



From our Ecclesial Team

Dear Loving WWME Community,

Your M.E.Q. is your enthusiasm in sharing with others, how the WWME W/E has strengthened your relationship!

A New Year has begun! May God bless this year in a special way for all of us. We really enjoyed seeing so many of you and your families at the Christmas Mass & Social at Holy Innocents in Roseville, in December. It is so wonderful when our children can join us in our celebrations.

The first WWME event of 2007 in Detroit was an awesome Little Christmas Dinner/Dance at Tucci's in Allen Park. There were 56 couples and a priest in attendance. No one went home hungry. A big "THANK YOU" to the Wayne Zone leaders, Dan & Joyce Hurley, and all their helpers for a wonderful time.

February has snuck up quickly. World Marriage Day was celebrated on Feb. 4th at the San Marino Club in Troy. So

many dedicated couples came together to celebrate, in spite of it being Super Bowl Sunday. Thank you to Jay & Linda Spranger do so much each year to make this a special day. Our Community is truly blessed to have so many couples sharing their time and talents.

As of this writing we haven't made our plans for Valentine's Day, but we've been busy getting ready for the first WWME W/E of 2007 here in the Detroit Area, Feb. 16-18th. We truly hope to see all of you at the Walk-in! We can't emphasize enough the impact this part of the Weekend has on the couples attending. We still remember how surprised and loved we felt when so many couples entered the room during the WWME song, with flowers and balloons. Never before had we experienced such love from people who didn't even know us.

We encourage and challenge each couple to consider becoming a Prayer

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INVITING CORNER

It's a brand new year! Let's make it the most successful inviting year ever! And that means doing all the little things that really spark a fire for registrations. We need **your** help. Here are a few things you can do:

- Identify priests and nuns who deserve a weekend: Any religious! – it is not necessary for them to be a parish priest! Inviting trifolds are available for those who have taken Holy Orders.
- Send personal invitations to religious. (We have samples ready to go!)
- Reaching out a little extra to those people who are on the border about going on the weekend by offering babysitting for the weekend and/or purchasing a gift certificate for registration cost.
- Becoming an Inviting Liaison – be your WEDS group inviting connection.
- Insuring brochures are in every church we step into. (with permission from the office of course!)

(Continued on page 3)

WEEKEND DATES

2007

- ♥ Feb 16-18
- ♥ Mar 16-18
- ♥ Apr 20-22
- ♥ May 18-20
- ♥ Jun 22-24
- ♥ Sep 14-16
- ♥ Oct 19-21
- ♥ Nov 16-18

From Our Ecclesial Team, continued....

(Continued from page 1)

Couple. Our Prayer Couple Coordinators: Rick & Cindy LaFond (Wayne), Rick & Diane Kelley (Oakland) and our newest coordinator's Larry & JoAnn Brinser (Macomb) need your "Yeses" when they call seeking to find a Prayer Couple for each couple on the W/E. If you are not already on their list, call them and ask for more details. Their phone numbers are listed in this Newsletter.

Each time we pray for a couple on the Weekend we have a chance to reflect and remember the impact the W/E had on our relationship. (IT WAS HUGE!!) God is hard at work touching these precious hearts too! We send a card/ letter to our couple to let our couple know we have been praying for them. Besides praying before and during the W/E, we also choose to dialogue during crucial moments for our couple during the W/E. (Friday night's uncertainties, Saturday's struggles & risks, Sunday during their extended dialogue). In the back of the WWME calendar there is a section on how to be a Prayer Couple with many helpful suggestions. The best part for us is the Walk-In! To finally meet this couple you've prayed so hard for, and welcome them into our loving Community. It's like Christmas morning all over again. It is important to make sure that your couple has someone there to greet them, if you are unable to come. In all the excitement, it is sad to see a couple with no one to welcome them when they

are so excited about the awesome W/E they have just experienced. Let's make sure that our couples know without a doubt, that we love them and want them to continue their journey with us.

Recently we dialogued on the question: **H.D.I.F. when we pray for a couple on the W/E?**

I (David), wrote that I reflect on the times during our original W/E when I struggled as I wrote my Love letters to you. Up until then, I had kept you distant from knowing all of me. As I pray for this couple I hope the Holy Spirit will be with them, just as He was with us.

