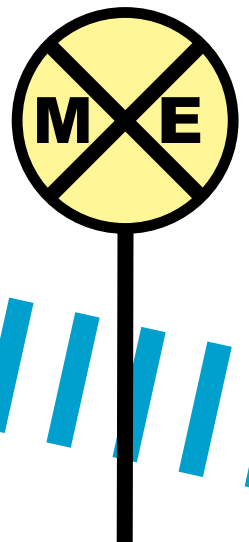
One season that doesn't change, is the 1st Communion / graduation / wedding season that comes every May and June. We send blessings and congratulations to all who are celebrating any of these special events this year. These milestones are important moments in your lives. Enjoy!

Welcome to those who just completed their WWME Weekend in April. We welcome calls from our newly encountered couples who want to get involved. Our WWME Community is very active and needs all who are interested in helping out.

Our Presenting Teams are working hard on writing to the new weekend outline. Phases One and Two have already been put into practice, and the Phase Three writing has begun. Please keep the Presenting Teams and especially our Workshop Teams in your prayers. Also, if you know a Presenting Team with young children, you might offer to help them out by babysitting so they could write. You would be amazed at what can be accomplished in a couple of hours of uninterrupted time.

Our next Weekend is June 15-17, 2012. If you know someone interested in making the June WWME Weekend, have them apply on-line soon as it is filling up fast! Remember also to invite for the August & September Weekends.

Love and Hugs,
Al & Mary Nelle



Community Spotlight



Perhaps you have been enjoying all of the new M & M flavors that have been surfacing lately; almond M&Ms or pretzel M&Ms? Well, we think the absolute sweetest flavor of M&Ms is Atlanta's own Mike and Meredith Brinkmann! Although truthfully Mike and Meredith are not really "new" as they have lived in the Atlanta area for 26 years. The Brinkmanns attended a Marriage Encounter Weekend in June of 1989 and have not stopped contributing to our community since.

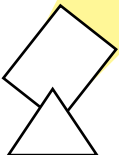
Immediately after their Weekend, Mike and Meredith completed the Bridge program. It was a memorable experience for them, particularly as Meredith's water broke and she went into labor less than an hour after the last meeting☺ After their Bridge experience, they became members of the St. Joe's WEDS group and served as WEDS leaders for more than fifteen years. They have also served as Northwest Atlanta WEDS group coordinators, Spirit editors, Community Pillar leaders, and Red Top coordinators.

The Brinkmanns have attended Red Top and the Marriage Day Ball nearly every year since being encountered. They have also attended multiple enrichment days (presenting at some), many Red Top auction dinners, and the 1999 national convention in New Jersey. They love being around other couples who value marriage - "the wackier the better."

In addition to their service to the Marriage Encounter Community, Mike and Meredith are Eucharist Ministers. Since 1992, they have also served in various Cub Scout and Boy Scout leadership positions. They have three sons: Chris (25), David (22), and Andrew (18). Their family has been very busy lately preparing to welcome David's fiancé Sarah to their brood and celebrating Andrew's achievement of Eagle Scout rank.

The Brinkmanns enjoy camping, a Chimenea fire and bottle of wine, and crossword puzzles in their spare time. With all they do, it's good to know that they remember to take time to just have fun together! Mike and Meredith; thanks so much for being our special Atlanta Area M&Ms☺

Written By Lynn & Barbara Jester





The Dialogue Corner

Stories and Tips to Help Your Dialogue

How's your dialogue?

Over lunch one day with a good WWME friend, I asked, “How's your dialogue?” He responded, “We aren't dialoguing any more. It wasn't working for us. In fact, dialogue was causing problems and hurting our relationship.” Sometimes this can happen to couples shortly after making their weekend and even to couples that have been dialoguing for many years.

