



# As I Have Loved You

From Worldwide Marriage Encounter

## Dear Father,

We thank you for reading our information on Worldwide Marriage Encounter and hope you include this very worthwhile program in your parish.

Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekends are one of the few marriage enrichment programs offered in the archdiocese. Did you know they were for priests and religious as well?

Worldwide Marriage Encounter is a weekend experience that teaches couples, priests, and religious new techniques for better communication.

On the weekend, participants learn through the presentations of three couples and a Catholic Priest how personality affects their behavior, what part feelings play in relationships, and they learn to use a communication tool called Dialogue.

The weekend experience is a private, structured, work weekend. Participating couples and religious are only asked to share with their partner in the privacy of their hotel rooms, not in a group setting.

Our mission is to make the weekend opportunity available to as many Catholic couples as we can.

Therefore, we welcome the opportunity to share this important and effective weekend experience with the couples of your parish.

“Love Never Fails”,

## What's in it for you?

Encountered couples are active in their parishes. You'll find them:

- leading committees
- joining Pastoral Council
- teaching religious education
- helping the archdiocesan couple program for marriage preparation
- as permanent Deacons

Worldwide Marriage Encounter encourages couples to share their Sacramental love with their Parish community.

## Weekends

Worldwide Marriage Encounter weekends are held throughout the Richmond Diocese as well as the world! To register or view dates within the Richmond Diocese go to: <http://www.wmmeva.org>

## So What?

Worldwide Marriage Encounter has a significant affect on couple spirituality, family relationships, and parish involvement.

Marriage is a Sacrament, and it deserves our best attention. Build strong marriages and the details will take care of themselves.

## Ongoing Support

Worldwide Marriage Encounter offers many forms of ongoing support to encountered couples and priests.

Marriage enrichments, social events, and small sharing groups help build a close community that creates bonds and encourages couples to stretch outside themselves to help others.

## What others' have stated,

*"Marriage Encounter, yes! You are doing such important work in our church, especially in this world we live in. I will pray for you and for your movement."*

*Pope Benedict*

*"If you are tired of being just another human doing instead of a human being, the weekend helps you to reflect on your own experience of ministry and your value as a person. The weekend humbles priests to see how holy their people are in their courage to take risks and share of themselves. I sensed the awesome presence of the power of the Lord as He moves in the hearts of the people."* Fr. Tom Devery

*The presentations were wonderful and the handouts were a nice bonus. We left with a determination to work harder on our couple prayer."* Michael & Angela Shinn

*"What we learned on our ME weekend a number of years ago has had a continuous positive effect—not only on our relationship as a married couple but also on our family communication as well."* Joe & Mary Rekus

*"I gained a profound respect for the Sacrament of Marriage. In a ministry where almost all of a priest's time is spent with people who are, will be, or have been married, this understanding I gained from the Weekend has been invaluable."* Fr. John Curran

## Mission Statement:

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.

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