I feel overcome with awe about this. My feeling is similar to meeting a famous person like the President. It would be like meeting someone who saved me from a terrible wreck. It's similar to seeing pictures from special events with family members who have since past away. My feeling's strength is a high 9 out of a scale of 1 to 10. The sound would be the Wedding March. The color would be white, as I picture Heaven.

When we are praying for a couple, I (Jane), find myself wanting to be there with them to watch them rekindle their special love for each other, and to reassure them their hard work will pay off.

I feel excited! It's like waiting to go to a surprise party. In nature it's seeing the 1st flowers of Spring! It's about an 8+ on a scale of 1 to 10. The sound would be popcorn popping.

The colors are those of the fireworks on the 4th of July. I remember how special it was for us to learn that a couple had been praying for us, and I can't wait to see what God has done with this couple's relationship!

2007 will be a year of Affirmations! All Zones will hold Affirmations this year. Please see your WEDS leaders for times and locations of your Zone's Affirmation.

Feb 16-18th is also the date of the Affirmations for the selection of new leadership at the national level. There will be an ongoing Prayer Vigil during this time. Many of you signed up for a specific time to pray during this weekend. We ask God to guide and bless the Affirmation process. We will let you know who our new National leaders are as soon as we find out. May God bless our outgoing leaders, Bob & Joy Hernandez and our own Msgr. Chuck Kosanke for all they have done to keep the WWME Dream alive!

Mark your calendars for the: Share the Dream Rally, March 24th.

As always PRAY for the couples on Weekends everywhere, and PLEASE KEEP ON INVITING!! ***Happy Valentine's Day to all you special lovers!***

*We're going places
with God in the driver's seat!
Love & prayers,
David & Jane De-
wald*

Have you attended Post Encounter? If not (or if it's been awhile) then why not give it a try? **There is a post group starting after every weekend.** Usually there are 4 sessions starting a week after the weekend. Often it's on Sunday afternoon or evening.

Have your weekend memories started to fade? Is the commitment you made to each other on the weekend to really give dialogue and your relationship a boost starting to be just a distant memory?

Call **Rick and Miriam Mikulak** to find out the details of a post group that will fit your needs.
313-563-4079 mikulak@sbcglobal.net

The next group will be starting up after the February weekend.

**MAKE YOUR PLANS NOW,
SO YOU DON'T MISS OUT.**

Inviting Corner, continued....

- Setting up pulpit talks at a church. Discuss with the priest the idea of a Parish weekend (a weekend with primarily members of a given church and their priest).
- Getting the WWME signs and pulpit pals in front of more people.

For Holy Order trifolds or to purchase gift certificates for registration, please contact us at renee@thepalls.com or call (248) 374-0760. A note on gift certificates, they are

transferable or tax deductible if not used.

A wonderful way to spread the message of God's love for the Sacrament of Marriage and Holy Orders is to help others experience a WWME Weekend. God bless and we hope to see you at the Rally on March 24th.

Love, Chris & Renee Pall

Pulpit Talks!!!

We recently received this letter from our Section Leaders, Jerry & Fran Ashe. Seems they've been busy giving Pulpit Talks. What a great way to ring in the New Year!!! Let us know about your pulpit talk experiences and we will share them with the Community!

Dear All,

We thoroughly enjoyed giving the Pulpit Talk at St. Mary's in Milford this past Sunday. (Dec.31st) We were going to cancel because Fran was fighting off the start of a cold, but we (she) persisted. It turned out to be a great experience (as most are). Fran knew the priest, Fr. Manny, from a previous AOD contact and he gave us a good intro and public affirmation afterward. Many tri-folds were taken. Although it was a dreary day, the ride home was as if it was a sunny spring day, we were invigorated, what a good way to end the year. Love, Jerry & Fran Ashe



Zone Affirmations will be held in the
Wayne, Macomb and Oakland Zone's this year.

We thank our current Zone Coordinator's for all they've done to serve our wonderful WWME Community.