Dialogue is a communication tool taught during the WWME weekend. To become skillful using dialogue, you have to practice doing it correctly and regularly. And like many tools, if you don't dialogue correctly, it can cause pain and injury. For example, if you try to use a knife to cut something and you hold it by the blade instead of by its handle, you are very likely to get cut. So too for dialogue; when you don't follow the rules, you can get hurt.

Before you conclude that dialogue isn't worthwhile and won't work for you, let's review the “rules” for correct dialogue taught on the weekend.

1. Select a question.
2. Answer the question in writing, sharing your thoughts in no more than 2-3 sentences.
3. Then reflect on your answer, and get in touch with your feeling(s). Identify your strongest feeling and describe it in loving detail in as many ways as you can – intensity, taste, color, shared experience, sound, smell, texture, etc.
4. Limit your writing time to no more than 10 minutes. You both don't have to be together to write nor do you need to write at the same time. Pick a good time for each of you to devote ten minutes of uninterrupted writing time.
5. Come together afterwards, exchange your love letters, and each read the other's letter twice – once for the head and secondly for the heart.
6. Decide who has the stronger feeling. Explore that feeling further in your verbal dialogue. Ask questions to the person with the stronger feeling. Just a few samples are, “Tell me more.” “How strong is your feeling?” “When do you think I might have experienced your feeling?”
7. Limit your verbal dialogue to no more than 10 minutes. More than 10 minutes leads to problem solving or focusing on the situation, rather than experiencing the feeling. Focusing on feelings is **heart-to-heart** communication. Focusing on the situation is **head-to-head** communication.
8. Pick another question for tomorrow, write it in your notebooks, and conclude your dialogue. Over the weeks and months, pick a variety of different questions – some serious, some light, some fun, some looking forward, others looking back.
9. Avoid the dialogue pitfalls of garbage dumping, rationalizing, making judgments and comparisons, or trying to assign guilt or seek sympathy. And remember, dialogue is never the place for confessional material.
10. And lastly, don't get on a guilt trip if you miss. You can always start again and renew your love for each other using this special communication tool.

If you want to regain that Weekend glow, pick up your pen and dialogue notebook and begin again to share yourself with your spouse. Other ideas: make an anniversary Weekend, attend the Enrichment Day, make a firm commitment to attend your monthly WEDS meeting, and pair up with another couple and challenge and encourage each other to dialogue daily.

If you would like to share your Dialogue stories and tips in the Spirit, please send it to Al & Mary Nelle Connelly <amncon@bellsouth.net>. Keep it short and bullet the tips you have found helpful. Entries will appear anonymously in the Spirit and may be edited as needed for space and content.

Congratulations April Week End Couples

Armstrong, Scott ♥ Dianne
St. Michael, Woodstock

Curtis, Jeffery ♥ Karen
Holy Trinity, Peachtree City

Davenport, Wil ♥ Celeste
Fairview UMC

Diouf, Francois ♥ Angele
St. Patrick, Norcross

Dorko, Mike ♥ Patricia
St. Thomas the Apostle, Smyrna

Ferguson, Daniel y Sophie
Browns Bridge Community Church

Gillis, Steve ♥ Dottie
St. Frances Cabrini, TN

Hall, Rich ♥ Denise
St. Joseph, Marietta

Hoffman, David ♥ Lorraine

Menghisteab, Girmay ♥ Elsa
Immaculate Heart of Mary, Atlanta

Milush, Robert ♥ Michele
St. Patrick, Kathleen

Morejon, Alberto ♥ Suzette
St. Brigid, Alpharetta

Osburn, Steven ♥ Teresa
St. John Neumann, Lilburn

Parran, Rick ♥ Karissa
Oakwood Baptist

Smith, Christopher ♥ Marian
St. Joseph

Thomas, John ♥ Elizabeth
St. Jude, Atlanta

Walker, Jaime ♥ Julie
Holy Spirit, Atlanta

Walker, Rick ♥ Ann
Holy Trinity, Peachtree City

Willard, Christopher ♥ Anita
St. Peter and Paul, Decatur

Yosick, Mark ♥ Rachel
Transfiguration

Young, Patrick ♥ Melisa
St. Patrick, Kathleen

New WWME Phone Hot Line Number

The new phone number is 678-435-3791, and it is now active and monitored.

