



HUG ME

*Help Us Grow In Marriage Encounter
Spring 2008*

Msgr. Barth Brings Love of Priesthood to M.E.

by John & Theresa Garrity

It's not nice for priests to tell lies but Msgr. Charles Barth, Msgr. Skipto those who know and love him, always retorts, "Mean and Miserable" in response to the proverbial question how are you doing today. The truth is, Msgr. Skip can best be described by words such as kind, helpful, prayerful, giving of himself, dedicated and knowledgeable. We have never seen him be mean or miserable.

Every time we present the "Intro Talk" with him he reveals his true self. When we say we are not professional speakers, he interrupts by saying, "except me". He is truly a professional as evidenced by his being a Canon Lawyer for the Diocese of Camden. Professional is defined as somebody very competent, whose occupation requires extensive training and a high degree of skill. Msgr. Skips adds another dimension; you love what you do. He loves being a priest and it shows. It doesn't matter if he is serving in inner-city Camden, suburban Haddonfield or administering the facility for retired priests, he is able to connect with people and let his love of God and his priesthood shine forth. He is just as passionate about his love of fishing and hunting, and what a great cook! After our

weekend with him last year, he treated us to his famous fettuccini alfredo. We first experienced his culinary talents after our rookie weekend reunion. It wasn't just that he was such a great cook but we were like one big happy family.

On Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekends, presenting couples can relax because they know that Msgr. Skip will take care of any omissions and the couples on the weekend will never know it. What the couples will experience is his passion for the Eucharist and his Catholic faith. When he "comes off the paper" and is able to make his extensive theological background come across in a very understandable way, all of us on the weekend receive a special gift that makes God come alive in our hearts.

He not only speaks from the head, but also the heart. His humanness comes out with his many jokes. It took us a couple of weekends to figure out "foot foot" but the couples on the weekend hope some couple will be late to the presentation so they can hear his next joke. Msgr. Skip's humanness and tenderness was made so real to us when he gave us a gift after we presented our first weekend. He was the priest on the weekend, and he gave us a medal inscribed with the words *Accipiam Panem Clestem* (Accept the Heavenly Bread). The medal was special to him as it came from a very dear friend who was dying. This is the Msgr. Skip we know, someone who is continually giving of himself to others. He is the gift that keeps on giving. Even in his retirement years, he continues to be of service to others.

We hope that we all will have many more years to grow in faith and love of God through our interaction with this holy and giving priest.



Loving what he does: Msgr. Skip Barth brings his love, talents and passion for the priesthood to his M.E. weekend presentations.

Leadership Notes

by Joe & Thea Hegarty

Since our last edition, there have been some changes in our team community. We are still absorbing the retirement of our beloved Mike and Nancy Dolan, who have been a tower of strength for South Jersey for a very long time. Their multiple gifts and talents have helped raise South Jersey above the ordinary and have been a big part of what keeps us head and shoulders over any other area in Section 3.

Mike and Nancy, we can't thank you enough for your leadership, insight, and vast contributions to our movement. Though you may not be presenting weekends any longer, your light continues to shine brightly in community, and we feel sure that through your experience and wisdom you will continue to play a vital role in Worldwide Marriage Encounter.

We are delighted to welcome two wonderful new team couples: Tom and Eileen MacDonald and Jim and Kathy Ward. These two couples were both encountered in December, 2007, and as fate would have it, they are both from Camden County.

Tom and Eileen have been married for sixteen years and are living with their three children in Audubon. They will be going on their Deeper Weekend on May 16th.

Jim and Kathy have been married for fifteen years and live in Oaklyn with their son. They plan to attend their Deeper Weekend in November of this year. Welcome Aboard!

It's not too late to catch the bus to the convention! Worldwide Marriage Encounter's 40th Anniversary International Convention will be held June 27-29 in Ontario, California. The theme is transformation. For more information or to register to attend visit convention.wwme.org.

Through the efforts of Bob & Michelle Dooley, South Jersey will be presenting a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Experience at the shore this summer. The Experience is the Weekend in a different format. It was approved by the World Council in 2003 and is being given in different places across the United States. The Experience is scheduled in four sessions throughout the space of a week: two evenings and two Sunday afternoons. While it will never replace the Weekend, the Experience may be a viable option for couples whose family situation or lifestyle makes it very difficult for them to get away for a whole weekend. South Jersey is offering the Experience July 20-27 at Bishop McHugh Regional School, Rt 9, Ocean View, NJ. It is open to all married couples, but should be especially appealing to those who live or vacation at the shore. If you know anyone who is interested in attending, they should call Bob & Michelle at 609-645-6117.

Upcoming Community Events
Riversharks Game

Beach Day
Prom 2008

Look for more information on these events in the near future!

Special Weekend Brings **Love, Renewal And Fun**

by Dave & Pam Adams

They say what happens in Avalon stays in Avalon, but we will spill the beans. The Community Enrichment started off on Friday night with a social where we met encountered couples from Maryland, Pennsylvania and NJ. On the tables were wedding pictures, and on the walls hung every couple's favorite memory of their wedding day.

The Hegartys started Saturday morning off with a beautiful introduction. The presenting couples were Joe & Thea Hegarty, John and Melissa Poulson, Tom and Jackie Baum, Bill and Penny Tresca, Bob and Michelle Dooley, John and Theresa Garrity, JD and Jen Dufffy, Bob and Joyce Leonetti and Ray and Bernice Mesiah...a true all star cast.

Many presentations included video clips of Mark Gungor, a pastor from Wisconsin, who takes the humorous approach to enriching marriage. After presentation was followed by dialogues or small group sharing when we shared our thoughts and feelings on what was presented. It is nice to know that you are not the only couple going through ups and downs.

