

WHAT IS AN ENGAGED ENCOUNTER?

It is a weekend retreat of marriage preparation designed exclusively for the two of you. Engaged Encounter fully satisfies the Church's premarital preparation requirements, as well as those of the State of Florida. It has the support and approval of the Diocese of Pensacola/Tallahassee.

You will have the opportunity to talk honestly and intensively about your prospective lives together. There are very few group dynamics because the weekend is primarily about you. It is designed to strengthen communication between you - immediately, as you prepare for marriage, and during the rest of your lives together.

Few couples have this opportunity before or after their wedding: a chance to spend an entire weekend just looking at their relationship as a couple without any interruptions from work, family and friends.

WHAT HAPPENS ON THE WEEKEND?

A series of real life issues and ideas are presented by a team of two married couples and a priest. By sharing their own experiences with you, the stimulation is created to allow you to talk privately on all

aspects of life as a married couple. Plenty of time is allowed for both personal reflection and communication between the two of you. This is the main thrust of the weekend. It is a working weekend, not a vacation.

WHO IS THE WEEKEND FOR?

Engaged Encounter is for all couples contemplating marriage.

WHEN SHOULD COUPLES ATTEND?

Three to six months before the wedding would be an ideal time, but there really is no bad time to prepare for something as important as the rest of your lives together.

HOW LONG IS THE WEEKEND?

The weekend begins with registration at 7:00pm on Friday and ends approximately at 3:00pm on Sunday.

HOW DO WE REGISTER?

Registrations are accepted by mail only on a first come, first serve basis. It is best to register at least three months before a desired weekend to ensure you get your first choice. The total cost of the weekend is \$250.00 per couple. To register, complete the registration form (you can download it from www.ptdiocese.org; click on

"Marriage & Family;" then "Marriage Preparation) and send it along with a check or money order for \$250 payable to Catholic Engaged Encounter to:

José ♥ Lydia Vélez
P.O. Box 28293
Panama City, FL 32411-8293

Your registration confirmation will be sent by email. Once confirmed the deposit is not refundable, but may be transferred to any other weekend with space available.

Although the cost of the weekend is very small when compared to the expenses of a traditional wedding, no couple with legitimate financial problems should be deprived of this experience. Arrangements can be made on an individual basis if a couple (or their parish) is unable to afford it. Also, the weekend is often given as a wedding gift from either family or friends.

For further information, please feel free to call:

José ♥ Lydia Vélez
(850) 234-0447
joselydia@comcast.net

**WHAT COUPLES HAVE SAID ABOUT
THEIR ENGAGED ENCOUNTER
WEEKEND EXPERIENCE:**

- "We have grown to love each other more. Yet when we arrived on Friday, we had not thought that was possible."
- "We learned how to communicate much more effectively. No matter what happens now, we can talk about it."
- "Making a weekend just before our wedding and devoting it to ourselves was something we had not thought of before the Engaged Encounter weekend."
- "This was the greatest weekend of our lives. We heard about marriage in a positive way."
- "We appreciate the way the priest and team couples shared their lives with us."

ABOUT OUR VOLUNTEERS:

The Pensacola/Tallahassee Engaged Encounter community is composed of individuals and married couples who have one thing in common: their strong belief in the sacrament of marriage. Everyone involved freely gives of their time and talent, shares their love with each other and the engaged, and benefits from the enormously rewarding, "life-giving"

experiences which nourish their own personal relationships.

Current statistics clearly show that much more effort is still needed to better prepare couples for marriage. If you share these values and are interested in obtaining additional information, please call (850) 234-0447.

WHERE ARE THE WEEKENDS HELD?

The weekends are held in Tallahassee at the St. John Neumann Renewal Center. At least one week before the weekend, you will receive a confirmation letter, description of the weekend, and a map to the facility.

Please Note: Each individual will be sharing a room/suite with a member of the same sex.

2010 WEEKEND DATES & LOCATIONS

DATE	LOCATION
January 22-24	Tallahassee
March 19-21	Tallahassee
April 30 - May 2	Tallahassee
June 25-27	Tallahassee
September 17-19	Tallahassee
November 5-7	Tallahassee



*A Wedding is a Day...
A Marriage is a Lifetime...*

www.engagedencounter.org

2010