By the way, if you ever need a brochure and don't have one, you can go to wwmeatlanta.org website and click on "Upcoming Weekends". There you can find a links to download and print brochures for both a couple or a priest.

The History and Philosophy of Worldwide Marriage Encounter

The story of Marriage Encounter began in 1952, when a young Spanish Diocesan Laborer Priest, Father Gabriel Calvo, began developing a series of conferences for married couples. Their focus was on the development of an open and honest relationship within marriage and learning to live out a Sacramental relationship in the service of others. Each presentation ended with a question designed to encourage the couple to look at the concepts presented in terms of their own relationship. For approximately ten years “The Marriage Teams of Pope Pius XII,” as the presenting teams were called, traveled throughout Spain with this series of conferences for married couples. They asked the participants for reflection upon themselves, their relationship with each other and with God.

In 1962, Father Calvo presented the conferences as a weekend retreat to 28 couples in his native Barcelona. The experience enjoyed immediate success and rapidly spread throughout Spain as the Encuentro Conjugal. James & Mercedes Ferrer, one of the earliest couples involved with the conferences in Spain, addressed the International Confederation of Christian Family Movements (ICCFM) together with Fr. Calvo in Caracas in 1966. It was there that “Encuentro Conjugal” was born in the New World. The Weekend spread to Latin America and under the aegis of the Movimiento Familiar Cristiano (MFC) to Spanish speaking couples in the United States.

The Encounter movement began its growth in the English speaking world when, at the close of the Christian Family Movement (CFM) Convention at Notre Dame University in 1967, a Mexican couple named Gomez and an American Maryknoll missionary priest from Mexico presented the weekend to nine couples and a few priests. The Encuentro Conjugal received the active support of CFM and Pat & Patty Crowley, founders of CFM, who invited Spanish couples and priests to come to the United States and conduct weekends for both Spanish and English speaking couples. In the summer of 1968, 50 couples and 29 priests accepted the invitation and presented weekends in the U.S.

By January of 1969, American couples and priests were conducting weekends. A New Jersey couple, Jamie & Arline Whalen, called together those couples and priests who had presented two or more of what was now known as Marriage Encounter Weekends. A National Executive Board was formed with Jamie & Arline as the first executive couple. Marriage Encounter remained affiliated with CFM. The second board meeting was held in 1969 at Notre Dame in conjunction with the CFM Convention. The first task of the Board was to develop guidelines for the Weekend and to coordinate the development of the movement in the U.S. and Canada.

Love Notes



Jim ♥ Melissa,
You made it through your first Weekend! Great job!!
Love, A ♥ MN

Mark
I love your knees (old and new)
Dana

Fr. Michael,
You make Fridays special!
Hugs, A ♥ MN

WH
Thank you for all your loving care
SC

J ♥ A, D ♥ R, & B ♥ J,
Thanks for your time and expertise in making our Weekends the best they can be.
Love, MN ♥ A

April Weekend Presenting Team
Awesome Weekend! Thank you for your love and concern for the Weekend couples. You gave witness to what we are all about.
Hugs, A ♥ MN

Atlanta ME community
Thank you for all your prayers and love. I am looking forward to dancing on my new knee.
Mark

Fr. Henry,
Even with your preference for red and black, you are awesome!
Hugs from a Yellow Jacket

As a community we become like family. We have begun a prayer list for the eSpirit, so that folks could let us know when they were in need of prayer. Please send your prayer requests to Mark & Dana Turpin, our eSpirit editors. <wwmespirited@att.net>

Please keep the following in your prayers:

Mark & Dana Turpin – Mark is having knee replacement surgery on May 2nd, perhaps even as you are reading this. Please pray for a successful surgery and a quick recovery.

