

Weekend Format

A Marriage Encounter weekend is scheduled from Friday evening to late afternoon on Sunday. Registered couples will be provided with all of their meals during this time as well as overnight accommodation on both days. On Friday, couples are asked to arrive between 7:30-8:00 to get unpacked and settled into their rooms; presentations begin at 8:00 sharp.

The entire weekend is comprised of presentations by married couples who have gone through specific training. There are many topics that are explored, all which are relevant to married life. Following each presentation, couples are given time to do a written reaction to the topic and then they will go to their respective rooms to discuss the topic together, privately. Also during the weekend there is an opportunity to share in a group setting, but this is definitely not mandatory.

The main objective of the weekend is for new couples to learn an effective method of communication. This is accomplished by the presenting couples modeling the technique throughout the weekend. This communication style is a very non-threatening and productive way to interact. For feedback on the effectiveness of this format, please go back to our home page and click on the section entitled, "What others have to say..."

There is a faith component to the weekend, for example, one topic is entitled, "God's Desire for Marriage". It is about being totally for and supportive of each other, building each other up and making each other feel good and loved.

Marriage Encounter is not for troubled marriages. It is for couples who want to make their 'good' marriage even better.

A Marriage Encounter Weekend is a refreshing approach to communication in marriage which offers an opportunity for growth in your relationship.

Synopsis of the Weekend - Topics Covered

INTRODUCTION AND WELCOME - *Couples are welcomed and introductions made. All couples are encouraged to be open to each other and to participate fully in the weekend.*

COMMUNICATING – *This section helps the couples become aware of the difference between ordinary conversation and intimate communication in marriage.*

ENCOUNTER WITH SELF – *This helps each participant to take a realistic look at the way they try to present themselves to others. It helps each person understand their self-doubts and how these self-doubts can limit their relationships.*

MARRIAGE IN TODAY'S WORLD – *It helps to identify loneliness in relationships and also that periods of disillusionment are normal.*

LISTENING - *Helps the couples recognize the difference between listening "with the mind" and listening "with the heart."*

AREAS FOR REACHING OUT TO EACH OTHER – *Helps couples become aware that sensitive areas of their lives can be opened up to one another and rather than rejecting one another or taking each other for granted, they can accept their spouse.*

GOD'S DESIRE FOR MARRIAGE – *Helps couples become aware that their deepest longing, as wife and husband, is to live in a loving relationship. They discover that God also wants them to live intimately and responsibly.*

RISKING TO TRUST - *Through written and verbal dialogue, participants are encouraged to face their challenges, to go beyond them and place trust in their spouse.*

IMPACT OF DIALOGUE IN OUR DAILY LIVES – *An invitation to consider using the tool of dialogue for the rest of their lives.*

MARRIAGE AS SACRAMENTAL – *Presents the marriage relationship as sacramental and what that means for the Church.*

KEEPING OUR RELATIONSHIP A PRIORITY – *Assures the couple that it is possible to make their dreams come true if they keep their relationship a priority.*

SHARING IN THE DREAM – *Encourages the couple to share their weekend experience with others & spread the knowledge and joy of Marriage Encounter.*

CONTINUING OUR JOURNEY – *Encourages the couple to make this weekend experience a way of life by sharing their love and journeying with other couples who share their values.*