



Engaged



Newlyweds



Married



Very Married

Latest News:

Living in Love

TM pending

Electronic Newsletter of the Pastoral and Matrimonial Renewal Center

July 2009

NACFLM/USCCB Marriage Building Conference - a milestone event!

Over 500 family life ministers, 50 priests, 6 Bishops, and 2 Archbishops gathered in solidarity, enthusiasm and commitment to begin the work of building a culture that nurtures marriage in our parishes and dioceses. The 25-28 July 2009 Conference of the National Association of Catholic Family Life Ministers (NACFLM) was cohesive and engaging and marked with warm and dynamic speakers, inspiring and even entertaining events, and a unique opportunity to interact with the Bishops who are and have been the leaders of the National Pastoral Initiative for marriage to hear, first hand, their vision and ambition for the future.

Sound Catholic teaching, compelling witness, research data, and exciting networking provided the inspiration for a resounding commitment to prioritize the work of marriage building and invite the entire church to join in a comprehensive effort to make the Catholic Church known as the church of joy-filled marriages!

Feher's Call For a Conspiracy of Affirmation!

In their closing Keynote, Ron and Kathy Feher highlighted 3 initiatives that they believe will lay the foundation for a marriage building church. The first is a **Catholic Conspiracy to Affirm Sacramental Marriages**. We know the effect that affirmation has in a marriage. It can have the same powerful impact in the Church! We need to reverence the sacramental couples in our midst and affirm them at every opportunity. Not only will affirmation encourage couples to be who others see them to be, but we will become more and more aware of the gift that they are to the church and not take them so much for granted.

Secondly, **keep our eyes on the Bride and Groom**, the icon of marriage. The vision of matrimony is embodied in the joyful enthusiasm and idealism of young love; so, that is where we look to be reminded of the vision God has for us. Our best efforts should be focused on the engaged and newlyweds to empower them to live in love for a lifetime. At the same time, being sacramental signs to the engaged call older married couples to live their sacraments to the fullest. When a couple marries, they don't hope to be average; they want to be great! The Church's vision for each of us is to be extraordinary!

Finally, **harness the prayer of the Body of Christ**. We all pray for those we love but we usually limit it to times of stress or celebration and then there are all those in our parish families whom we intend to pray for but do so on a hit or miss basis. If the whole church would begin to pray fervently, intentionally, and continuously for the marriages and families that set the level of love in our homes and in our parishes, we would experience both the power of prayer and raise our awareness of the importance of each of the sacraments in our midst. We can all dedicate one hour of prayer a month for the families we know and care about, including our own. Put it on the calendar, the same hour each month, and let us know when that will be (PMRCusa@msn.com). A new, revised version of **The Vision and the Dream**, a response to the National Pastoral Initiative, is available upon request from the PMRC, and if you need a copy of **Ask, Search, Knock** to help you pray, order one today.

Order CD's and DVD's today!

If you were unable to attend the NACFLM Conference, treat yourself to the excitement and inspiration of the Keynote addresses and Top Ten, NFP, or Youth Ministry/DRE Workshops. Order through LCE Media (Sales@LCEmedia.com or 800-693-3884). Download an order form through www.livinginlove.org.

Don't miss the **"Marriage Building Rosary"** CD, a special couple rosary complete with scripture and couple reflections on each mystery by Ron and Kathy Feher, Don and Lorrie Gramer, Bob and Cathy Ovies, and Scott and Jenny Russell (all Living in Love couples).

Rockford Rocks!

Under the visionary leadership of Don and Lorrie Gramer, Family Life Directors for the Diocese of Rockford, IL, Living in Love has come full blown to the mid-west. The first diocesan weekend was held 30-31 May at the Bishop Lane Retreat Center and brought together 16 leadership couples from a variety of parishes and 4 dioceses. Right from the start, these couples knew that the goal was to bring Living in Love home to their parishes, and 6 returned a week later for an all day training event to equip them to lead Living in Love Every Day for those who were not able to be there. One group has already begun and the other is scheduled to start the beginning of August.

The second Living in Love in Illinois, scheduled for 25-26 July, is a transition weekend with targeted recruiting at St Rita's parish in Rockford. It will be presented by Ron and Kathy Feher and two of the couples from the May weekend, parishioners Brian and Ann Marie Coyle and Patrick and Daniele O'Toole, Family Life Directors from the Diocese of Springfield, IL.