Annie Borrello's mother, Alice Donohoe, still fighting cancer
Rosalie & Bernie – Eye surgery for Rosalie on May 17th.

Fr. Michael – for continued healing

Roy & Elva Beuhler – Elva has left the nursing home and is back home with Roy now, but she and Roy still need our prayers for strength and courage to work through the Alzheimers.

Please keep us inform of your news and/or need for prayers.

Prayer Corner



Bring your R. T. M.

To R. T. M

On October 19-21, 2012

What is that you say? Bring your Really Terrific Marriage to Red Top Mountain!

Every October, the Atlanta Marriage Encounter community heads north to Red Top State Park. You and your family and friends are all invited for the weekend or you can just come for the day on Saturday October 20. Community and fellowship with other super families awaits you! We have some fun new ideas being added this year. We are certain you will not want to miss!

Lodging and the Park Pass are your only cost if you decide to stay. If you don't stay, the park pass is your only cost. The rest of the weekend's activities are paid for through our silent & live auctions held on Saturday. Pre-Registration for cabins will be open for Lead Volunteers as pre-registration is going on NOW and continuing through July 1 will guarantee your cabin reservations. After July 1 registration will be open for all ME families wanting a cabin. We will have a random lottery for this group on August 1st. Be sure to get your name in the drawing, you don't want to miss the Red Top cabin experience. We will create a waiting list for the remaining families. We would like your payment once your reservation is "confirmed" but.... THE TOTAL COST of the cabin MUST be paid in full by August 31st. If payment is not received by this date, you will lose your reservation, so start saving your pennies now. Please do be in touch if there are extenuating circumstances.

Yes, it is that time of year again. We are full force in RED TOP planning mode! That being said, we are STILL looking for to coordinate certain aspects of Red Top. If you are a tried and true volunteer and plan to continue spreading the love, please let us know A.S.A.P. We can hand the reins over or you can use your creative side and change it up. If you want to help, but don't know what there is to do or what you want to do, please contact us and let us match your love up with Red Top needs. **Hint, hint, we have not heard from many at all.** Also, we are looking for your ideas on things to add, or change. Please contact us if you have any ideas at: nicholsga4@yahooo.com

We welcome your thoughts and ideas.

We are so excited to have the opportunity to serve our WWME community again! We look forward to the many possibilities that this year's Red Top event holds. We are putting our hearts and souls into planning Red Top and we pray it will reflect.

Help us make this year the best year yet!

Many Blessings upon you and yours,

Mark & Michelle Nichols

Red Top Coordinators

nicholsga4@yahoo.com

or Home 770-735-2007

7-Night Eastern Caribbean Cruise onboard Norwegian Epic Sailing April 13, 2013



**Great Cabins Still Available-
Call Today For More Details**
877-625-5859

7-Night Eastern Caribbean Cruise

Saturday	Miami
Sunday	At Sea
Monday	At Sea
Tuesday	St Maarten
Wednesday	St. Thomas
Thursday	At Sea
Friday	Nassau
Saturday	Miami

Onboard Activities

Welcome Reception
Daily Mass
Daily 10/10
Blue Man Group
Spiegel Tent
Specialty Restaurants
Nickelodeon at Sea
Scavenger Hunts and much more!



Bowling Alley



Waterslides



Manhattan Room
Restaurant

**Includes \$75 onboard credit, a cocktail party & a
group photo**

Call Jeff and Rachelle Everts Today For More Information!

