



Engaged



Newlyweds



Married



Very Married

Living in Love

TM pending

Electronic Newsletter of the Pastoral and Matrimonial Renewal Center

December 2008

Latest News:

The Blessed Mother - Our Patron for Advent

“Mary accepted 2,000 years ago, to give everything, to offer her body so as to receive the Body of the Creator. Everything came from Christ, even Mary; everything came through Mary, even Christ.” Pope Benedict XVI at Lourdes.

We are feeling much like Mary these days. As we approach 2009, we have been excited about the requests for Living in Love that have literally been pouring in from all over the country.- Virginia, Georgia, Ohio, Illinois, Indiana, California, Washington, and New Mexico. We have said “Yes” enthusiastically. Mary’s “Yes” was also an enthusiastic yes, but there were very real questions in her mind. How was this going to happen? What was she to tell Joseph? How would he react? Certainly, her life would never be the same, but what exactly did that mean? Like Mary, we are trusting that God will give us the strength and wisdom we will need as well as raise up the special people we will need in every locale to make Living in Love and Preparing to Live in Love a reality. If you have friends or relatives in any of these states, let them know and encourage them to experience living in love.

In this graced season of love and hope, we ask that you remember all the presenting couples, mentors, mentor trainers and of course the engaged in your prayers. Keep an eye on the upcoming weekend list and you will have a pretty good idea where we will be in the coming months of the new year. Please, lift us all up to the Father and ask Him to carry us on our journeys and to touch each heart we meet with His passionate love. You will certainly be in our hearts and in the stories we tell for Living in Love is really all about you and your total mutual gift of self to each other that is the image of God’s gift to us in Jesus.

The Gift of the Incarnation

As we once again approach the Feast of Christmas, we are reminded of the awesome gift of the incarnation. God, the Father, loves us so much that he sent his only son to be with us, to be one of us, to know our pain and sorrows as well as our joys and triumphs. We are called to that kind of intimacy - to be one with each other as Christ is one with us. May we make this Christmas a time of peace and surrender to God’s loving example. Christ took on our humanity, may we take on his sanctity in the ways we love each other day by day. **“He who lives in love lives in God and God in him.”** 1 John

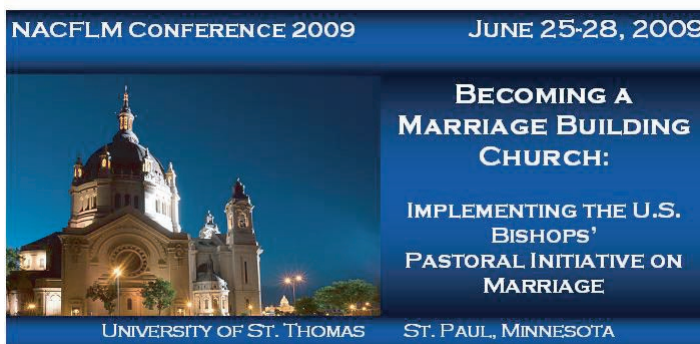
Comedy Beef and Beer - “Fun” raiser “Fund” raiser

Lighten Up! Enjoy a night of Comedy - and bring some friends. WC Fields once said, “All things considered, I’d rather be in Philadelphia.” Philadelphia will certainly be the funniest place to be on the evening of January 24th 2009 as “Doctor John” Kelly and several other amateur and professional comedians will join forces and provide the laughs for the benefit of Living in Love. St Anastasia’s Parish in Newtown Square will host the Beef and Beer Comedy Night with all proceeds going to the Pastoral and Matrimonial Renewal Center (PMRC) for the continuation and expansion of Living in Love and Preparing to Live in Love. This will be “green and clean” humor with music provided by the Kennedy Family and fun for everyone.

Bring your friends and relatives, single or married, whether or not they have experienced Living in Love, or just make this a great “date night” to spice up the January blahs. For advance tickets at \$25 a person or to book a table, contact John and Marie Kelly at 610-325-0544 or email Marie at mariesakelly@aol.com. Save the date and watch for more details in next month’s newsletter. We’ll see you there!