Every presentation was great, BUT, the "smiley face" presentation by Bill and Penny had everyone in the room crying with laughter, blushing, or both. If you missed it, we seriously think you may have missed THE funniest presentation EVER. It changed everyone's visit to Walmart for life. Smiley faces everywhere!

Saturday night's dance was another highlight. Jen and JD spun the tunes all night long and threw in some hilarious karaoke. We hope there is no footage of that floating around. After a night of dancing and romancing we are sure there were lots of smiley faces in everyone's rooms!

Our favorite part of the weekend had to be the Newly Wed Game. Not just because we won, or the fact that we should never eat on a particular couple's dining room table, but because the room was filled with laughter and red faces. Some really racy questions were answered the way we thought our spouses would answer them. We found out a lot...maybe too much!

The washing of the couple's feet by the presenting couples, just like our savior Jesus Christ did, was oh so humbling and unforgettable. Thank you Bob & Joyce! The weekend ended way too soon, but in a great fashion with Mass by Fr. Sanjai, renewal of wedding vows, a great slide show, and an Irish blessing by our favorite Irish couple.

We were truly touched by so many feelings, stories, and actions that weekend. We met so many people, young and not so young, that we will always remember and cannot wait to see again. If you missed it, we don't want to rub it in, but you missed an unbelievable, unforgettable, weekend, filled with happy faces :) Don't miss the next one because we sure as heck won't. Special thanks to all who put the weekend together. What a wonderful job!



Washing of the Feet: Jack & Ginny Collins and Tom & Jackie Baum take part in the foot washing ceremony concluding the presentation by Bob and Joyce Leonetti..

Love Notes From South Jersey



Mike & Shawnda: Congratulations and thanks for taking on the role of Williamstown Love Circle Leaders. You'll do a fantastic job as usual. God bless you. Love, Joe & Thea

Dear ME Family: To all who made the Community Enrichment a "weekend to remember," our heartfelt thanks. Love, Joe & Thea

Dear Bob & Michelle: Our deep appreciation for your inspired work putting all the pieces together for the "Experience" in July. Thanks. We love you. Joe & Thea

Dear Tom & Eileen: Take the love of South Jersey to Houston. You will be in our thoughts and prayers throughout your Deeper Weekend. We love you. Joe & Thea

Dear Art and Tee: We are praying for your continued recovery. Love, The Medford/Shamong/Tabernacle Love Circle

Bob & Mary Bernard: Congratulations on being named Burlington County Coordinators.

Dear Mike and Eddy: Good luck with your move to VA. We're happy for you, but will miss you so much!! Please keep us in your hearts and prayers as we will keep you in ours. Love, The Medford/Shamong/Tabernacle Love Circle

Dear Charlotte: Please accept our sympathy and love on the loss of your sister. Love, Medford/Shamong/Tabernacle Love Circle.

Mike & Nancy: We miss you and love you! Mark & Joanne

MaryLou & Paul: We love you and are thinking of you always!!
Mark & Joanne

Dear Joe & Thea: Thank you for a wonderful Community Weekend!!. The presentations were fantastic and the DVD series was hysterical. Great time had by all !!
Love Jim & Kathy Ward

Dear Tom & Eileen: God Bless you on a safe trip to Houston in May for your deeper weekend. Our Thoughts and Prayers are with you. Love, Jim & Kathy Ward

Mike & Shawnda: Thank you for all you do and for your passion for each other and the weekend!! We love you!Mark & Joanne

Dear Mike & Shawnda: We had an awesome time hanging out on the community weekend with you both!! We feel so blessed and know we have found new lifelong friends!! Love, Jim & Kathy Ward

Kathleen & John: Hey skinny, You really look great! Keep up the good work!! Also, congratulations on your new job! John your beautiful support is contagious! Love, Mark & Joanne

Mary & John: Thank you for giving above and beyond! Your most endearing quality is your tenderness and enthusiasm for the weekend! Love you, Mark & Joanne

Bob & Joyce: Thank you for all you do, for being there for us and for your friendship! You two are so special to us! We love you! Mark & Joanne...GO FLYERS!!!

To Mark & Joanne: Thanks for your idea of having each member of our love circle take turns each week calling everyone in the circle each day with a dialogue question on a topic they selected at our last circle. It is working great. Couples who usually dialogue once a month are dialoguing daily.

Congratulations to **Bob & Joyce** on the Marriage of their son David and fiancée Pam this June. We believe God will bless this holy union and as was told on our daughter, they will help each other get to heaven.

***2008 Marriage
Encounter***

Weekend Dates

May 16-18

September 19-21

October 17-19

December 5-7

For more information go to www.mesj.net or call
1-800-688-9963.

Atlantic County-Shore

Third Saturday each month

Contact Erich & Tina Guetzlaff at 609-625-5310

erichg6@comcast.net

Cape May County-Shore

Second Saturday each month

Contact Mike & Janet Turco

609-729-5638

mttjat@comcast.net

Marlton & vicinity

Third Friday each month

Mike & Anne Hill

856-983-7154

XCSO@aol.com

**Medford/Shamong/
Tabernacle**

5/31, 6/21 7/12, 8/2

Contact Rich & Sue Olive

856-596-0551

danashadow@aol.com

Haddonfield

First Saturday of the month

Contact Paul & Margie Haxter

856-627-8587

haxter5@comcast.net

Washington Township

Second Saturday each month

Bill & Sherry Marion

856-458-2963

sboop@verizon.net

Williamstown

Third Saturday of the month

Mike & Shawnda Mammi

856-694-5742

shawnda_lynn@yahoo.com

Voorhees

Second Friday each month

Ray & Bernice Mesiah

856-784-6889

messiah@aol.com

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The editors reserve the right to edit any submitted materials for length.

