



Dear Long Island Family:

It's been such a special journey for us as Area Leaders for Long Island. First of all, so many of you have accepted us as family with all your prayers and support during this difficult time of our grandson's surgery and after care. Our baby Chaise is now four months old and thanks to a great surgeon and all of your prayers and support he is continuing to heal. Please don't stop praying, because his first year of life is critical to respond to on going medication and care.



We have been called to believe again in the power of prayer because of all of you.

We were also blessed to present an outreach Marriage Encounter Weekend at Cor Maria in Sag Harbor with Fr. Peter, Chuck & Mary Jane Young and Dean & Susan Coutsouras. What a joy it was to see the rookie couples grow in love and spirit on that Weekend. We also met the couples and Fr. Roy who experienced the Valentine Marriage Encounter Weekend at Montford in Bay Shore.

To be in the company of so many great couples and priests who support this Marriage Ministry is the best gift we have received since we have been in Long Island.

Our Community nights are growing. It's so great to see so many couples and they don't seem to want to go home. But we still need so many helping hands to continue our journey. If you are willing to help in any small way you can let us know, at the information below.

We ask all of you to please keep thinking about inviting couples and priests to make a Weekend. The more couples and priests that make the weekend, the more our Long Island area will become vibrant and alive with the Spirit. As our son and daughter said after they finished their M.E. Weekend, "Every married couple needs to make a Marriage Encounter Weekend". It would be selfish if we keep this gift to ourselves. Don't you agree?

Please write, email or call us at the information below with your YES to help in any way.  
[jttorio@aol.com](mailto:jttorio@aol.com) 631 728 4165 56 Ocean Ave. Hampton Bays NY 11946

May God bless you and we would love to hear from you.  
We Love You

*John & Toni Torio*

Dear Long Island Community,

Many Priests were very appreciative of the M. E. Community for holding a twenty-four hour prayer vigil to applaud them of who they are as a person and as a Priest. Their love for Gods people and their work make a difference in our world. The couples of World Wide Marriage Encounter do support all the priests and their vocation. This prayer vigil took place October 25th, 2009 and we received many notes of appreciation.

*Some quotes from our Priests:*

- “Thank you ever so much for your prayers on behalf of the priests of the Diocese. Priests are sustained by the prayerful support of their people.”
- “Thank you for your prayerful support on World Priest Day—2009 Kindly include in your intentions World Peace and Vocations to the Priesthood.”
- “I appreciate your thoughtfulness and support.”
- “ I express my appreciation to you and all the members of W.W.M.E. for your prayers on October 25th and your support. I hope you will continue those prayers for us who are priests and for more strong vocations.”
- “I can’t tell you how very much we as priests, and myself, on a personal level, are grateful for the gift of prayer. It was a beautiful gesture, supportive and encouraging.”
- “Thank you so much for praying for me and for all our priests. They are the object of the love and mercy of the Sacred Heart of our Lord.”



**SPRING IS IN THE AIR!**

**Is it within your Relationship?**

Dear Lovers:

We are blessed in the Brooklyn Diocese to have a Diocesan TV Station, New Evangelization Television, which is giving great support to Worldwide Marriage Encounter. We had given an interview on World Priest Day last October and Then again for World Marriage Day on February 4th this year, where we were able to talk quite a bit about Marriage Encounter. They have us on their blog with a link to our website. The show is **Currents**, a nightly half hour broadcast and even though the station is not carried in most places other than New York City, the show is streamed on the website. You can see a video clip of the actual Interview by going to <http://netny.net/currents/video/stories/worldwide-marriage-encounter-2410/> . There is also a podcast of the entire show on that day which has some great comments after the interview which don't appear on the video clip. In addition, last night, Thursday February 11, Currents aired their coverage of the joint Brooklyn Queens and Long Island World Marriage Day Mass and Dance. Unfortunately, not all the interviews are shown because of audio problems, but it is still a good piece. It will probably take a day or two to put that clip and podcast on the website. This represents a tremendous help in getting the word out on WWME. We still get the question-*Are they still doing that? It's a long — long journey!!!* We Love all of you,

