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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 7,000 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. Click this [LINK](#) to view other events in March 2010 and beyond. If your event is not listed yet, let us know! [EMAIL US](#). Thank you for your ongoing support of marriage!

- You may [UNSUBSCRIBE](#) if you no longer wish to receive our emails.
- Please [ADD](#) me to this monthly email from National Marriage Encounter (Detroit area)

[NATIONAL MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER](#)

**Monthly Announcements for Marriage Enrichment
(Southeast Michigan Area)
December 2009**

Upcoming National Marriage Encounter Weekends (Detroit area)

[Manresa Retreat
House](#)

Bloomfield Hills

March. 12-14, 2010

10 of 21 rooms reserved

Sept. 24-26, 2010

2 of 21 rooms reserved

[Capuchin Retreat
Center](#)

Washington Twp.

August 6-8, 2010

3 of 18 rooms reserved
Only 1 of 2 wings open

Nov. 12-14, 2010

2 of 31 rooms reserved
BOTH wings open!

Monthly Enrichment
Gatherings for all Couples
[DOWNLOAD FLYER](#)

View, print, and share our:

Dear [Name_Title],

This Thanksgiving we missed a wonderful opportunity. This is the day we come together and each one of us gives special thanks for God's many blessings. It had been a very busy day, with half the family going to the Thanksgiving Day parade. Everyone was so hungry by the time we all gathered at the table. Someone offered to say a "grace", but it was quick and rushed. Everyone began to eat and the opportunity to give Our Lord proper thanks and praise was gone!

With the busyness of this Christmas Season, we vowed to set the time to focus on every opportunity to put Christ in Christmas through our actions and words and let no opportunity pass us by.

Wishing everyone a very peaceful, blessed, Merry Christmas!

Rich and Fran
for the National Marriage Encounter Board (Detroit area)

We are happy to extend to you an invitation to the February 14, 2010 World Marriage Day event! **You may want to consider giving this dinner and dance as a gift to your loved one this Christmas.** Just register at [WorldMarriageDay.org](#). Or complete and mail in the bottom of this [flyer](#). Questions can be emailed to [Mike & Donna](#).

Please join us for this special event; we look forward to seeing you!

World Marriage Day Committee

Don't miss the opportunity to share a National Marriage Encounter weekend with your spouse and 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

[CONTACT CARDS](#)
or [BROCHURE](#)

We value our:
[SUPPORTERS](#)

[OUR NATIONWIDE
NME WEBSITE](#)

[WORLD MARRIAGE
DAY - 2010](#)

beautiful weekend experience!

The NME Christmas party planned for Saturday, December 12th. is at [St Columban's](#), [MAP](#) in Birmingham. Please RSVP by Tuesday, December 8th. The main dish and punch will be provided, and each couple is asked to bring a side dish to share. To ensure the proper amount and variety of food, PLEASE be kind enough to RSVP either by email: waldenluv@wowway.com , or call 586-979-0192 – No regrets necessary.

We also were planning to set up a book table where new and current books that were donated by Teresa Tomeo will be on sale for \$5 each.

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

[SPECIAL EVENINGS FOR COUPLES:](#)

THE THREE INTIMACIES OF MARRIAGE (Emotional, Sexual, and Spiritual)

DATES: December 13 from 5-8pm

LOCATION: Washington Township, [Capuchin Retreat House](#)

COST: \$55.00 per couple.

CONTACT: Call the office during business hours at 248-651-4826 or [EMAIL](#)

MORE: The evening starts with a short meditation and presentation, followed by wine, refreshments, and a candlelight dinner. After dinner there will be an inspiring evening presentation on one of the three intimacies of marriage given by Fred Cavaiani, marriage counselor and psychologist. Emotional, sexual, and spiritual intimacy are the foundations of a loving and solid marriage.

