



Engaged



Newlyweds



Married



Very Married

Living in Love

TM pending

Electronic Newsletter of the Pastoral and Matrimonial Renewal Center

May 2009

Latest News:

Pivotal Events Coming in May and June!

Two major events taking place in the next 6 weeks have the potential to reshape the landscape of Living in Love and the Catholic Church in the United States. There is no way to overestimate the importance of the months of May and June for the PMRC and for matrimony in America. While we have been looking forward to and advertising for the USCCB Conference in St Paul, MN 25-28 June, it has taken on even more significance with NACFLM's invitation to Ron and Kathy Feher to take a prominent role. At the same time, the Diocese of Rockford, IL has seized the initiative and is partnering with the PMRC to spearhead efforts to make Rockford a model marriage building diocese.

Rockford plans to offer 200 Living in Love weekends per year by 2011. Fully committed to offering Living in Love in every one of the diocese's 105 parishes, Family Life Directors, Don and Lorrie Gramer, have challenged the PMRC to staff the initial weekends and train local couples to facilitate their own weekends, so as to make the weekend and Preparing to Live in Love available throughout the diocese as quickly as possible. While this is the first large scale diocesan rollout, other dioceses are also looking to follow Rockford's lead. **The first Living in Love weekend in Illinois will be offered in Rockford on 30-31 May.** This will not be a typical parish weekend but rather an opportunity for some 30 leader couples from 5 different parishes to experience Living in Love with the specific intent to bring the weekend home with them. Ron and Kathy Feher will stay in Rockford to facilitate a one day Mentor Training Leader's Workshop on 6 June. Followup Living in Love weekends are being planned for July and August along with a Clergy Day for priests of the diocese on 4 November.

Bishop's Conference takes precedence - Come to Minnesota!

The "Perfect Storm" of events in May and June have led us to decide to postpone our National Convention originally schedule for early June. As much as we long to gather our Living in Love community, we believe that the best thing for the church would be for us all to participate in the Bishop's Conference in St Paul. We are also convinced that we cannot do justice to everything at once; so we have given priority to expansion and evangelization in order to bring Living in Love to Illinois and throw our energies into the diocesan rollout in Rockford. We hope to be able to reschedule the convention in the late summer or early fall. **The Feher's have been invited to do the closing keynote on Sunday as well as a workshop entitled "Sexuality - Unraveling the Mystery of Living in Love" on Saturday.** The PMRC will be exhibiting our program materials as well as offering Living in Love as a pre-conference institute. Come and bring your friends. You can even make a refresher weekend before the conference starts. We need your help to spread the good news of living in love at our exhibit and to all who attend. Together, we can get in on the ground floor of our national effort to become a "Marriage Building Church!"

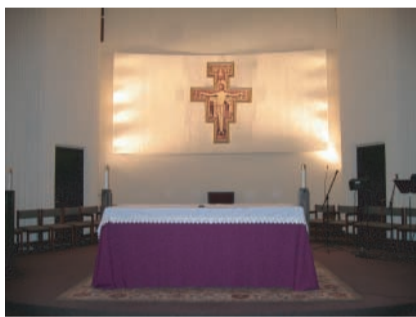
Living in Love in Las Cruces!

The first Living in Love weekend in New Mexico took place 28-29 March. Thanks to Deacon Bob and Paulette Brotherton who recruited 27 couples, organized everything, and helped to present the weekend, there is a new excitement about marriage and marriage preparation in the great southwest. Unique to this weekend were the 8 engaged couples who participated and the high number of bi-lingual couples who burn with a passion to bring Living in Love to the local hispanic speaking population. With the help of Gloria Olivas in translating the Living in Love outline into Spanish, Family Life Director, Mary Helen LLanez hopes to offer a weekend in Spanish as early as this fall.



Deacon Bob Brotherton leads a blessing for the engaged couples on Living in Love in Las Cruces

Franciscan University Leads the Way in Ohio!



St Francis of Assisi must have been smiling on Sunday afternoon of the first Living in Love in Ohio, 21 March. The invitation for couples to commit to daily skin to skin was met with raucous applause as one of the couples on the weekend reminded everyone that the first thing St Francis did as a sign of his conversion was to take off all his clothes! It was a great beginning to a community commitment to adopt Preparing to Live in Love as the University's program of marriage preparation. With no one on the ground to lead the followup, all the participants are sharing in leadership roles. Steubenville graduates go forth in great numbers to serve the church. It is our hope that they will bring Living in Love with them wherever they go.

