



Engaged



Newlyweds



Married



Very Married

Living in Love

Electronic Newsletter of the Pastoral and Matrimonial Renewal Center

August 2008

Latest News:

Living in Love Leadership Conference - Empowered by the Spirit

The heart and soul of Living in Love, couples who have pioneered Preparing to Live in Love and Living in Love in 6 Dioceses, LL presenting teams, mentor trainers, and PMRC Board members, gathered July 11-13 at St Thomas of Villanova to share the miracles they have seen, voice their belief that God is in this work, and to allow God to speak to their hearts about His passionate desire for His people. What emerged was a clear vision of who we are, who we are called to be in the church, and a special outpouring of the grace of unbridled joy. All who participated departed with a new urgency to share our good news near and far and a rekindled commitment to invite everyone to be a part of this wonderful mission.

We prayed for zeal and shared our dreams, plans, and inspired ideas. In response, God anointed every heart with His ambition for the Sacrament of Matrimony to be the source of passionate, other-centered, life-giving love in every family, and a manifestation of Divine Love in the Body of Christ. The excitement reached fever pitch as we began to make concrete plans that were so simple yet so profound.

The Feher's Unveil a Three Pronged Plan

On Sunday morning of the 2008 Living in Love leadership Conference, Ron and Kathy Feher unveiled a simple plan to spread Preparing to Live in Love nationwide. The "Three Pronged Plan" for 2008-2009 will be 1) to get on the radar screen of the U.S. Bishops as they discern how to improve marriage preparation, 2) get the attention of every priest, and 3) get a foothold in every state. If we focus on initiatives in these three areas, we know that God will do the rest to make our collective dream come true so that our children and grandchildren will grow up in a church where masculinity and femininity are celebrated and sex is a holy joyful experience of God's real presence in the Sacrament of Matrimony. Every one of us can do our part and have a significant impact. Here's how!

Thank a Bishop - If you were enthused about your experience of Preparing to Live in Love or Living in Love, please write a thank you card, note, or letter to your Bishop. If you have mentored a couple who had a powerfully positive experience, will you please personally ask them to send a thank you card to their Bishop. Also, visit www.foryourmarriage.org, the U.S. Bishops new web site, and then email marriage@uscceb.org to tell them about your experience mentoring or being mentored using Preparing to Live in Love.

Tell a Priest - Ask every priest you meet, "Father, have you heard about Preparing to Live in Love?" Make a list of every priest you know and plan to 1) Send them a brochure and/or promotional DVD (email PMRCusa@msn.com), 2) Call them to tell them about your experience, 3) Offer to mentor their next engaged couple for them, 4) Invite them to experience Living in Love, and 5) Offer to help bring Preparing to Live in Love and Living in Love to their parish.

Invite a Couple - make a list of family and friends who live in states other than yours. Ask every couple on your list if they have heard about Living in Love or Preparing to Live in Love and tell them about your experience. If they are engaged, ask them what they are doing for marriage preparation. There may be a way for them to experience Preparing to Live in Love no matter where they are using web technology. If they will gather 15 couples willing to experience Living in Love, we will bring the weekend to them, or they can travel to the closest weekend. For two weeks after every Living in Love weekend, tell every person you meet about how wonderful it is to Live in Love with your husband or wife. Tell them the date of the next LL weekend or point them to www.livinginlove.org for dates of future weekends. We all know people in our own and other states and we simply cannot keep the good news to ourselves.

Joys and Miracles of Mentoring!

Never fret about the "submarine couples." Those are the ones who do not surface until later. We just heard a story of an engaged couple like that this spring. The Pastor really insisted that this couple do PLL because they were living together, interfaith, and the Catholic was away from the church. Through Sessions 1-5 they were very very quiet and the mentor couple was unsure if they had made any impact until Session 6 when the couple announced that they had stopped sleeping together, signed up for NFP, and were considering RCIA!!!!

A young lady came up to introduce herself to us at mass and thank us for bringing PLL to the parish. After raving about how wonderful the experience was for her and her fiancée she remarked that they were now in "withdrawal" because they have to wait until October. We presumed she was referring to her wedding but soon found out that she was getting married in June but that October was when they had already signed up to make Living in Love!