877-625-5859

**Prices are subject to availability.*



www.WWMEatlanta.org

Next M.E. Weekend: June 15-17 2012

Location:

Atlanta Marriott Norcross
475 Technology Parkway
Norcross, GA 30092

Presenting Team:

Jack & Angel LaBate
Roger & Ann BorrelloDoug &
MaureenNewlands
Priest - Msgr Bill Hoffman

*Loving Team,
Thank you for your gift!*

Bag Drag:

Happy Hearts WEDS

To sign up as a WEDS Group
for the Bag Drag, contact
Dave ♥ Ronnie Gorzynski
404-372-6637
DaveandRonnie@bellsouth.net

Information: 678-435-3791

Application/Registration: 404-636-4803

Prayer Couple Letters

*Please deliver your letters by the
MONDAY prior to the Weekend.*

Rob ♥ Pam Bentley (678-762-9955)

*1050 Gunter Court
Alpharetta GA 30022
rob@terraemail.com*

The 2012 WWME Weekend Schedule is as follows:

June 15-17
August 17-19
September 28-30
November 16-18

All Weekends are held at the Atlanta Marriott Norcross at:
475 Technology Parkway, Norcross, GA.

Save these dates for the upcoming Community Events:

Super Sunday at All Saints Church - May 19-20, 2012

Eucharist Congress - June 8-9, 2012

WWME 2012 Convention - July 13-15, 2012

Red Top - October 19-21, 2012

Save the Date!

July 13-15, 2012

Sacramento Memorial Auditorium

Sections 12 and 17 will be jointly hosting the 2012 North American Convention in Sacramento, California on July 13-15, 2012 at the [Memorial Auditorium](#), Sacramento Convention Center. Plan on joining us for what is anticipated to be a very exciting convention! Update your calendars now!

Check out the web site <http://www.wwme2012con.org>. We'd love to have you join us there!

WEDS Groups – Atlanta Area

Name	Mtg. Date	Leader	Phone	Area
“Happy Hearts WEDS”	2 nd Sat.	Mike & Diana Lichter John & Barb Fetterly	770-971-6895 770-977-3382	Marietta
“South Atlanta WEDS” St. Mary Magdalene, St. Gabriel, Holy Trinity, St. Matthew	3 rd Sat.	Bryan & Vivian Thomas	678-876-0657 678-857-8552	Fayetteville, Newnan, Peachtree City, Tyrone
“Mary Our Queen WEDS” All Saints	2 nd Sat.	Tim & Rosa Burkett	770-441-9044	Dunwoody, Norcross
“St. Ann WEDS”	2 nd Sat.	John & Kathy Bryan	678-231-0804	Roswell/Marietta
“Grateful WEDS” St. Benedict, St. Brigid St. Thomas Aquinas	2 nd Sat.	David & Debbie Mentasana Jeff & Tricia Hayden Roger & Ann Borello	404-428-5135 678-756-8041 770-667-5156	Alpharetta, Duluth, Johns Creek, Milton
“Hearts on Fire WEDS” St. Brendan, Good Shepherd	2 nd Sat.	Angel & Liz Bonet	770-623-4333	Cumming
“St. Joseph - St. Catherine WEDS” St. Francis of Assisi	1 st Sun.	Shawn & Becky Sartain Paul & Renee Armstrong	678-743-2602 770-795-0853	Kennesaw, Marietta Cartersville
“Sharing His Dream WEDS” St. Lawrence, St. John Newman, St. Oliver Plunkett	2 nd Sat.	Bob & Joy Hernandez Russell & Julia Harrigfeld	678-985-0125 770-965-7978	Lawrenceville Lilburn, Snellville
“St. Monica WEDS” Prince of Peace	2 nd Sat.	Victor & Alessandra Alcoreza Tim and Lily Melcher	678-407-1668 770-623-6220	Duluth Flowery Branch
“St. Peter Chanel WEDS”	2 nd Sat.	Al & Mary Nelle Connelly	770-971-9172	Roswell/Marietta
“Journey With Others WEDS” St. Philip Benizi, St. James	2 nd Sat.	Tom & Marcia Hauck	770-507-0851	Jonesboro
“St. Thomas the Apostle WEDS”	2 nd Sat.	Rick & Maria Crowshaw	678-756-5749	Smyrna
“Happily Ever WEDS” Transfiguration, St. Michael Our Lady of the Mountains	2 nd Sat.	Jen & Nathan Rerick	770-516-1322	No. Marietta Woodstock Jasper
“St. Patrick’s WEDS” Kathleen, GA	1 st Mon.	Bernie & Rosalie Joerger	478-987-4689	Kathleen & Warner Robbins

