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Here is your monthly update from National Marriage Encounter (Detroit area). The primary purpose of this email distribution is to promote National Marriage Encounter events. This email database of over 5,000 contacts covers the Detroit, Flint, Toledo, and Lansing areas. We can also help promote marriage enrichment activities in your community which are open to the public. Please notify us at least four weeks prior to your marriage enrichment event so our Board can consider your request. Our email address is: [n.m.e@mac.com](mailto:n.m.e@mac.com)

Thank you for your ongoing support! You may [UNSUBSCRIBE](#) if you no longer wish to receive our emails.

## Monthly Announcements for Marriage Enrichment

(SE Michigan area)

August, 2009

### Upcoming National Marriage Encounter Weekends (Detroit area)

#### Capuchin Retreat Center

Washington Twp.

**Aug. 7-9, 2009**

8 of 18 reserved

Only one wing open!

Nov. 13-15, 2009

2 of 26 reserved

#### Manresa Retreat House

Bloomfield Hills

Sept. 25-27, 2009

**15 of 20 reserved!**

March. 12-14, 2010

5 of 20 reserved

Register [ONLINE](#) for an encounter weekend at our Detroit Area Website!

Monthly Enrichment Meetings for All Couples  
[DOWNLOAD FLYER](#)

View, print, and share our:  
[CONTACT CARDS](#)  
or [BROCHURE](#)  
(Please view both pages)

### Multiplying the Loaves and Fishes --a request from the heart of NME--

In the sixth chapter of John's gospel, we learn of the miracle of the loaves and fishes. Overwhelmed by the crowds and anticipating Passover, the apostles just cannot fathom how they will be able to meet the needs of their hungry followers. With uncertainty Andrew states, "There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish; but what good are these for so many?"

Here at National Marriage Encounter, we often sound a lot like Andrew! Married couples in Southeast Michigan (and beyond) need our ministry more than ever, but a growing number of them cannot afford the cost. We are a non-profit organization. Like most families today, our volunteers have worked hard to cut costs and do more with less. At the end of each encounter weekend, we look at the available "loaves and fishes", and we trust that God will provide by moving the hearts of those who have been blessed with financial resources. We thank God for His provision, and we thank those who answer His call!

We hope that the work of National Marriage Encounter has blessed you in some way. If you are able and would like to partner with us as we serve married couples regardless of their financial situation, we would be deeply appreciative! A donation of any amount – even five or ten dollars – would be a blessing that we can extend to a couple in need. Please help us multiply the "loaves and fishes" by making your tax-deductible donation online. Our donation button is at the lower right of our [home page](#). Or, you can mail your donation, made payable to National Marriage Encounter, to our treasurer at:

National Marriage Encounter  
8343 Sandpiper  
Canton, MI 48187

Married couples need our support, particularly in these trying times. Thank you for helping us serve them! We remain –

In His service,  
National Marriage Encounter Board (Detroit area)

Join us for the  
Annual Marriage & Family  
Conference in Green Bay  
Aug. 6-9, 2009  
Visit the [WEBSITE!](#)

## NATIONAL MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER UPCOMING WEEKEND RETREATS!

**DATES:** Aug. 7-9 at [Capuchin](#) and Sept. 25-27 at [Manresa](#)

Capuchin in the summer is beautiful with 95 acres of manicured trails and lots of time to enjoy them with your spouse! **Reserve now** so we can make plans for your memorable weekend.

Due to popular demand, our weekends can fill up in advance. This is happening right now at Manresa with only 5 available spots! Don't miss the opportunity to share this special weekend with your spouse! Reserve your spot and join us to discover God's plan for YOUR marriage! Since personal referral and bulletin announcements are our most popular forms of advertising, we sincerely thank all those "encountered" couples and church staff members who recommend our beautiful weekend experience!

The below marriage enrichment events, listed in order by date, are not sponsored by National Marriage Encounter. However, they are open to the general public. Please help promote these events by publishing them in your church bulletins or forward this email to family and friends. We thank you for supporting marriage and family enrichment!