[New Year's Eve Overnight Retreat](#)

DATE: Thursday, December 31, 2009–Friday, January 1, 2010

LOCATION: Detroit, [St. Paul's Retreat Center](#), [MAP](#)

CONTACT: Marcia Guerra, Events & Marketing Coordinator, 313 535 9563 ext. 202 [EMAIL](#)

MORE: [FLYER](#) Ring in the New Year at St. Paul of the Cross Passionist Retreat Center! A holy, spirit-filled, overnight retreat of prayer, reflection and celebration can help you begin 2010 with a heart full of thanks for the past and hope for what is ahead!

[FIREPROOF MOVIE NIGHTS](#)

-with Follow-up Discussion Groups-

LOCATIONS AND INFORMATION:

- Saint Clair Shores, [St. Joan of Arc](#), [MAP](#), [Sr. Carol Juhasz](#), 586-777-3670

MORE: What is [Fireproof](#)? This powerful film 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. The focus is not only on their situation but also on their relationship with God. Find out more about how love and forgiveness can help build or rekindle a

lifelong, enduring marriage.

Contact us by [EMAIL](#) so we can list your Fireproof related events at your church community!

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

TOPIC: "Communication in Marriage – Creating a Haven"
SPEAKERS: Gary & Mary Straffon
DATE: Friday, January 15, 2010 at 7:00 p.m.
LOCATION: Troy, [St. Anastasia Church](#), in the Davidson Center [MAP](#)
COST: FREE
CONTACT: Loretta Wilbur at 248-689-0732, [EMAIL](#)
MORE: Light refreshments will be served (Freewill donation is welcomed)

[DYNAMIC MARRIAGES!](#)

DATE(S): See below – Eight weekly class sessions (2 hours each)
COST: \$130 for the material from Family Dynamics
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 class dates and locations:

- Jackson, Jan 17, [Grace Church](#), [MAP](#), [Regan & Leslie Puckett](#), 517-789-6155 x203
- Port Huron, Jan 26, [Port Huron CoC](#), [Dan & Anne Bateman](#), 810-982-0691

[Couple Prayer Weekend Retreat](#)

DATE: Friday, January 22, 7:30pm through Sunday, January 24, 12:30pm
LOCATION: Birmingham, [Manresa Retreat House](#)
CONTACT: Call toll-free: 877-626-7372
MORE: This special weekend retreat will help you experience firsthand how so many couples are becoming lifelong soul mates simply by learning how to pray together safely, comfortably and consistently. Facilitators are: Deacon Bob and Kathy Ovies who created the [Couple Prayer](#) series.

[Weekend Valentine Retreat for Couples](#)

The Three Intimacies of Marriage

DATE: Friday, February 12 – Sunday, February 14, 2010
LOCATION: Detroit, [St. Paul's Retreat Center](#), [MAP](#)
COST: \$225 per couple; reservations are necessary.
CONTACT: Marcia Guerra, Events & Marketing Coordinator, 313 535 9563 ext. 202 [EMAIL](#)
MORE: [FLYER](#) Come and experience an inspiring weekend retreat for couples. Rediscover the couple you once were and enhance the couple you can be. Learn to explore the three basic foundations of intimacy in marriage: emotional, sexual and spiritual. We are pleased to have Fred Cavaiani present this program. Fred is the Founder of the Marriage Growth Center in Troy, Michigan, and has presented programs in over 190 parishes and at three major retreat houses in the area.

[St. Valentine's Day Dinner & Evening for Married Couples](#)

DATE: Saturday, February 13th, 2010 at 6pm

LOCATION: Lake Orion, [St. Joseph Catholic Church](#), [MAP](#), in Marian Hall
COST: Click [HERE](#) for further details!
CONTACT: [Kathy Hasty](#), 248.693.0440
MORE: Mark your calendars! Join us for a lovely Valentine's Day dinner and an inspiring message on marriage by specially chosen speakers.

[WORLD MARRIAGE DAY - 2010](#)
Dinner, Dancing & Prayer Celebration
Make a Date to Celebrate Valentine's Day!

