

## **Invitation To Mission Mentality and Outline**

### **OVERVIEW OF THE PROCESS**

#### **OBJECTIVE**

- To inspire the participants to be modern-day apostles, to use the gifts of their sacrament in order to make a difference in the Church, with the people that make up their world and in the world around us.
- To help them identify where God is calling them to use their gifts.
- To assure them that they will make a difference if they keep their relationship a priority, make the Weekend values a way of life and journey with couples and priests who share those same values.
- To invite them to invest their gifts in the dream of Worldwide Marriage Encounter to change the world and to help them realize the importance of this investment for the future.
- To embrace the mission of Worldwide Marriage Encounter and proclaim the value of Marriage and Holy Orders in the Church and in the world.

#### **GOALS**

##### **To know**

- They are called to share their love and gifts as a couple with their families, their neighbors, their Church, their community, and their world so that many will experience God's love through them.

##### **To do**

- To be open and apostolic with their love and to take their relationship out of their homes and into the Church and the people in their world.
- To support the dream of WWME.

##### **To experience**

- A sense of responsibility as they begin to realize the greatness of their Sacrament.
- A hunger/desire to continue to deepen their love, strengthen their relationship and share the gifts of their love.

#### **FORMATION:**

This process is purposely called Invitation to Mission. Never underestimate the power of a simple invitation. An invitation helps us to realize we are special, wanted and accepted. An invitation is a powerful way to reach out to others. It transformed the lives of the

disciples when they said yes to Jesus' invitation to follow Him. It transformed our lives when we accepted the invitation to attend a meeting, discern our priorities and become involved in the mission of WWME.

All too often, we make the evangelism of our movement more difficult than it really is. If all we do is call it work, detail responsibilities and commitments and focus on our struggles to follow those commitments, we are not inviting. It can be as simple as extending an invitation: "*Come... share your gifts with the Church and the world. Come ... help change the world*"

Not everyone will say yes to our invitation, but responsibility is to recognize them for their gifts and extend the invitation.

This is more than just an invitation to be Team – it is an invitation, a call to mission. The process is designed as a witness of the benefit living our mission has on our relationship and an awareness that our call is from God. The focus is on relationship instead of “to do’s” and is a living witness of a fully engaged dialoguing lifestyle.

The call to mission must be presented as encouragement to all needs in the movement and the Church, not just Presenting Team. It cannot be a “take it or leave it” process for Team. It will strive to be an awareness of the gifts we see in them BUT a challenge that it just remains potential if those gifts are not used.

## **FLOW OF THE INVITATION PROCESS**

- **The First Invitation:** *To attend a meeting*
- **The Second Invitation:** *The follow-up phone call*
- **The Third Invitation:** *A Call to Mission*
- **The Fourth Invitation:** *Hearing Our Call*
- **The Fifth Invitation:** *Acting On Our Call*

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**The First Invitation:** *To attend a meeting*

**Timing:**

- Each Encounter should/can decide when a couple/priest is invited to hear more about the mission of Worldwide Marriage Encounter and how their gifts might/could/should be used.
- See LG201 Presenting Couple Selection Criteria and LG202 Presenting Priest Selection Criteria for selection process.

**Content:**

- The couple/priest is being invited to hear more about the mission of Worldwide Marriage Encounter and how they might use their gifts as a couple on the mission.
- Both husband and wife must be Catholic.
- The couple must have a valid Catholic marriage. They have to have been married at least 3 years either civilly or in the Church.
- The couple should see the value of dialogue as presented on the WWME weekend/experience.

**FORMATION:**

The invitation should be as spontaneous, sincere and *inviting* as possible. Only one couple need speak for the Team. We want the couples/priests to walk away hearing that their work, their love relationship made a difference to someone (the Team) that weekend and that they have gifts unique to them that need to be shared.

It is important to establish a commitment to speak on the phone, regardless of the answer to the invitation.

**Suggested wording:**

*We wanted to spend a couple more minutes with you because we believe you have great gifts to share as a couple. We know how hard everyone worked on this weekend. You in particular really stood out and the example of your love really lifted us up and brought us great joy. We want to thank you for that.*

*All seven of us unanimously agree that the world needs your gifts and so ... we are inviting you to attend a meeting where you will hear more about how you can use those gifts to help achieve the mission of Worldwide Marriage Encounter – including but not limited to be a Presenting Team. We are not asking you to commit to anything right now except to consider our invitation and hopefully meet with one of us for an hour or so.*

*Before you start telling us you are not qualified to do this, remember that God doesn't call the qualified, He qualifies the called. This weekend, you were called.*

