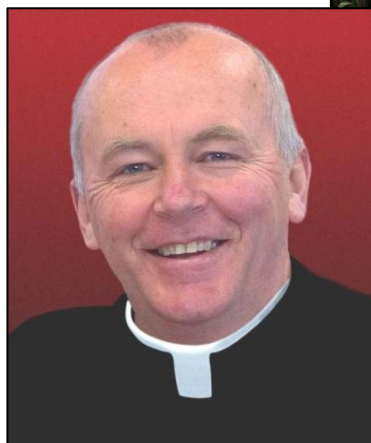


**Dear Father –**  
**Marriage Encounter invites you ...**  
**to experience a Marriage Encounter**  
**Weekend and thus to be part of this**  
**ministry of the Church.**



**A Catholic Priest is an essential part of every**  
**MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER WEEKEND**

### **So What is Marriage Encounter?**

A Marriage Encounter Weekend is an experience designed to help married couples communicate more intimately with each other in order to deepen and enrich their relationship.

The Weekend also allows priests gain a better understanding of themselves and marriage relationships. This can lead to an enrichment of their ministry to their people.

Participants in the weekend experience the wonderful blending of the two Sacraments; Matrimony and Holy Orders which continue to be a powerful force for the renewal of our Church.

### **What happens at a Marriage Encounter Weekend?**

A series of presentations is given by a team of two or three Catholic couples and a priest. Each presentation allows us to look at ourselves as individuals, and then to look at the relationship we have with those whom we live and work with or to whom we minister. We are also led to look at our relationship with God, the Church as a whole, and the world.

### **Why are priests so important to Marriage Encounter?**

A Catholic priest is an essential part of the presenting Team for each Marriage Encounter weekend. With the presenting couples, he shares his own life experiences with the participants, and reinforces the sacramental nature and value to God of each marriage and each Sacrament of Holy Orders, by affirming the principles of love, commitment and effective communication.

### **What might my role be on a Weekend?**

Your role will simply be to attend. After the weekend, you may choose to participate in community activities. There are also several opportunities each year to further deepen and expand your Marriage Encounter experience.

### **Communication is an important part of an Encounter weekend.**

Marriage Encounter teaches a technique of communication that helps each person to better relate to their spouse. For married couples that means each other. For you as a priest, your 'spouse' could be taken to mean everyone you have dedicated your life to serving.

Both priests and married couple participants are able to examine and "test out" the new principles of loving communication that they are learning during the weekend.

For your Weekend it would be great if you can invite along a priest friend, otherwise you would work on these techniques with the priest on the presenting team.

You will be able to use this new way of communication in virtually every relationship and situation. It is both specific and adaptable.

### **What does the weekend cost?**

The average per person cost to Marriage Encounter is \$275.00. Donations towards this figure are made in a blank envelope which is provided at the end of the weekend.

“This is My Commandment: Love one another as I have loved you ... it was not you who chose me, it was I who chose you to go forth and bear fruit.”

- John 15:12, 16

“Marriage Encounter, yes! You are doing such important work in our church, especially in this world we live in.”

- Pope Benedict XVI

“I appreciate there are so many good movements in our church. Marriage Encounter is one that connects me to loving couples striving to support, challenge and mission to other couples and priests. In the process I am very much supported and challenged in the living of my priesthood.”

- Fr. Mick Court SDB, Engadene, NSW

“I am indebted to Marriage Encounter for formation and information on marriage and communication not provided by seminary studies for the priesthood or university studies for school teaching.”

- Fr. Benignus Clowes O.F.M., Brisbane, Qld

“Marriage Encounter was a great opportunity for personal growth for me and a deeper awareness of the way I relate to the people that I love and serve.”

- Archbishop Philip Wilson DD JCL,  
Archbishop of Adelaide



### For More Information Please Contact Worldwide Marriage Encounter

Marianne & Marcel Van den Bronk  
4 Chisholm Court, Croydon VIC 3136

Phone: (03) 9733 0997

Email: vicbookings@wwme.org.au

### Weekend Dates in Victoria:

20-22 April 2012

15-17 June 2012

10-12 August 2012

12-14 October 2012



## Worldwide Marriage Encounter – Weekend Booking Form

Yes! I want to attend a Marriage Encounter Weekend.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Post code \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Ordination Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Preferred Weekend Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Alternate Weekend Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Special dietary requirements \_\_\_\_\_

I heard about Marriage Encounter from:

Please return your completed booking form to the address shown above.

Further information will be forwarded to you about the weekend including what you need to bring, etc.