### [WEEKEND RETREAT for MARRIED COUPLES](#)

**DATE(S):** July 31<sup>st</sup> thru August 2<sup>nd</sup> (Fri - Sun)

**LOCATION:** Bloomfield Hills, Manresa Retreat House, – [WEBSITE](#), [MAP](#)

**COST:** Call to confirm reservation and cost.

**CONTACTS:** Nora Bayer (606) 298-3906 or Jenny Cunningham (419) 693-0978

**MORE:** Revitalize the bonds of your marriage by spending a precious few days in the serenity and beauty of Manresa. It is a gift you can give to each other which is like no other. Make a commitment to each other this year and spend a few days strengthening your walk with your partner God has given you to share life. Come and see what God has in store for you!

### [LOVE and RESPECT VIDEO CONFERENCE](#) [Special Event sponsored by Detroit Retrouvaille](#)

**DATE:** Saturday, August 8th, 2009, 8:30am - 5:00pm

**LOCATION:** Dearborn Heights, St. Linus Catholic Church, – [WEBSITE](#), [MAP](#)

**COST:** \$35 per couple or \$20 per person

**CONTACT:** Tony & Rita Riccardo, [EMAIL](#)

**MORE:** Join us for this amazing opportunity to enrich your marriage!! The powerful truth about Love and Respect is that the conflicts couples experience are not the root problem. Successful couples know that harmony and happiness in marriage are not primarily achieved by solving daily problems. Though these problems are real, they are not the root issue. Find out what the root issue is by attending this Marriage Video Conference on Saturday, August 8th. Light lunch provided, as well as coffee and tea. This conference is presented in video format and registration includes a workbook. In order to keep our cost as efficient as possible, we ask each couple to bring a soft drink of their choice for the day. For more information, please contact the host couple for this event.

Tony & Rita would also greatly appreciate if you can send them an email informing you have registered or will be in attendance. It will be a fantastic conference, so register today! [PROMO VIDEO](#)

### [RETROVAILLE PROGRAM](#) A Lifeline for Troubled Marriages

**[DATE\(S\) & LOCATION\(S\)](#):** August 7–9, DeWitt, September 11-13, Troy, MI

**CONTACT:** Call 800-470-2230

**MORE:** If your marriage is tearing the two of you apart, if there is little or no meaningful communication, if you are considering separation or divorce, we believe Retrouvaille can help you. Retrouvaille begins with a weekend experience in which husbands and wives are helped to re-establish communication and to gain new insights into themselves as individuals and as a couple. A follow-up series of presentations, which provide a time and place to work on your relationship, is an important phase of the Retrouvaille healing process.

### FIREPROOF FELLOWSHIP GROUP

**DATE:** Saturday, Aug. 15 (7-9pm),

**LOCATION:** Saint Clair Shores, St. Joan of Arc Catholic Community, [WEBSITE](#) [MAP](#)

**COST:** FREE! Please RSVP if attending to plan for handouts.

**CONTACT:** Sr. Carol Juhasz [EMAIL](#) - or 586-777-3670

**MORE:** All couples are welcome and encouraged to attend these 2 hour sessions which cover a specific topic based on the movie Fireproof and the love dare challenge. The August 15th session will include guest speakers Tim & Ann Mauro-Vetter, President Couple for National Marriage Encounter. They will share a 30 minute presentation, from personal experience, on overcoming “parasites” in our marriages and building trust.

### [FIREPROOF MOVIE NIGHTS!](#)

Contact us by [EMAIL](#) to list your movie event at your church community!

#### **DATES, LOCATIONS, CONTACTS:**

- Aug. 20 @ 7pm, Ypsilanti, [Grace Place Church](#), [MAP](#), Pastor Tony Weatherly, [EMAIL](#), 734.544.8903
- Aug. 29 @ 7pm, Saint Clair Shores, [St. Joan of Arc](#), [MAP](#), Sr. Carol Juhasz [EMAIL](#) 586-777-3670
- Nov. 14 @ 6pm, Lake Orion, [St. Joseph](#), [MAP](#), [MORE](#), Kathy Hasty, [EMAIL](#) 248.693.0440.

