



C.E.E. Western District Newsletter

Representing the Catholic Engaged Encounter Communities of Western Canada

“Working to nourish, to encourage, and to call forth the very best in our CEE communities...”

BEGINNINGS ...

In the beginning ... (John 1:1-18)

Beginnings are such fascinating times. So much is fresh and new, and you still don't know what the outcome will be. As we cross into 2008, it can be tempting to remain stuck in 2007 – especially in thinking about the failures and setbacks of the previous year, it can be tempting to reflect on the ways we could have been or done something better. Don't do it! God knows where we have fallen short. And He has already forgiven us and wants us to lay hold of the grace available in this New Year. He wants none of His Children to miss out on His grace and on the marvelous blessings He has planned. So go ahead and say "yes" to whatever He wants to do to you.

“Jesus I give my heart to you this day and commit my life to you for the coming year. May You find in me an open heart that says “yes” to you all year long. Come, Lord, and fill me with your love, so that I can bring You to the world.”

By: D & S Marchand

Important Dates

Western District Meeting:
Hosted by Vancouver, BC
April 18-20, 2008



Our New Years Resolution for Western District:

It is our vision or desire to have as many of the communities of West District represented at the EE Convention set for Wichita, Kansas October 3-5, 2008.

Don & Sharon's Ramblings

We tried to reach most of the Communities by phone over the Christmas Season. It was great talking with you. There is something about the spirit of love that seems to radiate at this time of year. As part of our Christmas Wish we asked the communities to identify a "new year's vision" for themselves; Here are the responses we have received.
Prince George expressed two goals: "to right the financial ship and to provide at least three other than 'weekend' enrichments."
Regina said: "they are out to build more community."
Kelowna wants everyone to know that they are still alive and that they have two weekends planned – February 23rd & 24th and April 5th & 6th.
Edmonton also sent us two goals "To find ways to attract the couples with young children to our community events (enrichments and socials). And To recruit more priests (we've already found one new one!!)

If we may we'd like to share a few thoughts with you about our vision. It has been our experience that couples who involve themselves in the ministry of marriage preparation are doing so because they share a burden for the welfare of marriage in our society today. Being married and being family is under attack all around us. We need the role models, the committed couples, the witnesses so our children can know the truth, the value, and the joy of sacramental love that can be found in Christian Marriage. There aren't many opportunities for couples to share in or witness this message in the form of enrichment. There is an ample number of courses and "how to" sessions designed to enhance our careers or jobs, but very little to better our relationships. We invite you to seek out a couple that have participated in a national or international weekend enrichment offered through a convention and ask them about their experience.

Why not challenge yourselves to fund raise so you can send at least one couple and your priest for a "convention weekend" in Wichita - garage sales, bottle drives, craft sales, stipend services, etc. etc.

Just a note to remember, each distinct or community represented at the "convention weekend" in Wichita is encouraged to bring a banner that represents themselves and the theme. We have been apprised of the convention's theme yet. We hope to see you there.

National meeting
Pierrefonds, Que.
August 29 -31, 2008

Convention 2008

Wichita Kansas
October 3-5, 2008



Fee Remittances

Revised to \$16.00 per couple to be submitted as soon as possible at the conclusion of each "Weekend" together with the stats to the WD Finance Couple – Doug ♥ Katrina Vince 102-8484 162nd St. Surrey, BC V4N 1B4 - Tel: 604-585-1595 Email: djvince@telus.net

PLEASE PRAY EVERY FRIDAY
REMEMBERING CEE
WEEKENDS AROUND THE
WORLD. For a listing of the EE
weekends go to
cee.statistics@yahoo.com

Don says this is one of those stories that cause us to laugh only if you've been there, done that.

While on a road trip, an elderly couple stopped at a roadside restaurant for lunch. After finishing their meal, they left the restaurant and resumed their trip. When leaving, the elderly woman unknowingly left her glasses on the table and she didn't miss them until they had been driving about twenty minutes. before they could find a place to turn around -- in order to return to the restaurant to retrieve her glasses.

All the way back, the elderly husband became the classic grouchy old man. He fussed and complained and scolded his wife relentlessly during the entire return drive. The more he chided her, the more agitated he became. He just wouldn't let up one minute.

To her relief, they finally arrived at the restaurant. As the woman got out of the car and hurried inside to retrieve her glasses, the old geezer yelled to her, "While you're in there, you might as well get my hat and the credit card."

A FRIDAY PRAYER FOR CATHOLIC ENGAGED ENCOUNTER

(English Version approved at the International Catholic Engaged Encounter Executive Committee Meeting - October 11, 2006)

O' Mary, wife of Joseph and Mother of Jesus, with your motherly care, please pray with us now for all the couples and families who serve in Catholic Engaged Encounter around the world. Give your maternal protection to all the team couples and priests, to the helpers and to all the couples who have experienced Engaged Encounter, and especially to those who begin their weekend today. Together we pray:

Heavenly Father today is Friday and we recall Jesus' self-sacrifice as we surrender into your hands Catholic Engaged Encounter throughout the world. Please protect all who serve you in this apostolate. Guide us in everything we do and give us the wisdom and commitment needed to glorify you and to build Your Kingdom and your Church.

O' Jesus, our brother, we offer you our service in Catholic Engaged Encounter in gratitude for your love poured out on the cross on Good Friday. Please help us, so that all we do will be just as you want it to be. May we truly serve engaged couples with your love and joy; and so, enrich their future marriages and families.

Dear Holy Spirit, please enlighten all engaged couples who, this week, take part in Catholic Engaged Encounter. Enable them to recognize you in their love for each other, and to embrace the commitment of living their 'Natural Bond' or 'Sacrament' of Matrimony for their lifetime. Amen!

With our Love, Prayers and wishes for a Blessed New Year



Fr. Paul ♥
Sharon ♥ Don