

All Encounter team members are volunteers. A registration fee of \$50 will insure your registration. At the conclusion of the encounter you will be asked to make a free will offering to help cover the cost of accommodations, meals, and supplies. We hope each couple will be as generous as their resources will allow. No couple is ever refused the opportunity to participate for lack of funds.

### How Did Marriage Encounter Begin?

Marriage Encounter was developed in 1952 in Barcelona, Spain, by Fr. Gabriel Calvo and couples with whom he worked. Fr. Calvo and a group of Spanish couples brought Marriage Encounter to the United States in 1966. Since then it has spread rapidly across this country and to many other countries as well.

### What Do Couples Say About Marriage Encounter?

A couple writes: "Our Encounter left us with a beautiful feeling. We became reacquainted with each other and learned how to communicate with one another again."

A husband comments: "I suddenly realized my wife is a mystery. I am discovering her in dialogue and know that this is a lifelong process - to grow in understanding of each other."

"I was really looking for a way to share the real me with my husband—my longings, frustrations, goals," says one wife, "but I didn't know how. I feel now that we've made a new beginning."

Please call the Family Life Office for dates of parish encounters. If you would like to have a National Marriage Encounter in your parish, please call:

### Marriage Encounter Registration Form

Last Name \_\_\_\_\_

Husband \_\_\_\_\_ Wife \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Husband's Work Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Wife's Work Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Number Years Married \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Children \_\_\_\_\_

Religious Affiliation \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Church \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Encounter Desired \_\_\_\_\_

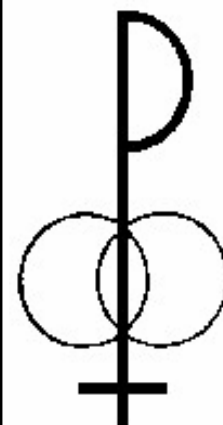
Names of friends or relatives who have made a Marriage Encounter: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Please mail this application with a \$50 deposit to:

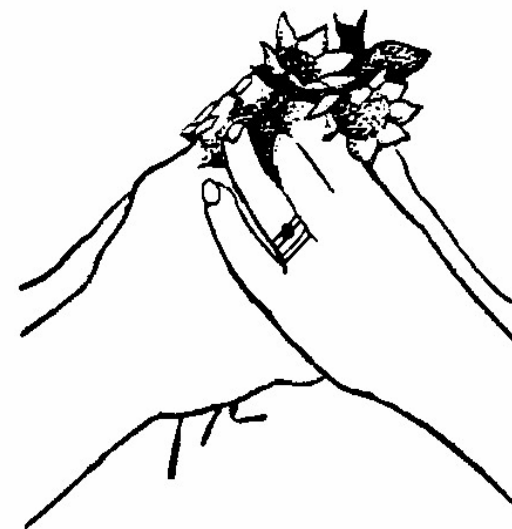
Marriage Encounter  
Family Life Office  
P.O. Box 7565  
Little Rock, AR 72217-7565

Make check payable to "National Marriage Encounter." Reservations will be confirmed by mail or telephone and further information will be provided at that time.

*(Deposit Fee not refundable.)*



# National Marriage Encounter Of Little Rock



# A Journey of Discovery!

### **Are You Actively Involved In Your Marriage?**

Marriage is an on-going process. It wasn't just a ceremony on your wedding day. It requires considerable care and attention if it is to grow and enrich your lives. Marriage Encounter can help you and your spouse renew the feelings you had about each other on your wedding day. If your marriage seems dull and listless, Marriage Encounter can help you enliven it. If your marriage is good and strong, Marriage Encounter can open up new areas to explore, provide new ways to communicate, and add new dimensions to your personal, marital, and spiritual growth.

### **Are You Willing To Invest In Your Marriage To Make It More Fulfilling?**

We spend time and money to maintain our houses, our cars; to buy clothes, food, and drink; to further our careers and to increase our job performance. Have we been equally committed to our marriages? Your marriage can provide you far more satisfaction, fulfillment, growth and security than any other pursuit. Invest in your marriage. Give your marriage an opportunity - make a Marriage Encounter weekend.

### **Do You Love Your Spouse And Family, But Feel There Must Be More?**

"God does not give us our dreams to mock us." Your dreams of having and maintaining a happy and fulfilling marriage can be a reality. Any marriage or family relationship can grow because love is limitless. God is your partner in life and in marriage. When you make a Marriage Encounter, in addition to rediscovering each other, you may find a new awareness of God's role in your marriage and family.

### **Is Your Marriage A Source Of Growth, Joy, Comfort And Happiness For You And Your Spouse?**

Marriage Encounter is for any and all couples who want to make their marriages better. A good marriage especially deserves a Marriage Encounter experience. An Encounter will deepen and strengthen a good relationship. It will improve a weak relationship. If a relationship has become cold over time, but a couple is willing to be open and learn, a Marriage Encounter can warm and awaken the love flickering within it. For those in transition, Marriage Encounter will help clarify the crossroads of the journey.

### **Sounds Interesting, But My Spouse Is A Little Hesitant.**

It is very common for one spouse to be more interested in making a Marriage Encounter weekend than the other. All you need to have an enriching Marriage Encounter experience is an open mind, a desire to make your marriage better, and a willingness to spend the weekend working on the health of your marriage with your spouse. After a while, hesitance is usually replaced by a new source of energy that comes from a renewed marital relationship.

### **What Happens On Marriage Encounter Weekends?**

The word "encounter" derives from a Spanish word meaning "to meet again" or "to discover." On a Marriage Encounter weekend, that is what you and your spouse will do - meet again, see each other in a new light, with renewed love, and discover again the warmth of your married love.

The emphasis of the Marriage Encounter process is on personal reflection and on communication between husband and wife. It occurs over a weekend, beginning Friday eve-

ning and ending Sunday afternoon. It takes place in a setting away from the distractions and tension of everyday life, so that you can concentrate on what is important to both of you, your marriage.

A team of married couples lead the Marriage Encounter process. They are folks just like you - couples who themselves made a Marriage Encounter weekend and who have decided that their marriages are also important. They have found Marriage Encounter so beneficial to their own marriages and family lives that they trained to become encounter team couples, so they could help you discover the gift of renewed love in your marriage.

The team couples will share with you experiences from their own lives. They will suggest some questions and a method of communication that will help you reflect on your married life and dialogue with your spouse in private. There is a lot of concentration and work you will do both alone and together. The harder you work, the better the rewards of the weekend. You will be the encounter (discovery) for each other. There are absolutely no group discussions, counseling sessions, or group dynamics. The Marriage Encounter process is a very personal and beautiful communication exchange between husband and wife.

### **Who Can Attend An Encounter?**

Marriage Encounter is for any couple with a desire to better their marriage. Newly married couples as well as couples married more than 50 years have found it beneficial. Marriage Encounter is sponsored by the Catholic Diocese of Little Rock. Marriage Encounter however, is a fully ecumenical program, and is open to couples of all faiths. All are invited to explore and strengthen their married lives in light of their own relationship with God.

### **What is the Cost?**