Thank you to Dan & Joyce Hurley (Wayne/Monroe), Ron & Pat Anderson (Macomb), Charlie & Dairdre McGlothlin (Oakland).

Please make plans to attend the Affirmations in your Zone.
Pray for openness to this area of leadership.

Wayne/Monroe Zone Affirmations: Saturday Feb. 11, 2007

Macomb Zone Affirmations: March 25, 2007

Oakland Zone Affirmations: April ??, 2007

Please consult your WEDS group leaders for times and locations.

Post Notes

The following couples from the November 2006 Weekend have completed Post Encounter. We would like to welcome into community: Darek & Krystyna Budzik – Windsor, ON, Darin & Susan Puruleski – Monroe, Hubert & Monica Sanders – Redford, Frank & Kelly Spadafore – Taylor, Wayne & Patty Goldzweig – Taylor, Stefan & Darlene Seelman – Roseville.

We thank all the couples, many who drove long distances for sharing, great dialogue, questions and fellowship. It is evident that everyone experienced growth in relationship through sharing openly. Continue to keep your dialogue alive and strong.

Thanks to the Weekend Team, Mike & Donna Kohn, Glenn & Michelle Nowak, Walt & Joyce Gomulinski and Fr. Edmund DesForges for presenting the weekend and sharing your Sacraments with the couples.

Blessings and Love,
Dave & Deb Murray

Give us this day . . . Daily Reflections

The daily bread that Jesus speaks of in the Lord's Prayer does not just refer to sustenance for our physical selves, but also for our intellectual selves, our emotional selves and our spiritual selves. To remain healthy and to grow in all of these different areas daily, we need good, wholesome, nutritious food for our bodies and good, wholesome, nutritious *food for thought*, daily.

Increasing attention has been given to nutritious food over the years, but where can we go to get a good, wholesome daily dose of food for thought?

Praying at Perpetual Adoration at our church on the day of Kim and my 24th anniversary, God called us to help with this need and inspired us in how to go about it. That very night, October 16, 2006, after celebrating our anniversary, we started *Daily Reflections for Married Couples*, something that had never even crossed our minds until that moment in adoration just a few short hours earlier! A clear testament that when God calls and you say "yes," things you never dreamed of can happen near instantly and just as naturally as you could imagine.

So what is *Daily Reflections for Married Couples*? Daily Reflections is a daily e-mail which gives brief reflections on marriage, family, parenting, love, friendship, spirituality and character. That is, Daily Reflections provides some of the daily food for thought you can use to help you keep your spirit healthy, vibrant and growing.

The reflections are brief, typically just a line or two. Nearly all of them are quotes in which people have com-

pressed incredible amounts of wisdom into a handful of words. They are truly gems through which you can shine your own life experiences and see them transformed into spectrums of new insights.

Also of importance, the reflections are daily. Wisdom and insight cannot be gulped down. The reflections are set up to be contemplated and to take root one at a time.

Daily Reflections for Married Couples uses an e-newsletter service made available by Yahoo, so it is easy to sign up, and should it not be to your liking/expectations, it is also easy to unsubscribe. With it being so easy to subscribe/unsubscribe, why not give it a try? There is really no downside to trying, only a blessed upside. Why not sign up now? It literally only takes about a half dozen clicks!

To begin receiving Daily Reflections for Married Couples, go to <http://WWMEColumbus.org> and click on "Daily Reflections." Then follow the simple instructions from there. (for most people, just two more clicks). It's that easy!

We have seen God's hand at work in Daily Reflections for Married Couples. We hope that you will check it out and see if it can't provide you with some of the "daily bread" your spirit could use.

God bless you!
Dave and Kim Lauzau



The Detroit Area Worldwide Marriage Encounter Community
invites you and your spouse to the

Share the Dream Rally

As part of WWME we are called to change the world,
one couple at a time. As part of that calling, we are in-
viting you to

*Just Do It! Brighten your love light for others to see,
and join us for a night of fun and inspiration on:*

SATURDAY, March 24, 2007

Check-in/Social time 6:00pm

RALLY 6:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.