Preparing to Live in Love

Please Pray for all engaged couples preparing for marriage and specifically for those being mentored through Preparing to Live in Love

Engaged Couple:
Michelle Jones and Joe Dooley
Sharmilia Mohanraj and Ryan Murray
Danielle Kearney and Stephen Phlug
Julia Saily and Julian Alteri
Margaret La Fex and James Sisson
Abby Roach and Matthew Noeller
Katherine Bailey and Nicholas Romanyk
Christine Kelleher and Patrick Palus
Kelly Ann Filippi and Andrew DeStefano
Ann Marie Spring and Ryan Dougty
Katherine Senior and Mark Urbanski
Jana LoBello and Brandon Sethi
Eileen Fleitz and Ryan McLaughlin
Kristen Reese and Ryan Jardine
Kristin Dilks and Steve Lapicki
Jennifer Barrett and Gauna
Christina Thompson and Charles Glackin
Elena Perez and Robert Philips
Megan Hager and Kurt Moldhuff
Katie O'Leary and Bryan Mancini

Mentors:
Paul and Diana Hennessey
John and Marie Kelly
John and Carol Graham
Scott and Carol Harris
Chris and Kammie Keegan
John and Mary Milligan
Francis and Pam Stepien
Bobby and Carol McKiernan
George and Gerry Riley
Mike and Barb McCabe
Dean and Allison Miller
Tony and Carrie Zahm
Dave and Julie Zaffarano
John and Cathy Scansaroli
David and Stephanie D'Archangelo
Marc and Terri DeRita
Le and Carol Turner
Chris and Jennifer McGlenn
Lee and Carol Megow
Ron and Kathy Feher

Upcoming Weddings

The following couples who were mentored through Preparing to Live in Love will marry this month or early next month.

| Parish: | Wedding Date: |
|--|---------------|
| St Thomas of Villanova, Rosemont PA | |
| Carolyn McLoughlin and Daniel Keelan | 15 Aug |
| Anne Cooper and Stephen Pratt | 23 Aug |
| Mai-Lith Hoang and Anthony Kluth | 30 Aug |
| Susie Lopes and Frank Sobaru | 6 Sep |
| Holy Family, Syracuse NY | |
| Margaret LaFex and James Sisson | 2 Aug |
| Kelly Filippi and Andrew DeStephano | 15 Aug |
| Danielle Kearney and Stephen Phlug | 23 Aug |
| St Monica, Berwyn PA | |
| Maureen McKenna and Billy Carr | 9 Aug |
| Christ the King, Ann Arbor MI | |
| Jana LoBello and Brandon Sethi | 16 Aug |
| Our Lady of the Mount, Warren NJ | |
| Kristen Reese and Ryan Jardine | 5 Sep |
| St Philip Neri, Philadelphia PA | |
| Audria Stubna and Paul Raff | 8 Aug |
| St Bridget, Philadelphia PA | |
| Karen Witiw and Oscar Rueda | 6 Sep |

Coming up Living in Love Weekends 2008

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|-------------------------------|-----------|
| Holy Family, Syracuse NY | 23-24 Aug |
| Assumption, Mechanicville, NY | 6-7 Sep |
| STV, Rosemont PA | 18-19 Oct |
| Holy Family, Syracuse NY | 1-2 Nov |
| CTK, Ann Arbor MI | 8-9 Nov |
| St Bernard, Bridgewater NJ | 8-9 Nov |
| St Edward, Richmond VA | 15-16 Nov |

Living in Love Convention

Naked and Unashamed, "Fanning the fires of passion"

Simple but profound, the practice of Skin to Skin keeps us tuned into each other while providing both a refuge from distractions and an opportunity to grow in attention, presence, and affirmation.

Expanding our experience of Skin to Skin comes with deepening our understanding of the Theology of the Body. Couples will share their experience and understanding of the Nuptial Meaning of the Body, ways to increase fluency in the Language of the Body, and practical tips for integrating Body and Soul



June 19-21, 2009

TOB IQ?

What does John Paul II mean by the Nuptial or Spousal Meaning of the Body? In a word, that we have the capability and innate desire to give ourselves to the "other" as gift. "In accord with its nature, sexual intercourse is...a deep fulfilment of the person through the gift of self. The person no longer wishes to be its own exclusive property, but instead to become the property of the other." We talk about giving ourselves to each other on our wedding day. That "gift of self" continues to be the primary barometer of how faithfully we are living our wedding vows. The documents of Vatican II, are also replete with similar summary statements as in Gaudium et Spes 24:3 "man cannot fully find himself except through a sincere gift of self." The challenge for husbands and wives is to both see the other as gift, respect, cherish, and be grateful for that gift, and to intentionally be gift to the other.