For more and the latest WEDS information with schedules and pictures,
Visit http://wwmeatlanta.org/WEDS/WEDS_Groups.html

Spirit Newsletter Information:

Send your articles, poems, stories, love notes, dialogues, etc. to: Mark ♥ Dana Turpin (770-993-2236)

wwmespirited@att.net

Next Issue deadline: May 26

If you know of anyone who would like to receive the Spirit, please send an email with their name & contact information to: espirit_Atlanta@bellsouth.net.

Worldwide Marriage Encounter Atlanta Contacts

www.WWMEatlanta.org

Hot Line # 678-435-3791

(Info. & Application in English)

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(Archdiocese of Atlanta)

Al ♥ Mary Nelle Connelly

(770-971-9172)

amncon@bellsouth.net

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Mississippi, Louisiana, and Tennessee)

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Paul ♥ Mary Barkley (404-410-9571)

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Web Developers

Mike ♥ Heather Basso (770-410-9571)

mbasso@ignitewebsites.com

WEEKEND COORDINATION

(Pre W/E Activities & Inviting)

Inviting Committee Coordinators

Jack ♥ Angel Labate (678-513-2832)

JackandAngel@bellsouth.net

David ♥ Kim Boyd (404-513-9598)

davidboyd650@gmail.com

Gift Registration

Paul ♥ Renee Armstrong

(770-795-0853)

Armstrong915@comcast.net

Registration Coordinators

Jim ♥ Melissa Baugher (404-636-4803)

mandjbaugher@gmail.com

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jdmr02@earthlink.net

P.O. Box Pick Up

J.B. ♥ Sharon Colletta (770-448-5413)

JBSharon@bellsouth.net

Prayer Couple Coordinators

Larry ♥ Hermie Balik (770-998-9222)

Larmie@bellsouth.net

Rob ♥ Pam Bentley (678-762-9955)

PamBentley@bellsouth.net

Roger ♥ Ann Borrello (770-667-5156)

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Phil ♥ Aline Bushey (678-842-9012)

amBushey1@bellsouth.net

Bill ♥ Carol Louree (770-974-8183)

blouree@aol.com

Prayer Chain Coordinators

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Super Sunday Coordinators

Paul ♥ Renee Armstrong

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Armstrong915@comcast.net

COMMUNITY

(Post-Weekend Activities)

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DaveandRonnie@bellsouth.net

Rob ♥ Erin Tipton

(770-516-9398)

roberttipton@bellsouth.net

Bridge to Community Coor.

Bob ♥ Joy Lambie (770-587-1506)

BobJoyLambie@comcast.net

Atlanta Area Directory Coor.

Bob ♥ Joy Hernandez

(678-985-0125)

1965@BobJoyH.com

Epiphany Party Coordinators

St. Joseph / St. Catherine WEDS

Paul ♥ Renee Armstrong

(770-705-0853)

Armstrong915@comcast.net

World Priest Day Coordinators

St. Ann's WEDS Group

World Marriage Day - Ball Coordinators

Angel & Liz Bonet (770-623-4333)

lizbonet@comcast.net

Spring Fling Campout Coordinators

Eric ♥ Ida Pfiel (706-867-7990)

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Mark ♥ Michelle Nichols

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Gilberto ♥ Anna Filpo

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filpogilberto@yahoo.com

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Gary ♥ Lisa Morris (678-819-8885)

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4/1/2012

For WWME uses only.