National Expansion Picking Up Speed!

Couples and Priests from the following areas have recently experienced Living in Love and would like to bring Living in Love and Preparing to Live in Love to their local area. If you have friends or relatives (couples or priests) nearby who might be interested in experiencing either program, or who might be willing to host the first Living in Love in their parish, please contact us at 610-640-4105, 877-201-2142 (toll free), or PMRCusa@msn.com.

Springfield, IL
Raleigh, NC

Houston, TX
Monticello, NY

Chicago, IL
San Diego, CA

La Crosse, WI
State College, PA

We are also tremendously excited about Philadelphia, PA where new, young leaders and a visionary pastor promise to make Old St Joseph's a wellspring of evangelization and empowerment for the 80 couples who marry there each year!

Mentors Available In New Areas!

We now have trained mentors available to work with the engaged in Connecticut, Georgia, New Mexico, Illinois, Ohio, and Virginia. If you have friends or relatives who have recently become engaged and would like to use Preparing to Live in Love as their marriage preparation, have them contact the PMRC at 610-640-4105, 877-201-2142 (toll free), or PMRCusa@msn.com.

We have even experimented with mentoring online via web cam. It cannot replace the personal contact of a living room, but when necessary, it works.

Mentoring List and Wedding Dates to be Published Separately!

If you are wondering what happened to the list of couples being mentored and upcoming wedding dates, we have decided to spin them off into a separate distribution. Watch your email!

There is simply too much to say. We plan to limit the Living in Love e-News to recent events and continue to distribute monthly on or about the 1st of the month. We will add a distribution listing Mentors and Engaged, Weddings, Couples preparing to facilitate Living in Love, and possibly Births to Living in Love Couples. Please continue to pray for these and all couples doing their best to live in love.

Coming up

Living in Love

Weekends

2009

CTK, Ann Arbor, MI	25-26 Jul
St Rita, Rockford, IL	25-26 Jul
Holy Family, Syracuse, NY	8-9 Aug
IHM, Las Cruces, NM	12-13 Sep
Old St Joseph, Philadelphia, PA	26-27 Sep
St Edward, Richmond, VA	3-4 Oct
OLMC, Lafayette, IN	10-11 Oct
St Eleanor, Collegeville, PA	10-11 Oct
CTK, Ann Arbor MI	17-18 Oct
St Mary on the Hill, Augusta GA	17-18 Oct
St Thomas, Rosemont, PA	17-18 Oct

NACFLM Honors Fr Chuck



The National Association of Catholic Family Life Ministers (NACFLM) has honored Fr Chuck Gallagher, SJ, founder and spiritual father of the PMRC, with an award for his lifelong contributions to the Catholic Church.

No one has done more for the Sacrament of Matrimony nor family life in the last 40 years than Fr Chuck. As the originator and driving force behind Worldwide Marriage Encounter, Parish Renewal, Parishioner Empowerment, and numerous parish based programs of enrichment and healing for couples, priests, and singles, Fr Chuck has literally touched the lives of millions of people around the world. His work continues today in Living in Love and Preparing to Live in Love.

Hospitalized for pneumonia, Fr Chuck could not be present to personally receive the NACFLM award on June 25th. Ron and Kathy Feher humbly accepted the award in his name.

Pray for a speedy recovery!

While being treated for pneumonia, Fr Chuck was diagnosed with heart disease and underwent triple bypass surgery on 10 July. Thanks be to God, he came through and is now recovering in New York Presbyterian Hospital.

Fr Chuck is tremendously grateful for the worldwide outpouring of prayers and concern for his health.

Just to confirm that he is on the mend, he sends this message from his hospital room, "If you really want to do something for me, pray for families and marriages including your own, get five more couples to experience Living in Love, and make a donation in my name to the PMRC."

Chuck has always been "Johnny one-note" when it comes to matrimony and the church. We need to believe in ourselves as much as Chuck and our Father in Heaven believe in us!

Cards and letters mailed to Fr Chuck care of the PMRC Offices at 1023 Tenby Road, Berwyn, PA 19312 will be delivered to him expeditiously.

Thank you! *Enjoy!*