Love and peace,

**Bob and Melinda**

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Dear Community,

The 1st Celebrate Marriage Enrichment on Long Island was held on Saturday January 23rd, at St. James Parish, Setauket. Fourteen couples attended. The Losito's (Brooklyn/Queens), the Payne's (Area 5), the Hickson's (Area 1), and the Fishman's (Area 4), shared in the presentation of the talks. The day began with a welcome breakfast and the distribution of the workbooks. Jeff & Claudia started off the introduction with a prayer for all the couples attending. The day proceeded similar to the Weekend with a series of talks and breaks where the couples separated to write and share. The lunch hour enabled the couples to speak with the presenters and interest was expressed by many about the Weekend. The afternoon continued the process and then was culminated by a renewal of the Wedding Vows, officiated by Father John Fitzgerald from St. James. Yes! We had to break out that box of tissues as couples shared how much the day had meant to them. We felt *humbled* by the impact we all apparently had on the couples! All the work we had to put into the day, was paid back ten fold. Our feelings was *excited* and *renewed*, *uplifted* and *passionate*. The transformation that took place in the couples recharged both of us. It made us ever more resolved to continue to help Marriage Encounter grow on Long Island by sharing our Sacrament with others.

It is our hope that we will continue to offer the Celebrate Marriage Enrichment throughout the Diocese. We hope that community couples join us in this venture. The rewards are immediate and very satisfying. The talks are short and easy to write with the outlines provided. Hosts are also needed to take care of the food and the flow of the day. Please consider reaching out to your Pastor. That is the 1st step in bringing Enrichment to your parish and opening the door for more couples to want to experience the *Marriage Encounter Weekend*. Be a part of something wonderful. Contact Vinny and Isabel McGuire (631) 587-6135 to find out how you can help in this effort.

Our Love to All,

**Jeff and Claudia Fishman**

**.World Wide Marriage Encounter Dance  
February 6th, 2010**



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**Community  
Area Coordinators**

Area 1- Wester Nassau  
Kevin & Regina Hickson  
(516) 883-9649  
Kevinhickson@msn.com  
Meets 2nd Friday

Area 2- Eastern Nassau  
Michael & Lisa Savallo  
(516) 520-2032  
Savallo@aol.com  
Meets 2nd Saturday

Avea 3—Western  
Huntington  
Skip & Fran DeBlasio  
(631) 367-4224  
skip10fran@aol.com  
Meets 2nd Friday

Area 4—Commack to  
Stony Brook  
Ed & Olga Ramirez  
(631) 274-5715  
edram21741@optonline.  
net  
Meets 2nd Friday

Area 5—Nichols Road to  
Montauk  
Manny & Rosemary  
Sblendorio  
(631) 969-6134  
No email  
Meets 2nd Saturday

Area 6—Nicols Rd East  
on No Folk  
Vacant

Please send your  
newsletter article by  
mail to:

Vinnie & RoseMarie  
Glaim

39 Homestead Drive  
Wheatley Heights,  
NY 11798

Or  
Email:  
Momgl@optonline.net

The Spirit is  
published four times  
per year.

THIS IS YOUR  
NEWSLETTER

**Some couples wrote comments about their experience  
on the Marriage Encounter Weekend.**

**“ My Marriage Encounter weekend was a really enlightening experience. There’s so much to making a marriage work, but there’s so much more to bring it to another intimate level... Kenny and Adele”**

**“Our Marriage Encounter weekend was a really enlightening experience. It gave us a chance to reconnect and “STAY” connected through our life's journey as “ONE”. We will cherish what we have learned and look forward to sharing our weekend with others. .... Victoria & Alex “**

**Bart and I want to thank all the Team Members for a truly life changing event, the Valentine Marriage Encounter weekend at the Montfort Retreat in Bay Shore. The continued use of the communication tools learned during the weekend enables a couple to achieve many of the goals set during their courtship. This ”work” at your marriage is a small price to pay, as the learned communication techniques can tear down walls of disharmony and selfishness and instead, build walls of trust, love, harmony and intimacy. Again we both thank you for your tireless dedication to this fantastic mission. . Bart & Dorothy”**

**“The Marriage Encounter Weekend was very enlightening to us. (Before) we were always able to speak about anything in our lives. Yet now we realized that hearing each other was not the same as listening to each other with the heart. We had just reached our 25th anniversary and didn’t know where our marriage was heading. The weekend helped us to get back on the path to the reason we got married...Gil and Marybel”**