**MORE:** What is [Fireproof](#)? You may recall that last fall the movie hit the theatres for a surprising four to five week run and was in the top five for two weeks. It is an excellent movie about a fire chief and his wife who are in the midst of marital problems. In the movie Fireproof, Capt. Caleb Holt will brave a burning building to rescue a stranger, but is he about to leave his marriage without even a fight? The focus is not only on their situation, but also on their relationships with God. Find out more about love and forgiveness that can help build or re-ignite a lifelong, enduring marriage.

### [DYNAMIC MARRIAGE CLASS](#)

**DATE(S):** Mid-September – Eight weekly class sessions (2 hours each)

**LOCATION:** Northville, [Oakpointe Church](#) [MAP](#)

**COST:** \$130 for the material from Family Dynamics. [BROCHURE](#)

**CONTACT:** Robert & Kellie Milligan, [EMAIL](#) 248-982-9191

**MORE:** ARE YOU READY FOR YOUR MARRIAGE TO GO FROM...

- Good to Great? Mediocre to Magnificent? Hurt to Healed?

Then you're ready for **DYNAMIC MARRIAGE!** See below for another class location:

- Jackson, 9/27/09 [Grace Church](#), [MAP](#), [Regan & Leslie Puckett](#) (517) 789-6155 x203

## [COUPLE PRAYER SERIES](#)

The Couple Prayer Series involves six evening sessions (one per week). Couples learn to pray together safely, comfortably, and consistently. Sessions scheduled in the Michigan area include:

- Plymouth, [Our Lady of Good Counsel, MAP](#), Fridays: 7-9pm starting Sept 18<sup>th</sup>.
- Plymouth, [St John Retreat Center, MAP](#), Thursdays: 7-9pm starting Feb 18<sup>th</sup>.
- Livonia, [St Michaels, MAP](#), Sundays: 7-9pm starting Feb 21<sup>st</sup>

**MORE:** Experience the deep spiritual intimacy of praying with your spouse in lovingly safe, close, comfortable, and consistent ways. Experience the joy of having a soul mate. Listen to this short audio about the [blessings of Couple Prayer](#).

**Home Edition:** Couples without access to the Couple Prayer Series through a church or small group can now experience the same series with print, audio, and video at home.

**Facilitator's Package:** This package enables you to offer the Couple Prayer Series to your own church or small group!

## [Marriage: God's Love Made Visible Series](#)

Kick-Off Dinner & Speakers!

**TOPIC:** "The Joys of Marriage" by Marian & Bob Smentowski  
**DATE:** Saturday, September 19, 6:30—9:00 pm (doors open at 6:15pm)  
**LOCATION:** Troy, [St. Anastasia Church](#), in the Davidson Center [MAP](#)  
**COST:** \$35.00 per couple (reservations with payment are required by the 14th)  
**CONTACT:** Loretta Wilbur at 248-689-0732, [EMAIL](#)  
**MORE:** Check their website for more details!

## [The Ultimate Date Night with Jay & Laura](#)

Music, Comedy and Inspiration by Celebrate Your Marriage Ministries

**DATE:** Saturday, September 19, 7:15pm (optional meal at 6pm)  
**LOCATION:** Jackson, [Grace Church, MAP](#),  
**COST:** \$20 presentation, \$25 optional meal, \$10 optional dessert buffet, (RSVP required)  
**CONTACT:** [Regan & Leslie Puckett](#) (517) 789-6155 x203  
**MORE:** Join us for fun and laughter as we learn to celebrate our marriages! There is an optional romantic candlelight dinner before the show at 6:00 p.m. for \$25 per couple. There is also an optional dessert buffet after the show for \$10 per couple which includes 4 dessert choices for each couple. Seating for the dinner and dessert buffet is limited to the first 50 couples. Call for your tickets today!

## [A Weekend to Remember](#)

An opportunity for you to get away from life's distractions and focus on each other.

**DATE:** September 25-27  
**LOCATION:** Dearborn, [Hyatt Regency, MAP](#),  
**COST:** \$129.00/ per person  
**CONTACT:** Start [HERE](#) Customer Service: (1-800-358-6329)

## **DONATE TO NATIONAL MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER & BUY [ESTHERS COFFEE](#)**

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