*That said, this is the Catholic expression of Worldwide Marriage Encounter so all Presenting Team both husband and wife must be Catholic, be in a valid Catholic marriage and have been married at least 3 years either civilly or in the Church. You should also see the value of dialogue as we presented it this weekend.*

*Talk about our invitation, pray about it, dialogue on your feelings about it – but don't discuss with others. We really want this decision to be made by just the two of you. We will call you in three (four) days to get your answer and set a time and place. We hope you make the time, because the gifts we see in you as a couple are undeniable. Whether you use those gifts in WWME or somewhere else, the world needs the two of you to share them. We'd like to help you find the best place to use them.*

*So we will call you on \_\_\_\_\_ with a couple of dates in mind. When is a good time to talk to both of you? What is the best number to call you?*

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**The Second Invitation: *The follow-up phone call***

**Timing:**

- The call should be made by member of the Weekend Team.
- Call when you said you would call. If no answer, leave a message and call back an hour later. It's okay to leave a message, but don't give up. Call again until you reach them.

**The Preparation:**

- Set several potential meeting dates with the couple leading the Invitation Process. This does not have to be the Encounter leadership couple. It must be a couple that has been formed on the process. Have the dates and locations ready, along with the commitment of the couple leading the Process before you make your call.

**Content:**

- Ask how the week has been, if they have been able to dialogue, if they have spoken with anyone about their weekend experience.
- Tell them you have blocked out several nights with the couple you want them to meet and hope they can make it to one of them.
- If they can't commit to a date, ask them what is preventing them from doing so. Remind them that they are only committing to hearing more about what we see in them.
  
- Keep the call short and to the point.
  - Set the date, time and place.
  - Tell them who will be there.
  - Confirm their email address so an email confirmation can go out along with directions.

**FORMATION:**

Continue the tone set in the first invitation - be as sincere and *inviting* as possible – but also be firm. Let your belief shine through that the couple/priest has unique gifts that need to be shared. Don't stop at their first no. It could just be self denial of their gifts or their ability to have an impact on others lives. Assure them of the gifts you saw in them. Tell them there are many ways they can use these gifts. Remind them that they are only committing to hearing more.



### **The Third Invitation: A Call to Mission**

#### **Timing:**

- Ideally, this First Meeting should be as close to the weekend as possible. Resist the urge to combine meetings. Meeting just before or immediately after the Weekend Renewal might be expeditious, but diminishes the specialness of the invitation.

#### **The Preparation:**

- Call the couple, if time allows, to introduce yourself. Establish a relationship with the couple/priest on the first phone call. Tell them you are excited to meet them. Ask about children/work/family/church/health - whatever you can find out about them prior to the meeting is helpful. Tell them we want to work with them to find their gifts and how they can be used. Let them know the gifts they are given are unique to them. They are leaders in the Church.
- No more than two Presenting Team couples and one Priest should attend the First Meeting - the couple leading the Invitation Process and one of the Presenting Team from the couple's weekend. The couple leading the Invitation Process must be actively striving to live the values of the weekend.
- Talk to the other Weekend Team members prior to the First Meeting— what can they tell you about the couple/priest? What gifts did they see? What stood out about the couple?
- Ideally, one of the Weekend Presenting Team will be there to make the introduction & hand off. How we get the couples/priests to the facilitator is as important as the meeting.
- Have copies of suggested Dialogue Questions provided at end.
- Have a Bible with the readings from Mathew and Corinthians bookmarked.

#### **FORMATION:**

This is your first meeting with the couple/priest, the first time you will be going into depth about the mission of WWME and how their gifts could further that mission. They will be forming their first impression. Make it count.

First and foremost, the Invitation To Mission Process is a presentation and needs to be prepared. Going in cold and adlibbing off the outline shows a lack of commitment to the couple/priest, our mission and our own relationship. If you aren't prepared, don't lead the process.

The impact the Weekend had on all of us is why we are here today and we want it to remain. We want the couple to understand that they are being called and that they will be supported in their decision by the Holy Spirit. They are called to use their gifts. They are Called To Mission.

It is important that the couple/priest understand that this call will not benefit just the world, their relationship will benefit greatly as well! The couple that is leading the process needs to make this visible and attainable to the couple through their lived example. We teach on the weekend by personal example – we need to model our joy from accepting our call by personal example. Share the effect living out this call has on your relationship.

From this point forward, the couple/priest in the Process is their priority. This is the courtship/romance of WWME for them. Help them realize their unique gifts. Share our experience of the weekend and listen to theirs. Share how you had to learn how to dialogue and listen to their struggles and successes. Share passion for your relationship and for the Church and listen to theirs.