<b>Priest: Father Peter Deveraj</b> <b>631 725-0123</b> <a href="mailto:Peter19182@aol.com">Peter19182@aol.com</a>	Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend
Weekend Date: Feb 5-7 <sup>th</sup> 2010	John & Toni Torio Chuck & Maryjane Young Dean & Susan Coutsouros

Last Name	First Names	Town
Miller	Bob Diane	Sag Harbor NY
Kuhn	Herman Judith	Hampton Bays, NY
Tuzil	Joseph Teresa	Hampton Bays NY
Tepper	Brad Cathy	Garden City NY
Cruse	Bill Connie	Massapequa, NY
Amutis Hoffman n	Bill Rosanne	Center Reach NY
Walsh	Joseph Corinne	Bayport NY
Schroed er	James Lucy	E Setauket NY
Laurenti	Domenic Christine	Massapequa PK, NY
Taglich	Michael Claudia	Sag Harbor, NY
Miller	Barnett Marcia	Mt Vernon NY



Fr. John Rashford, SJ-Ron & Chris Morasse, Jimmy & Bernice Acevedo, Carlos & Ana Puente  
**Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend Location: Montfort Retreat House  
 Bay Shore, NY**

Weekend Date: Feb 12-14<sup>th</sup> 2010

- Ryweiski, David & Dana, New York, NY
- Avalone, Ernesto & Marisa, Bayside, NY
- Cassidy, Bart & Dorothy, Smithtown, NY
- Leonhardt, Scott & Laura, Smithtown, NY
- Singer, Bob & Josette, Massapequa, NY
- Kass, Stephen & Paula, Holtsville, NY
- Pincus, Kenny & Adele, Forest Hills, NY
- Tvrdik, Father Roy, Manorville, NY
- De Marco, Mathew & Jennifer, Amityville, NY
- Briggs, Harold & Carol, East Moriches, NY
- Ortiz, Gilbert & Marybel, Valley Stream, NY
- Dawson Tavares, Michael & Anabela, Jackson Hts, NY
- Toscano, Thomas & Caroline, New Hyde Park, NY
- Polk, Ray & Terri, Bay Shore, NY
- Sherbitsky, Alexander & Victoria, Manorville, NY
- Goodsell, Mike & Maggie, Riverhead, NY
- Mendez, Victor & Maria, Ronkonkoma, NY
- Bastivble, Patrick & LeeAnne, Shelter Island, NY
- Taaglalateia, Gerard & Deborah, Manorville, NY
- Canberg, Robert & Catherine, Riverhead, NY
- Pupke, Kari & Kim, Point Lookout, NY

## SO YOU DON'T FORGET: HANG IT ON THE FRIG

### Community Notes March—June, 2010

**3/27/10** Community Night will be replaced by Celebrate Marriage Community Enrichment 2PM-9PM at Our Lady of Lourdes in West Islip bring an Un-encountered Couple. \$35/couple includes dinner and seminar supplies

**DIRECTIONS:**

LIE coming from the West going east bound, Get off exit #51. At the light turn right. Pass the Southern State Pkwy, bear left to Route 231 and @ Hunter Ave. turn left for 3/4 mile Church on left.

Southern State Pkwy going east exit #39 turn right at light bear left to Route 231 and @ Hunter Ave. turn left for 3/4 mile Church on left.

**4/16-18/10** WWME Weekend at Immaculate Conception in Douglaston

**4/24/10** Community Night at St. Matthew's in Dix Hills 7:00-10:00PM

**DIRECTIONS:** LIE coming from the West going east bound, Get off exit #51 Stay on the service road to Carl's Straight Path Road; make a left over the bridge—then another left unto the service road going west; about 1/4 mile down is the entrance to the Parish Center.

Coming from the East going west on the LIE get off Exit #53 Commack Road.

**5/15/10** ME Community Garage Sale to Promote Fundraising in Bay Shore time to be announced.

**5/29/10** Community Night at St. Matthew's in Dix Hills 7:00-10:00PM

**6/05/10** 2nd. Annual Survivor Night at the Beach - place and time to be announced

**6/25/10** 2010 North American WWME Convention in Atlantic City, N.J.

**6/26/10** Community Night at St. Matthew's in Dix Hills 7:00-10:00

**MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER WEB PAGE:** [www.wwmeli.org/](http://www.wwmeli.org/)