Coming up

Living in Love

Weekends

2009

Diocese of Rockford, IL	30-31 May
NACFLM Conference, St Paul, MN	23-24 Jun
CTK, Ann Arbor, MI	25-26 Jul
Holy Family, Syracuse, NY	22-23 Aug
IHM, Las Cruces, NM	12-13 Sep
OLMC, Lafayette, IN	10-11 Oct
St Eleanor, Collegeville, PA	10-11 Oct
CTK, Ann Arbor MI	17-18 Oct
St Mary, Augusta GA	17-18 Oct
St Thomas, Rosemont, PA	17-18 Oct
St Edward, Richmond, VA	(TBD)

Old Saint Joseph's Lights Up the City of Brotherly Love

Thanks to Fr Phil Hurley's love for couples and ambition for his parish, Old St Joseph's, the oldest Catholic church in Philadelphia, has embraced both Living in Love and Preparing to Live in Love. Immediately following the 14-15 March weekend, Fr Phil and 3 couples began the Living in Love Every Day followup and one candidate mentor has already taken on their first engaged couple. With upwards of 80 weddings a year, OSJ's is a great parish to begin what Pastor Dan Ruff thinks of as a nascent Jesuit marriage movement

St Annies - A Powerhouse Weekend

Small but powerful proved true yet again at St Anastasia's Living in Love 25-26 April. Never underestimate the Spirit. Virtually every local couple signed up for the weekend followup. One young couple observed, "If my parents had made this weekend 11 years ago, they would still be married." Followup will begin mid-June and is open to any couple who has already made Living in Love.

Technology Heros

A heartfelt "Thank You!" to all who responded to our call for technical help. Soon after moving into the new PMRC office space we began experiencing networking problems with our computers. Michael Mafodda rushed to the rescue and Justin Buchanan, son of Buck and Carmie, saved the day. Solving the problem was important, but the generous and timely response was even more gratifying. Thank you!

Preparing to Live in Love

Parish based pre-marriage mentoring with a 7 session experiential curriculum that seamlessly integrates Catholic Sacramental preparation, Theology of the Body life skills, and relevant relational skills training

On-going Mentoring

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

Engaged Couple:

Adrienne Farley and Carter Ames
Jennifer Prudencio and Richard Joco
Dominique Scarentino and Michael Nidzialek
Jennifer Komeanecky and Ryan Brundin
Stacie Pavente and Jonathan Fitzgerald
Lauren Kuller and Adam Strittmatter
Andrea Ciarlo and Edwin Siegreid
Gina Sedgewick and Brian Zamrin
Diane McGlaufflin and John DiSimone
Laura Hemmingway and Jmaes Kempa
Rebekah Wilson and Eric Lynch
Sherry Bock and Arthur Flanagan
Colleen Stack and Keven Mahoney
Kerry McCord and David Kerwar
Stacie Pavente and Jonathan Fitzgerald
Ashley Kane and Robert Ripley
Lois Hasey and David Champion

Mentors:

Joe and Karen O'Neil
Joe and Anne Bongiovani
John and Carol Graham
Fran and Pam Stepien
Jim and Karin Evans
Gary and Joy Shugrue
Buck and Carmie Buchanan
David and Stephanie D'Archangelo
Art and Linda Partin
Tom and Joan O'Brien
Ken and Patti Cousino
John and Cathy Scansaroli
John and Mary Milligan
Bob and Ruth Arata
Jim and Karin Evans
Jack and Laurie Fitch
Tony and Carrie Zahm

Mary Beth Kazanijian and James Kennedy
Lindsey Walsh and Ed Keys
Colleen Elmer and Samuel Colabufo
Rebecca O'Donnell and Jon Michael Daley

Ken and Patti Cousino
Jonathan and Johanna Tyburski
Tom and Lucia Dwyer
Matt and Renee Massaua

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:
Our Mother of Good Counsel, Bryn Mawr PA Garla Guzman and Charles Stappenbeck	23 May
St Monica, Berwyn PA Hali Butler and Dan Hatting Melissa Nelson and Paul Djamoos	23 May 6 Jun
St Thomas of Villanova, Rosemont PA Lauren Tucci and George Shafer	23 May
Old Saint Joseph, Philadelphia PA Suzannah Hall and David Maynard	6 Jun
St John Vianney, Rosemont NJ Johanna Raymundo and Freddy Velazquez	7 Jun