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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 5,000 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. Our email address is: [n.m.e@mac.com](mailto:n.m.e@mac.com) Thank you for your ongoing support!

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## [NATIONAL MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER](#)

# Monthly Announcements for Marriage Enrichment

(SE Michigan area)

September, 2009

### Upcoming National Marriage Encounter Weekends (Detroit area)

#### [Manresa Retreat House](#)

Bloomfield Hills  
Sept. 25-27, 2009

**All available rooms are reserved!**

March. 12-14, 2010  
5 of 20 rooms reserved

#### [Capuchin Retreat Center](#)

Washington Twp.

Nov. 13-15, 2009  
**14** of 26 rooms reserved  
**BOTH** wings open!

August 6-8, 2010  
2 of 18 rooms reserved  
Only 1 of 2 wings open

Monthly Enrichment gatherings for all couples  
[DOWNLOAD FLYER](#)

View, print, and share our:  
[CONTACT CARDS](#)  
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We value our:  
[SUPPORTERS](#)

Dear [Name\_Title],

### Got an Anchor?

The alarm sounds and we're both up and running! Tim grabs a quick cup of coffee and is off to work, while I review the calendar, download email, and check the morning news online – so much news, so little time! Caught up in the headlines, I flip on the TV for more. Before long, the precious silence of early morning slips away, and the schedule takes command - another missed opportunity to begin the day **anchored by God's Word**. The result? The day's challenges are met with frustration, and opportunities to experience life's simple pleasures – a long embrace or a sunset stroll - fly by with barely a notice.

As we head into the busyness of fall, St. Anthony provides some timely advice in his *Sermons*: **"... God, in order to be able to speak to the soul and fill it with the knowledge of his love, leads it to the solitude, detaching it from preoccupations of earthly things. He speaks to the ears of those who are silent and makes them hear His secrets."**

**What message does God have for you today, and what words of thanksgiving would you like to share with Him?** Spend a moment with Him each morning, and bless your spouse (and your whole family) with the fruits of His grace!

Blessings,

Tim & Ann for the National Marriage Encounter Board (Detroit affiliate)

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### Questions for Personal Reflection and Couple Dialogue

Spend 20 minutes preparing your written reflections on the following questions. When you and your spouse have both finished writing, lovingly share and discuss your reflections with one another. Share tenderly. Listen for understanding. Listen to build bridges.

1. What daily activity can I set aside to create more time for prayer and reflection on God's Word?
2. In what **most precious** way is my spouse a blessing to me? How do I feel about this gift? What thankful words would I like to share with him (her)?

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### UPCOMING WEEKEND RETREATS!

Due to popular demand, our weekends can fill up in advance. There are a limited number of rooms at our retreat centers. **Our encounter weekend at Manresa in September is currently filled**, with couples on standby in the event of cancellations. The staff at Manresa and our NME volunteers are preparing to make this weekend experience a memorable one for all! Please keep us in your prayers.

**Our November weekend at the beautiful Capuchin Retreat Center is already filling quickly. But, it is not too late to register!**

Capuchin has 95 acres of manicured trails, and our encounter weekend provides time to enjoy them with your spouse! Check out these [photos](#) and imagine yourself getting lost with nature. Many couples find that the retreat center's inviting lounge provides a warm setting for personal reflection and couple dialog, especially near the huge fireplace!

[Reserve NOW](#) so we can make plans for your memorable weekend!

**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 beautiful weekend experience!](#)

**Monthly Marriage Enrichment** gatherings resume in September after the summer break. All are welcome, so please join us for some good food and fellowship! See this [LINK](#) for details.

In His service,  
National Marriage Encounter Board (Detroit area)

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 and family enrichment!

### [FIREPROOF MOVIE NIGHTS and Couple Enrichment Groups!](#)

#### LOCATIONS AND INFORMATION:

- Saint Clair Shores, [St. Joan of Arc](#), [MAP](#), [Sr. Carol Juhasz](#), 586-777-3670 (contact for monthly events)
- Pontiac, Sept. 12 @ 6pm, Eastside Church of Christ, [MAP](#), [Michael & Hope Scruggs](#), 586-219-3406
- Lake Orion, Nov. 7 @ 6pm, [St. Joseph](#), [MAP](#), [MORE](#), [Kathy Hasty](#), 248.693.0440

**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. In the movie, Capt. Caleb Holt will brave a burning building to rescue a stranger. But, is he about to leave his marriage without even a fight? 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 re-ignite a lifelong, enduring marriage.