***Mark your calendars with the date! Look for more information and
a registration form in the next newsletter.***

<i>Prayer Vigil for USST Selection Process Feb. 16-18</i>		Look for the sign up sheet at the Little Christmas Dinner	
New leaders will be selected February 16-18, 2007 at the Affirmations for our United States Secretariat Team. The US Secretariat Team is the couple/priest who lead our movement in the United States and represent the United States at the World Council for WWME. Each Area in the United States WWME family is being asked to pray during selected times during this special Affirmation. We pray for the Holy Spirit to guide this Affirmation/selection process We thank and ask God's Blessings on our current leaders who have served WWME so faithfully: Bob & Joy Hernandez & Msgr. Chuck Kosanke.		Dance or email David & Jane Dewald janedave2me@peoplepc.com to volunteer for one of the Detroit Area WWME assigned time slots.	
<u>DAY</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>START</u>	<u>END</u>
Friday	Feb.16, 2007	10PM	11PM
Saturday	Feb. 17, 2007	4AM	5AM
		10AM	11AM
		4PM	5PM
		10PM	11PM
Sunday	Feb. 18, 2007	4AM	5AM
		10AM	11AM

MARK YOUR CALENDARS—2007 DATES

ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETINGS: Wednesdays at 7:15 p.m.

January 17	@ Ron & Pat Anderson's
March 14	@ Charlie & Dairdre McGlothlin's
May 16	@ Rick & Cindy Lafond's
June 13	@ TBD
August TBD (Sat/Sun)	@ David & Jane Dewald's
September 19	@ TBD
November 14	@ TBD

HOSTING Weekend Dates:

February 16-18	Macomb
March 16-18	Wayne-Monroe
April 20-22	Oakland
May 18-20	Macomb
June 22-24	Wayne-Monroe
September 14-16	Macomb
October 19-21	Oakland
November 16-18	Wayne-Monroe

DETROIT WWME COMMUNITY EVENTS:

Sun Feb 11	Wayne Zone Affirmations (St. Cyril's of Jerusalem; 3:00 p.m.)
Sat Mar 24	Share the Dream Rally/Community Night (Oakland Zone & Inviting Coor. Host – Location TBD / 6:30 to 10:00pm)
Sun Mar 25	Macomb Zone Affirmations (Location & Time TBD)
Sat May 12	Community Night (Macomb hosts)
Tue May 22	Oakland Zone Affirmations (Location & Time TBD)
June 29—July 1	WWME Family Campout—Proud Lake
July 20-22	Section 6 Convention (Collinsville, IL)
Sat Aug ??	WWME Golf Outing (Rackham Golf Course)
Sat Sep 22	Community Night (Wayne Zone hosts)
Sat Oct 20	Day of Romance (Macomb Zone hosts)
Sun Oct 28	World Priest Day (Wayne Zone hosts)
Sun Dec 2	Christmas Mass and Social (Advisory Council host - (Location & Time TBD)
Sat Jan 5, 2008	Christmas Dinner-Dance ((Location & Time TBD) Oakland Zone)

Get a calendar to put those dates on !!

Walt and Joyce Gomulinski have the new Worldwide Marriage Encounter calendars—dialogue questions for every day of the week.

They will be available for purchase at the Family Christmas Mass and the Dinner Dance in January. Also, you can contact Walt and Joyce and once you pay—it will arrive in your mailbox. Cost is \$10.00. If you want it mailed to you, the cost is \$13.00.

Love, Walt and Joyce 586-772-8075

Happy Huggers

The Happy Huggers had a festive Christmas party complete with an ornament exchange in early December. We enjoyed each others company at the fabulous Little Christmas Diner & Dance. We look forward to another year of

laughter, tears and growth together. Come join us. We meet on the first and third Sunday of the month generally at 5:45. For more details contact Joe and Pauline Rzepecki at (248) 589-8067 or jrzepecki@ameritech.net

Believe in the Power of Prayer?

Pray for others-join us!

Prayer Request?