NACFLM Conference to promote Bishops Pastoral Initiative and provide national visibility for pro-marriage resources

All are welcome to attend this exciting event that promises to be singularly important for our church and for the future of marriage in the United States. Our own Ron and Kathy Feher have received an invitation from the USCCB Pastoral Implementation Committee (PIC) to present a workshop at the National Association of Catholic Family Life Ministers (NACFLM) Conference in St Paul, MN June 25-28, 2009. The PIC Committee plans to video tape the workshops and distribute DVD’s to parishes, thus providing an opportunity to give Catholics in every state a taste of Living in Love and explain how couples are building a culture of marriage in parishes where it is currently being offered. Go to www.foryourmarriage.org for more on the Pastoral Initiative and www.nacflm.org for conference information.



Coming up Living in Love Weekends

2009	
St Thomas More, Lynchburg VA	7-8 Feb
St Thomas of Villanova, Rosemont PA	14-15 Feb
Holy Family, Syracuse, NY	14-15 Feb
St Mary, Augusta, GA	21-22 Feb
St James, Basking Ridge NJ	28-29 Feb
Old St Joeseph, Philadelphia PA	14-15 Mar
Franciscan University, Steubenville OH	21-22 Mar
IHM, Las Cruces NM	28-29 Mar
St Anastasia, Newtown Square PA	25-26 Apr

1st National Living in Love Convention

June 6, 2009

Malvern Retreat House, Malvern, PA

Mark your calendars and make your plans now to spend a glorious day with each other and other couples who are “Living in Love”

Reply to this email to secure your early registration discount. Complete registration details will be available soon.

“Building a Culture of Marriage”

Many thanks to Michael and Allison Mafodda, Jim and Courtney D’Andrea, and Gary and Karen Farley for organizing the St Thomas of Villanova “Christmas Cocktail” party on December 5th. Let us know what you are doing in your area to build a culture of marriage in your parish or region. We will advertise upcoming events and highlight pictures of past events. Share your ideas and experiences so that others can benefit.

It’s not too late!

Thank you to everyone who responded to last month’s request for personal reflections on why you chose to attend the Living in Love weekend. We could really use as many responses as possible; so if you have not yet done so, please, just hit reply to this email and type in your answers to the following questions. It will only take a minute.

- **Why did you attend Living in Love?**
- **What did someone say or do that attracted you to Living in Love?**
- **What was the deeper reason for your actually attending?**

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

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

Engaged Couple:

Anne Graulich and Daniel Grutter
Carla Guzman and Charles Stappenbeck
Karen Walker and Richard Carty
Nicole Arnor and Dan Tallon
Erin Taylor and Greg Vizza
Cara Coulter and Steve Cardella
Stephanie Madden and Steve Snyder
Esther Arriata and Phil Tomasello
Joann Tetreault and John Heiser
Joanna Raymundo and Freddy Velazquez
Kristin Dormuth and Michael Killoren
Carolyn Pecoraro and Paul Tomasello
Michelle Schroth and Pete Tomasello
Jessica Svihla and Michael Procopio
Jessica Bayer and Matt Chominski
Kari Malpas and Lender Quiros
Lisa Maglione and David Meckes
Adrienne Farley and Carter Ames
Bernadette Poesz and Matthew Brady
Jennifer Prudencio and Richard Joco

Mentors:

Jeff and Amy Randolf
Bob and Jean Blaisse
Frank and Karen Onesti
Joe and Kathy Tamney
Jim and Liz Clark
Tony and Carrie Zahm
George and Nadia Smith
Tim and Christine Coleman
Bob and Mistie Whalen
Paul and Diana Hennesey
Gary and Karen Farley
Steve and Jeanine Juth
Steve and Jeanine Juth
Frank and Karen Onesti
Ron and Kathy Feher
John and Cathy Scansaroli
Bill and Julie Moore
Joe and Karen O’Neil
Buck and Carmie Buchanan
Joe and Anne Bongiovani

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	
Mary Kaye Jacono and David Anthony	6 Dec
Kristin Dilks and Steve Lapicki	3 Jan
Holy Family, Syracuse NY	
Erin Staub and Dan Hallinan	13 Dec
Christ the King, Ann Arbor MI	
Hannah Dahl-Hansen and Steve Hansen	21 Dec
Our Lady of the Mount, Warren NJ	
Nancy de’Marsi and Craig Andrews	7 Dec
St James, Basking Ridge NJ	
Michelle Jones and James Dooley	19 Dec
St John the Apostle, NJ	
Carolyn Pecoraro and Paul Tomasello	27 Dec

www.LivinginLove.org