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

### **RETROVILLE PROGRAM**

#### **A Lifeline for Troubled Marriages**

**DATES & LOCATIONS:** September 11-13, Troy, [Ramada Plaza Hotel](#), [MAP](#)  
October 16-18, DeWitt, [Bethany House](#), [MAP](#)  
October 23-25, Troy, [Ramada Plaza Hotel](#), [MAP](#)

**CONTACT:** Call 800-470-2230 (Troy area) & 517 290-5596 (Dewitt / Lansing area)

**MORE:** If your marriage is tearing the two of you apart, if there is little or no meaningful communication, if you are considering separation or divorce, Retrouville can help you. [MORE...](#)

### **Marriage Resource Center**

[A listing of many marriage enrichment events in Wayne County](#)

**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 with great resources for all kinds of marriage enrichment events and more.

### **DYNAMIC MARRIAGES!**

**DATES:** 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:

- Northville, Mid-Sept., [Oakpointe Church](#) [MAP](#), [Robert & Kellie Milligan](#), 248-982-9191, [BROCHURE](#)
- Jackson, 9/27/09, [Grace Church](#), [MAP](#), [Regan & Leslie Puckett](#) (517) 789-6155 x203
- Pontiac, late Sept., Eastside Church of Christ, [MAP](#), [Michael & Hope Scruggs](#), 586-219-3406, [BROCHURE](#)

### **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:

- Plymouth, [Our Lady of Good Counsel](#), [MAP](#), Fridays: 7-9pm starting Sept 18<sup>th</sup>.
- Plymouth, [St John Retreat Center](#), [MAP](#), Thursdays: 7-9pm starting Feb 18<sup>th</sup>, 2010.
- Livonia, [St Michaels](#), [MAP](#), Sundays: 7-9pm starting Feb 21<sup>st</sup>, 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 soulmate. 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!

### **8 Great Dates - Couples Night Out**

The 8 Great Dates Bistro - Complete with candles, flowers, wine, music, and private tables for 2!

**DATES:** Starts Friday, September 18, with 7 more dates included in this wonderful event!  
**LOCATION:** Plymouth, [Our Lady of Good Counsel Church](#), [MAP](#)  
**COST:** (Meals and Materials) \$190 (50% due upon registration)  
**CONTACT:** Mrs. Mary DelPup, 734.453.0326 ext. 227 [EMAIL](#)  
**MORE:** Learn practical tools to build a strong and healthy marriage. Over 8 evenings, couples have the chance to discuss important issues often ignored in the rush of daily life. See this [BROCHURE](#) for more details.

### **Marriage: God's Love Made Visible Series**

Kick-Off Dinner & Speakers!

**TOPIC:** "The Joys of Marriage" by Marian & Bob Smentowski  
**DATE:** Saturday, September 19, 6:30—9:00 pm (doors open at 6:15pm)  
**LOCATION:** Troy, [St. Anastasia Church](#), in the Davidson Center [MAP](#)  
**COST:** \$35.00 per couple (reservations with payment are required by the 14th)  
**CONTACT:** Loretta Wilbur at 248-689-0732, [EMAIL](#)  
**MORE:** Check their website for more details about this talk! Download their [FLYER](#).

### **The Ultimate Date Night with Jay & Laura**

Music, Comedy, and Inspiration by Celebrate Your Marriage Ministries

**DATE:** Saturday, September 19, 7:15pm (optional meal at 6pm)  
**LOCATION:** Jackson, [Grace Church](#), [MAP](#),  
**COST:** \$20 presentation, \$25 optional meal, \$10 optional dessert buffet, (RSVP required)  
**CONTACT:** [Regan & Leslie Puckett](#) (517) 789-6155 x203  
**MORE:** Join us for fun and laughter as we learn to celebrate our marriages! There is an optional romantic candlelight dinner before the show at 6:00 p.m. for \$25 per couple. There is also an optional dessert buffet after the show for \$10 per couple which includes 4 dessert choices for each couple. Seating for the dinner and dessert buffet is limited to the first 50 couples. Call for your tickets today!