Send to Scott & Mary at ismelarsen@comcast.net

Canton Kissers

On December 9th six couples of the Canton Kissers met to celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ at the Carrabba's Italian Grill in Canton. After a bit of a shaky start and a longer than expected wait, we sat down to a wonderful dinner and even better fellowship. On January 13th we met at the home of Mike and Rhonda Sovine. We explored an encyclical written by Pope Benedict XVI discussing that God is love and how we as couples, our love reflect God's love to the world. We then dialogued on how we as a couple reflect God's love to the world and how that made us feel.

As you might remember from the December/January Love Connection, the month of November was dialogue challenge month with the Canton Kissers. 8 couples have agreed to participate for 30 days each. We broke into 2 teams. The team of Tom and Monica Wall, Don and Julie Harber, Mark and Sabine Vogel, and John and Laura Cavicchio out dialogued the team of Joe and Sue Nader, Emmanuel and Cleo Ssemakula, Mickey and Bernie Tucker, and Tom and Laura

Baptist 115 to 110. Out of 240 possible dialogues, 225 were completed. That is a whopping 94% Great job dialoguers!!! In the end, the most difficult part was and is to find a date where all 8 couples are available to enjoy the payoff dinner. We are still working on finding that date. More later.....

As of this writing, the Canton Kissers are planning to meet on January 27th at the home of Mickey and Bernie Tucker. In lieu of our normally scheduled meeting on February 10, the Canton Kissers will attend a "Romancing Marriage" dinner party hosted by St. John Neumann Parish. Our next scheduled meeting will be February 24th. The location of the meeting on the 24th has not yet been set.

Locations of meetings are subject to change. Give us a call and we will be happy to tell you where we are meeting. If you are looking for a vibrant WEDS group, the Canton Kissers is always open for new couples. We meet on Saturdays and try to have two meetings per month. Call Tom and Laura Baptist on 734-453-1533

West Side Lovers

A fun, funny and totally enjoyable CHRISTmas WEDS meeting was held at Paul & Amy Scheidler's home which was beautifully and spiritually decorated for the holiday.

The dedication of couples in their efforts to be there was noted as Scott Larsen slept on Mary's shoulder at the end of the evening since he got off the plane from a week in India an hour before arriving at the WEDS meeting.

We enjoyed the scrumptious appetizers and desserts brought to share and played a hilarious game of "Identify the Couple." Each couple was asked to write down 4 little-known facts which would identify them to the other couples. One of the facts had to be a mistruth (aka—a LIE.)

Amid uproarious laughter we were wondering if the Dobsos actually did THAT before coming to the party. The surprise of the night was the Diederichs, since the Larsens had used as their mistruth a fact about how the Diederichs met!

So the truth is out—some of our group can and do sing, some can't and hesitate to sing—THEREFORE, before anyone left, we kazoo'd our theme song. HILARIOUS!!!

Our gratitude goes out to Paul and Amy for leading our group, for their creativity for the evening, and for opening their home so graciously.

Detroit Area

Ecclesial Team:

David & Jane Dewald
313-274-7162

Janedave2me@peoplepc.com

Fr. Edmond DesForges, OFM Conv
(see Weekend Priests)

Post Encounter:

Rick & Miriam Mikulak
313-563-4079
mikulak@sbcglobal.net

Finance Couple:

Rick & Cindy LaFond
734-421-8690
rclafond@wwnet.net

Inviting Coordinators:

Oakland Zone:

Chris & Renee Pall
248-374-0760
retreat@thepalls.com

Macomb:

Larry & Jean Larson
586-323-9054
jmlklarson@yahoo.com

Wayne/Monroe Zone: OPEN

Other Faiths or Other Areas:

1-800-795-LOVE

Weekend Priests:

Fr. Edmond DesForges, OFM Conv
313-278-5129 x21
edmondofmc@aol.com

Fr. Chuck Kosanke
248-683-0311
ckosanke@SSCMS.EDU

Reservations:

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1843 North Lake, Troy 48083
birdhaus@wideopenwest.com

Dan & Debbie Waring 586-286-5524
17830 Keucken, Clinton Twp 48038
wufl@flc.org

Websites:

www.rc.net/detroit/wwme
www.wwme.org
www.ematrimony.org
http://erl.wwme.org

iBlast/Bulletin Coordinators

Rich & Jan Schnur 586-775-1205
richardschnur55@hotmail.com

Prayer Requests

Scott & Mary Larsen
ismelarsen@comcast.net

M.E. Gifts & Supplies:

East: Walt & Joyce Gomulinski
586-772-8075

wnjgomulinski@wowway.com

South: Steve & Roberta Troher
734-421-2687

no email address

Facility Couple/Webmasters

Skip & Fran Ryder
734-420-0024
skipryder@comcast.net

Zone Coordinators:

See next page

Prayer Couple Coordinators:

Oakland—

Rick & Diane Kelley—248-863-7709
Wayne/Monroe—

Rick & Cindy LaFond
734-421-8690 clafond@wwnet.net

Macomb—

Larry & JoAnn Brinser
248-650-8890 lvbjcb@msn.com

St. John's Youth and Family Center

**44011 Five Mile Rd.
Plymouth Mi 48170-2555
734-414-1111**

Newsletter Editorial Policy

We welcome and encourage submissions from our readers!! We accept articles that support the values of the Marriage Encounter Weekend. Articles should fall into one of the following categories:

1. An incident or a period of your life that was strongly affected by living the Weekend values.
2. Teaching articles that provide support by citing personal experience, to couples, priests and religious

3. Articles about upcoming Marriage Encounter events or reports about community and sharing group events that have already taken place.
4. Poems or prayers or stories that relate to marriage and family life.

Please note: articles from other sources including the Internet must have permission to reprint included.

Articles for submission to *Our Love Connection* should be submitted no later than the 15th of the month to be included in the next month's edition.

Send all submissions to:

Mike & Kim Potter

59100 Topping Ct.

New Hudson MI 48165

byrdshot@ameritech.net

248-446-0915

We Encourage Dialogue Support Page

Oakland Zone:

Charlie & Dairdre McGlothlin
248-535-2231
dairdremc@comcast.net

Rochester (Hearts of the Hills):

Charlie & Dairdre McGlothlin
 248-535-2231
 dairdremc@comcast.net

Southwest (Happy Huggers):

Joe & Pauline Rzepecki 248-589-8067
 joerzepecki@wowway.com

Northcentral (Lakes Area Lovers):

Jeff & Sue Bruck 248-682-3855
 sbruck@ameritech.net

Oakland West (West Side Lovers):

Paul & Amy Scheidler 248-669-5698
 amybscheidler@comcast.net

Macomb Zone:

Ron & Pat Anderson
248-601-3919
thecityhouse@comcast.net

Southern Macomb (Dream Keepers):

Walt & Joyce Gomulinski
 586-772-8075
 wnjgomulinski@wowway.com

Warren/Sterling Hts

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 John & Sandy Palazzolo 586-826-9599
 jrpal456@yahoo.com

Warren/Centerline (Loyal Lovers):

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 Campground6565@hotmail.com

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Gary & Margie Graham 586-415-9373
 gandmgraham@comcast.net

Wayne/Monroe Zone:

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Downriver (Love Birds):

Eloy and Martha Vazquez
 734-692-2405
 vazquez@dwsd.org

Livonia/Westland

(The Honeymooners):

Dave & Chris Costyk
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 Davidcos@sbcglobal.net

Dearborn/Garden City/Inkster/Wayne (Soulmates):

Jim and Sharon Kavanaugh
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Plymouth/Canton/Belleville

(Canton Kissers):

Tom & Laura Baptist
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Redford/Detroit (Forever Lovers):

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Worldwide Marriage Encounter—Detroit Area

Editors: Mike and Kim Potter
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New Hudson MI 48165

MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

Sun, Feb 11—Wayne Zone
Affirmations

Sat, Mar 24—Share the Dream
Rally

Sun, Mar 25—Macomb Zone
Affirmations

www.rc.net/detroit/wwme



Vision: "Love one another as I have loved you."

Mission: Worldwide Marriage Encounter's mission of renewal in the church and change in the world is to assist couples and priests to live fully intimate and responsible relationships by providing them with a Catholic experience and ongoing community support for such a lifestyle.