



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...”

The most wonderful things
That Easter time brings
Is knowing that our Lord
Was crucified for all
The giving of His life
The most holy sacrifice
And He did it just for us
Out of His undying love.
Then on the third day
He rose from the grave
And lives forever more
As our Savior and Lord



Important Dates: **Next Western District Meeting** is set for **Prince George: July 10-12, 2009** and Ross & Anita are expecting us.

The **“Seattle 2010 Conference”** is set for **October 1st to 3rd, 2010**. We have our WD Meeting booked into the conference period.

The next **Canadian National Meeting** is set for **August 21st to 23rd, 2009 at Pierrefonds Quebec**. We have our tickets booked.

© By M.S.Lowndes

A Reflection: The other day I happened to be handed a very secular off the street newspaper i.e.: the metro. An article headed as *“more couples are choosing to move in together”* caught my attention. The article in essence was indicating that these relationships were destined to fail and that perhaps it would be best to just date. It also stated that the eventual marriages that may result from these relationships have a very low success rate.

The message of *“God’s Plan for Couples”* needs to be lived and shared by those that live their sacramental call and sometimes they are to tell others this message, hence the CEE ministry.

Lord, we thank you for our EE friends.

By: D & S Marchand

Important Stuff to Consider:

Nominations for leadership within the **CEE National Executive** are going to be considered at the August, Canadian National Meeting,. If you community is nominating a trio please send us their resume and acceptance.

At our last WD meeting an eight month cycle for our meetings was approved. As it turns out we have a meeting in July 2009 and another for October 2010 (14 months apart). The mid point between these dates is near end of February or early March 2010. **We are looking community willing to act as host?**

Don & Sharon’s Ramblings:

As a trio we are always interested in “How is your Community doing” or “How was your Weekend?” It is interesting that when we ask these questions or even if these questions are posed to us, we respond or hear “oh. Just great” or “It was good.” In order to assess the answers to these queries one must consider the source. Is it based on ones observations or is it founded in some form of questionnaire? How was the feedback requested?

BBQ season

After many long months of cold and winter, we are finally coming up to spring and BBQ season. Therefore, it is important to refresh your memory on the etiquette of this outdoor cooking ritual, as it's the only type of cooking a real man will do, probably because there is an element of danger involved.

When a man volunteers to do the BBQ, the following chain of events is put into motion. Here's the Routine:

1. The woman buys the food.
2. The woman makes a salad, prepares vegetables, and makes dessert.
3. The woman prepares the meat for cooking, places it on a tray along with the necessary cooking utensils and sauces, and takes it to the man who is lounging beside the grill - drink in hand.

Here comes the important part:

4. THE.....MAN.....PLACES.....THE.....MEAT.....ON.....THE.....GRILL
5. The woman goes inside to organize the plates and cutlery.
6. The woman comes out to tell the man that the meat is burning. He thanks her and asks if she will bring another drink while he deals with the situation.
7. THE.....MAN.....TAKES.....THE.....ME AT.....OFF.....THE.....GRILL.....AND.....HANDS.....IT.....TO.....THE....WOMAN.
8. The woman prepares the plates, salad, bread, utensils, napkins, sauces and brings them to the table.
9. After eating, the woman clears the table and does the dishes.
10. Everyone PRAISES THE MAN and THANKS HIM for his cooking efforts.
11. The man asks the woman how she enjoyed 'her night off' and, upon seeing her annoyed reaction, concludes that there's just no pleasing some women!

Our experience in this area has been to ask for the feedback. If you are looking to improve on something ask where the deficiencies are. Ask what could have been done better. In the case of our weekends we know of communities that simply asked. You were asked Friday night why you came and what you hoped to gain. Tell us what you gained.

We feel it is important for the couples to share their experience and we must be open to accept the responses. We'd like to share some responses that were shared with us recently in Prince George's latest newsletters

"...to feel the love of the weekend and genuinely appreciate each other and every moment"

"We gained "a greater closeness, commitment to God and spirituality."

"We understood how to resolve our differences in different ways. We learned how to communicate on a different level..."

"Seeing and listening to other successful couples who have gone through similar problems and found healthy ways to come past it."

"Learning more about how the Catholic faith can enrich our relationship and marriage."

"We gained "a better understanding about God and his role in our marriage...a better understanding about love and unity."

"It was a fabulous weekend that I plan on recommending to all my soon-to-be married friends."

Emails From our national team:

Sharon and I wanted to know if other communities were experiencing declines in registrations.

We can't speak for all of Canada yet since we don't have the numbers but for our community we had to cancel amalgamate two weekends together because of insufficient candidates. It will be interesting to see the numbers in August and compare to last year. We were down in overall weekends last year. We may see this again this year and therefore see a trend. Our diocese reported less sacramental marriages in the last two years. The Niagara/Toronto area has 2 fewer weekends..... so I believe we may be seeing a decline in sacramental unions.

We participated in a weekend in Florida in February and our eyes were open to how different the Catholic Church handles their couples here. Instead of asking less of them they ask more. I'll explain: The cost is high... \$280.00 The couples are mailed out a Christopher West CD called " Sexual Honesty " They are asked to individually listen to it and answer a questionnaire and bring both CD and questionnaire back with them to the weekend.... the candidates are asked to arrive one hour before the weekend so a diocesan marriage and family coordinator can administer a computerized relationship analysis "The focus". Their individual/couple answers are reviewed analyzed at the diocese and a report sent to the parish that will perform the ceremony so the priest can show the couple their strengths and weaknesses of relationship and then they have a one+ hour of Billings (Natural Family Planning) on the Saturday evening.

So many of our communities are looking to shorten their weekend to two days and asking less of the couples in order to compete with other programs. We disagree with this idea. WE offer a better program/product and with that comes, the extra time, money, expectations.

Bernard & Ginette

PLEASE PRAY EVERY FRIDAY REMEMBERING CEE WEEKENDS AROUND THE WORLD.

With our Love, Prayers: Fr. Paul ♥ Sharon ♥ Don