- See below for a future event:  
Alma, 10/3/09 [Trinity Baptist Church](#), [MAP](#), [Audra Devine](#), 989-463-6364

### **A Weekend to Remember**

An opportunity for you to get away from life's distractions and focus on each other.

**DATE:** September 25-27  
**LOCATION:** Dearborn, [Hyatt Regency](#), [MAP](#),  
**COST:** \$129.00 per person  
**MORE:** Start [HERE](#) Customer Service: (1-800-358-6329)

### **The First Years and Beyond**

~ Marriage Enrichment Evening ~

**DATE:** Friday, October 2, 2009 from 6:30 - 9:00 pm  
**LOCATION:** Plymouth, [The Retreat Center at St. John's](#), [MAP](#)  
**COST:** \$40 / Couple (Registration required)  
**CONTACT:** Contact: Janet, (734) 414-1104  
**MORE:** *The First Years and Beyond* Marriage Enrichment series is excited to welcome back

marriage expert Dr. Tim Hogan for another special evening. In his down to earth and humorous style, Dr. Hogan invites couples to graciously come to accept the ways we undermine our efforts to make and keep our marriages amazing, as they were originally created to be. [FLYER](#)

### [Celebrate your Marriage Conference](#)

**DATE:** October 9-10, 2009  
**LOCATION:** Flint, [New Creation Church of God, MAP](#),  
**COST:** \$25 Per Person on or before September 5, 2009 & \$30 after this date.  
**CONTACT:** [Dr. Herbert L. Banks](#), (810) 732-0500  
**MORE:** Your hosts: [Jay & Laura Laffoon](#) [SCHEDULE](#)

### [SPECIAL EVENINGS FOR COUPLES:](#)

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

**DATES:** Sundays: October 11<sup>th</sup>, November 15<sup>th</sup>, & December 13<sup>th</sup> from 5-8pm  
**LOCATION:** Washington Township, [Capuchin Retreat House](#)  
**COST:** \$55.00 per couple. (\$150 per couple for all three evenings)  
**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. [MORE...](#)

### [Catholic Men's Conference](#)

**Sacraments of Healing: Reconciliation and Anointing of the Sick**

**DATE:** Wednesday, October 14, 2009 from 7 - 10 pm  
**LOCATION:** Allen Park, [St. Francis Cabrini Church, MAP](#)  
**SPEAKERS:** [Fr. Ben Luedtke](#) & [Fr. Daniel Trapp](#)  
**COST:** \$15 (Registration [LINK](#))  
**MORE:** Reconciliation is a very important Sacrament, which is offered to individuals that attend our National Marriage Encounter weekends. Couples of all faiths who attend our weekends have claimed this single event has transformed their lives! All Christian men are encouraged to attend! Come and learn why God's gifts of reconciliation and anointing of the sick are **Sacraments of Healing**. [FLYER](#)

### [Love and Respect Video Conference](#)

**DATES:** Friday, October 16<sup>th</sup> from 6:30-10pm; Saturday, October 17<sup>th</sup> from 8:30am-1pm  
**LOCATION:** Commerce Township., [Commerce United Methodist Church, MAP](#)  
**COST:** \$20/person; \$35/couple  
**CONTACT:** [Tammy Marcelli](#), 248-310-3406  
**MORE:** For more details visit their [web site](#).

### [Living in Love](#)

A mini church-based retreat to energize and renew the romance and excitement of being in love!

**DATE:** October 17 & 18  
**LOCATION:** Ann Arbor, [Christ the King, MAP](#),  
**COST:** Call or email to confirm weekend cost.  
**CONTACT:** [Dick and Stephanie Giba](#), 734-747-7415  
**MORE:** Facilitated by married couples, the Living in Love workshop is a series of presentations

followed by questions for reflection and discussion so that couples can explore topics together. See their [BROCHURE](#) for details.

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Order and use the promo code "**marriage**", and we will donate 10% of the total sale to National Marriage Encounter (Detroit Area)! THANK YOU - Kevin and Yvette! (NME alumni)

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Click this [LINK](#) to view other marriage enrichment events in November and beyond. If your event is not listed yet, let us know! [EMAIL US](#)

(Thanks for this tip Angie from Celebrate Your Marriage Ministries!)

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