

# Dedicated to the Service of Marriage

## *Join the Ministry*

### *Catholic Engaged Encounter of Cleveland*



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## *What is an Engaged Encounter?*

Engaged Encounter is a unique marriage preparation weekend. Married couples, along with a priest or married deacon, share their personal experiences as a catalyst for the engaged to examine their own relationship. After each presentation, questions are provided for each individual to answer privately. Then the couple intimately shares and discusses their answers to the questions with each other. This enables each couple to develop and understand their own unique, loving relationship.

The presentations cover a wide variety of topics including communications, decision-making, disillusionment, and forgiveness. The shared life experiences of the married couples provide a realistic and practical view of marriage from couples who actively seek to keep their love alive and growing. More than that, the Team Presenters provide the engaged a model for living out the vow they will also be making before God.

The weekend gives an engaged couple time to explore the current and future issues in their relationship. It is a time to look beyond the wedding and to the life they will live after they walk down the aisle. This also gives each couple the opportunity to consider the spiritual aspect of their relationship that can be as much a part of their marriage as the emotional, physical, and mental dimensions.

## *What is the Catholic Engaged Encounter of Cleveland?*

The Catholic Engaged Encounter of Cleveland is a community of married couples who provide the Encounter weekends to engaged couples guided by the National Engaged Encounter ministry, which is endorsed by the Catholic Diocese of Cleveland Office of Marriage and Family.

## *Who are the people in the Catholic Engaged Encounter of Cleveland?*

The Cleveland EE Community consists of married couples from the local area that cherishes marriage as a sacred covenant. They believe in serving marriage as a lifetime commitment by administering weekends to engaged couples. The individuals of community include all ages and lengths of marriage. It is as important to have newlyweds as well as those that have many years of experience to share.

## *What can I do to be a part of Catholic Engaged of Cleveland?*

There are many acts of service needed to make the EE weekends possible. Our ministry of service and encouragement are called "JOYS". "Joys" can be selected based on the level of involvement your desire. Depending on the "Joy", it may be the responsibility of one or more couples. A list of "Joys" follows.

## Joy Descriptions

### Angel/Mentoring Joy

This Joy is the shepherding of the new couple that has volunteered to fill a Joy position.

**Example:** Jim & Sue accepted the registration Joy.

A “seasoned” couple from the community would lead them through the Joy description, initially work as a team with them while mentoring, and be the contact person if needed for questions.

### Catering/Food Joy

This Joy would require a couple to be available to make sure each meal provided by caterers to EE Weekends runs smoothly.

Including but not limited to:

1. Direct contact with catering company
2. Confirmation of EE weekend arrangements including, number of meals required, menu, and dates and times for delivery.
3. Set up of serving tables for caterers delivery
4. Clearing and clean up after meals.

### Finance Joy

This Joy involves the managing of the financial records of the EE Community including the checking account and financial reporting. This Joy requires some basic bookkeeping abilities and a computer.

### Follow-up Joy

This Joy involves keeping in touch with EE Weekend Alumni, and encourages active community to maintain involvement.

This Joy includes but is not limited to:

1. Sending out newsletters to alumni couples who expressed interest in any area on the Time & Talent surveys
2. Send wedding anniversary cards to active community members
3. Send wedding cards to alumni couples

4. Inviting and encourage involvement at business meetings and social gatherings of the EE Community
5. Managing the Phone Tree messages.

### Greeters Joy

This Joy involves scheduling greeters for the Friday evening of the EE Weekends and attending the Friday evening portion of each EE Weekend as greeters.

1. Call alumni from Time & Talent Survey list to invite them as greeters on the upcoming weekends.
2. Make reminder calls the weekend before upcoming EE weekend to confirm greeters' attendance.
3. Welcome engaged couples on the EE Weekend and direct them to registration table.
4. Take two photos of each couple that is attending with the EE Polaroid camera, and write the names of the couple on each photo.

### Supply Joy

This Joy requires approximately 3 hours prior to each EE weekend. Includes but not limited to:

1. Taking physical inventory of EE supplies
2. Tracking of inventory on computer program provided.
3. Replenishing inventory as required for weekends.
4. Submitting reimbursement requests to Finance Joy couple.

### Literature Joy

This Joy involves ordering and restocking literature supplies 3 weeks before an upcoming EE weekend, and forwarding the material to the Supply Joy couple in sufficient time for delivery to the weekend. Other duties include:

1. Maintain Administration box #1 & #2 Presenting Team supplies.
2. Have presentation questions copied.
3. Copy any other missing literature to restock in the Administration boxes
4. Order and restock various brochures and attending couple's stationary

5. Prepare “Take Home Packets” distributed to attending couples

### Marketing Joy

This Joy involves keeping the public informed of the activities of the Catholic Engaged Encounter of Cleveland. This includes:

1. Maintaining the Website
2. Working on establishing and maintaining links from other Website to ours
3. Providing advertising information businesses, parishes and the Universe Bulletin.

### Prayer Couple Joy

This Joy involves coordinating prayers couples to pray for the engaged couples attending an Encounter Weekend.

### Presenting Joy

This Joy requires the writing of outlines provided by National EE to present on the weekends. The goal is for each presenting couple to be involved in 1 weekend per year. Presentation of partial weekends is an option. Overnight stay at the retreat site may be required.

### Registration Joy

This Joy involves managing registration for couples attending the weekends. Registration software and telephone is provided by the community. The registration couple attends the Friday evening of the weekend to work the registration table.

### Setup and Breakdown Joy

This Joy involves being present on the Friday evening and Sunday afternoon of the EE weekend to setup and breakdown the presentation material. This Joy is usually shared by two couples.

### Workshop Joy

This Joy involves an experienced Presenting couple assisting a new Presenting couple in the preparation of their EE weekend material.