THEME: "Men Are from a Galaxy Far, Far Away; Women Are from Heaven-Knows-Where"
DATE: Sunday, February 14, 2010, 3:00-8:00 p.m. (Doors open at 2:30)
LOCATION: Troy, [San Marino Club](#), [MAP](#)
COST: \$55 per couple
CONTACT: Rich & Fran 586-838-4447 or Mike & Donna [EMAIL](#)
MORE: Guest speakers Dominick & [Teresa Tomeo](#) Pastore and couples from marriage ministries will give short and sometimes humorous testimonies about their "differences". Some topics include: Communication, Couple Prayer, Intimacy, Parenting, etc.
Entertainment provided by: [Rennie Kaufmann](#) - musician & vocalist

[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:

- Livonia, [St Michaels](#), [MAP](#), Sundays: 7-9pm starting Feb 21st, 2010

DETAILS: 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!

[Focus on Marriage - Live via Simulcast Conference](#)
[Presented by Focus on the Family](#)

DATE: February 27, 2010
LOCATION: Church hosted event
COST: TBD
CONTACT: TBD
MORE: Join thousands of couples all across the country as we celebrate God's design for commitment. At this marriage strengthening simulcast we will tackle Christianity's biggest challenge—empowering you and your spouse to stay faithful, committed, and encouraged in your marriage. **Please let us know if you plan to host this event and we will help spread the word!**

[Marriage Resource Center](#)
[A listing of many marriage enrichment events in Wayne County, Michigan](#)

PURPOSE: To promote healthy marriage throughout Wayne County.

MISSION: To improve the quality of marriage relationships and family life for adults and children alike. We are challenged to raise awareness of programs and services available to individuals and couples at every stage of pre-marriage and marriage with a mind to strengthening marriages and reducing the divorce rate throughout Wayne County.

CONTACT: [Julie Bock](#), Director, 313-278-4400

MORE: This is a well organized site that is current and includes great resources for all kinds of marriage enrichment events and more.

Please consider these special and unique **Christmas gift** ideas:

- A National Marriage Encounter Weekend getaway in March!
- An invitation to the World Marriage Day event in February!
- Any of the 3 resources below which donate proceeds to NME!

[Order Your DVD Now!](#)

“A Hedge of Protection – Safeguarding Your Marriage & Family”

10% of all sales will help benefit **[National Marriage Encounter!](#)**

Four powerful and motivational talks addressing the dangers of pornography and how we can combat it. For complete event details and updates, please use the following link: [BandofBrothers.biz/](#). This fantastic **[Band of Brothers](#)** event was hosted by three different men's groups from St. Fabian, St. James, and Our Lady of Sorrows. Professional event taping and DVD production was done by [Saint Michael's Media](#). A sincere thank you to all those involved. The four speakers include:

- **Dr. Dennis Sugrue**, clinical psychologist and Associate Professor of Psychiatry at the University of Michigan's Medical School. Dr. Sugrue serves on the editorial board of the Journal of Sexual Addiction & Compulsivity. He discusses the **psychological** effects of “Pornography & Sexual Addiction in Today's Society”. [MP3 AUDIO sample.](#)
- **Lieutenant Ray White** of the Oakland County Sheriff's Department. Lt. White presents “Our Children at Risk” in the electronic age of internet and cell phone/text messaging, physical and sexual abuse, and he highlights the importance of parental awareness and prevention. [MP3 AUDIO sample.](#)
- **Tim & Ann Mauro-Vetter**, President Couple for National Marriage Encounter (Detroit Affiliate). Tim & Ann cover the **relational** impacts and share their testimony of “One Couple's Journey” from darkness to healing, forgiveness, and freedom! [MP3 AUDIO sample.](#)
- **Fr. Brian Chabala**, Pastor of St. Fabian Catholic Church, discusses the **spiritual** effects on our souls and eternal salvation.

Click [HERE](#) to download the [Family Research Council's](#) 30 page report just released on Dec., 2010. This report covers the [Effects of Pornography](#) on Individuals, Marriage, Family and Community.

Shop at [OrganicByTheCase.com](#)

Buy wonderful organic products by the case, save \$\$, and help us serve marriages! Order and use the promo code "marriage", and 10% of the total sale will be donated to National Marriage Encounter (Detroit Area)! **THANK YOU** - Kevin and Yvette! (NME alumni)

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