

Fall 2009
(Quarterly)

Volume 1, Issue 3

NOCEE News from Nawlins'



New Orleans
Catholic
Engaged
Encounter

Join us for a Thanksgiving Potluck Dinner

When: Saturday, November 21, 2009

Hosted by: Marcel and Karla Farnet

Where: 4925 Toby Lane

Time: 6:00 PM

Bring your favorite dish and come join the EE Community to give thanks and to have a wonderful meal with friends.

We look forward to seeing you!

Please RSVP to Gary or Claudia Levy at 504-837-9121.



NOCEE'S URGENT NEED OF FUNDING

How can you help?

As we say on the weekend, we need you as engaged and married couples to help us carry on the vision of Catholic Engaged Encounter to give engaged couples the best possible foundation for their marriages.

At this time, we have an **urgent** need for your donations for engaged couples who require financial aid to attend an Engaged Encounter weekend retreat. The requests for these scholarships have steadily risen since Katrina, and now these funds are depleted. We don't turn anyone away. Any gift you can make will directly support these couples.

If you can help even a little, please make your check payable to:

**Catholic Engaged Encounter
3636 Severn Ave
Metairie, LA 70002**

Thank you, and may God continue to bless you in your sacrament as the sign you are to our world of His love,

Gary & Claudia Levy

Coordinators, Catholic Engaged Encounter of New Orleans



FOR YOUR MARRIAGE – ISSUES EVERY COUPLE MAY FACE

Over the years a couple can expect to face many issues, both big and small. Some, such as financial, career, and parenting decisions, can be handled by honestly discussing them with each other or with friends who can provide wise advice. This quarter we focus on careers and how they can affect a couple.

Finances

Do financial problems cause divorce?

Financial counselors often point to finances as the most common cause of divorce. That's only partially true. A study by Jason Carroll of Brigham Young University looked at 600 couples from across the nation from various ethnic, religious and economic backgrounds. According to Carroll, the study showed that "financial problems are as much a result of how we think about money as how we spend it."

One of the first things couples need to notice about each is their "spending personalities."

Money may be the presenting problem that gets a couple to counseling, but the solution is not just to make more money. Rather, couples need to improve communication skills so they can talk about their different ways of spending money and the different values that may underlie their financial decisions.

Carroll's study found that when at least one spouse is highly materialistic, couples are 40 percent more likely to have financial problems that put a strain on their marriage, regardless of income level. The reason is that the couple expects that their lifestyle will bring them happiness, rather than finding happiness in each other.

What's your spending personality?

One of the first things couples need to notice about each is their "spending personalities." Is one thrifty and the other a spendthrift? If these traits are deep-rooted and significantly different, they can cause major tension and conflict.

If both spouses are spendthrifts the likelihood is that they will face issues of debt management – even if they have a high income – because desires tend to increase just a little beyond our incomes. As John D. Rockefeller said when asked how much money it takes to be really satisfied, "Just a little bit more!"

Of course, if one spouse is high on the spendthrift scale and the other tends toward being a miser, the probability of tension and conflict over money is obvious. If the extremes are not too severe, good communication skills can bring compromise and a healthy balance. It's wise to have the thrifty, detailed person keep the books and write the checks.

Having two frugal zealots, however, is not necessarily the ideal either. If both spouses are extremely thrifty, they may tend to hold themselves to a very Spartan lifestyle, seldom spending any money on recreation. They may find themselves in a rut of all work and no play.

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What's your shopping style?

Beyond a couple's basic spending personality, couples sometimes experience tension over their shopping styles. For example, which of the following shopping styles fits you?

1. Utilitarian: I shop for what I need and that's it. I'm usually in and out of a store quickly.
2. Laissez-faire: When I see something I like, I buy it. I don't plan for it, I just follow my whim.
3. Bargain Hunter: I check the ads. When something's on sale, I snatch it and stock up. I feel great when I know I've gotten a good deal. Shopping is like a sport for me.
4. Therapy: When I'm in a blue mood, buying something helps me feel better.
5. Recreation: I like to window-shop. I can spend hours shopping alone or with friends.

If your shopping styles conflict, it may be easier just to acknowledge the difference and not shop together.

Who's got the power?

The complicated thing about money in a marriage is that it's often tied up with power. We may believe that the person who makes the most money is more valued or should have the greater say in financial decisions. We need to remember that spouses perform many tasks for which they are not paid. They contribute to the marriage and common life in different ways. At times one spouse may be ill or unemployed and not able to contribute financially or in other ways. Spouses need to feel valued and respected in their own home, regardless of how much money they bring in.

Is it ever better to have less money?

In a strong, life-giving marriage, financial responsibility is not just about making money and spending it or saving it. It also includes giving it away – to religious institutions, charities or our neighbors in need. Sometimes living more simply so that others can simply live is the most direct path to satisfaction and happiness.

Article obtained with permission from "foryourmarriage.com"



Upcoming EE Meeting Dates

January 23, 2010

February 27, 2010

March 27, 2010

April 17, 2010

May 15, 2010

June 19, 2010

July 17, 2010

August 14, 2010

September 18, 2010

October 23, 2010

Holiday Parties – TBA

Upcoming EE Retreat Dates

January 8-10, 2010

February 19-21, 2010

March 19-21, 2010

April 9-11, 2010

June 11-13, 2010

August 6-8, 2010

October 15-17, 2010

November 5-7, 2010

New Local Coordinators Selected!!

It was a day where the EE team couples gathered for an important process called Discernment which would determine which couple would lead the NOCEE community through the next two years. Through much prayer, discussion of the needs of the community and introspection, the community selected new local coordinators, **Ty and Derrick Salvant**.

The day was lead by Clayton and Felice Hanks, from the Lafayette EE community, who guided the community in making this important decision. The outgoing local coordinators described the experience: "In addition to selecting new leadership, one of the goals of discernment is to grow in relationship with the Holy Spirit and each other. That goal was accomplished beautifully".



Ty & Derrick Salvant



Pictured left to right Top Row: Jeffrey Laborie, Marcel Farnet, Karla Farnet, Dawn Laborie, Claudia Schulz, Steve Schulz, Roland Sternfel, Jim Heneghan, Claudia Levy, Gary Levy, Patricia Kelley. **Bottom Row:** Derrick Salvant, Ty Salvant.

Contact Us

Please visit our website for more information about NOCEE
<http://nocee.org>

Questions, comments or if you would like to unsubscribe,
email us at laborie@nocee.org