Not every couple is ready to acknowledge the Call to Mission right away. It is still difficult for many to hear Jesus say “leave everything and come follow me”. That doesn’t mean the call has ended just that some will need more time. Have a fluid timeline. This is not a take it or leave it. Saying no to being Presenting Team does not diminish their unique gifts, it challenges us to find where God wants them to use them. Our movement is about relationship and we need to build one with the couple/priest and help them realize God’s call, wherever that may lead them. God called the chosen and never gave up on them.

## **OUTLINE:**

### **Begin In Prayer – A Reading from Matthew**

“The eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had ordered them. When they saw him, they worshiped, but they doubted.

Then Jesus approached and said to them, “All power in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age.”

*Matthew 28 16:20*

### **Introduction / Get Acquainted**

Set a relaxed tone. Spend a few minutes on introductions and getting to know a little about the couple, their kids/family.

- Remember this is “about” them. Strive to learn who they are, and their interests. Consider the following:
  - Ask them to share on their Weekend and its significance to their relationship.
  - Ask them about their involvement in their parish and community, their hobbies and use of free time.
  - Ask them about their family, children and extended family, about their jobs and other possible time commitments.
- Begin to shift the conversation by asking them about their dialogue. Don’t make this an interrogation. Consider the following:
  - Share how dialogue was for you that first week after your weekend.
    - Ask what their experience has been.
  - Share some of the changes that occurred in your relationship immediately after the weekend.
    - Ask what their experience has been.
  - Share how you felt when the Team on the Weekend told you that you had unique gifts and that God has called you to use them.
    - Ask what their experience has been.
- Tell them it is often difficult to believe in our uniqueness and we want to work with them to find their gifts and how they can be used. Let them know the gifts they are given are unique to them. They are leaders in the Church.

Let the couple know that by their saying yes to attending this meeting it is understood that they are both Catholic have a valid Catholic Marriage and are married at least three years. Explain since this is the Catholic expression of Worldwide Marriage Encounter all presenting team couples are required to be Catholic and in a marriage recognized by the Catholic Church (confirm this with couple).

**NOTE:** If the couple does not fit the criteria, shift the focus from Presenting Team to other opportunities to share their gifts in Worldwide Marriage Encounter, and/or the Church and the world around them. They are here because their gifts were recognized. Don’t throw that out the window. The gifts are not necessarily the joy jobs. They have to get done, but we want them to use their gifts. Invite them to share their relationship by and not limited to presenting at an Encounter sharing group, doing a Mass talk, and praying for a couple on the weekend.



## **We Can Change The World**

### Suggested transition:

*“We can really see what all seven members of the Team saw in you on your weekend. Your love is visible to us”.*

- Each share one specific quality you see in the couple

*“We hope you went home feeling happy and confident that your marriage is grounded in unconditional love. And we hope those feelings get stronger.”*

*“They can. God has bigger dreams for your marriage than simply your own happiness. His power has been unleashed in you, not just for yourselves, but for all those whose lives you will touch. We are confident that your love can change the world!”*

## **They Have Been Called To Share Their Gifts - READ I CORINTHIANS 12:4-11**

- Give your response to this reading (I Corinthians 12: 4-11) either now, or at your own Kickoff/Invitation To Mission. Share how you still today are called to share your gifts in the Ministry of Worldwide Marriage Encounter.
- Strongly affirm this couple as to the goodness that you see in them at this very moment. Strongly affirm this couple in what their presenting team has said about them. This affirmation is extremely important. Tell them they have been chosen to share their gifts. Whether they choose to share their couple gifts in the Ministry of Worldwide Marriage Encounter or not, they are still called to share their couple gifts with our Church in one way or another. Their love and devotion to one another is a gift which has been noticed and that is why they are invited to this Process.
- ⊖ Point out how we are called by our Baptism to share our gifts with others. Because they have heard this call again on their Weekend, they are responsible to now share their gifts with our church.

## **We Have The Power To Change The World.**

Note: This section **is** a personal sharing; it is directed to inspire the participants to believe they have the power to change the world – just as you were inspired! This section should be alive, vibrant and full of awe at what can be accomplished with God.

Suggested transition:

*“We have been called to share our gifts with the world. The Team on your Weekend were called, and yes, you were called. Each of us is unique and irreplaceable, because our couple relationship is different from any other.”*

*Points to consider:*

- Because of the unique gifts you have, you can make a difference that no other couple or priest can make. There is someone, somewhere that needs to hear from you.
- When you share the unique gifts of your sacrament, you change your world. Your love is like a pebble dropped into a pond. The ripples you create touch many other lives around you.
- You have the power to make a difference in your family, in your neighborhood and in your parish, in our world.
- When we live our sacrament intentionally and with passion, we are the best example we can be of God’s love for the world.
- Be open to the opportunities God places before you to share your love.
- We are all sent out two by two, to make Christ’s presence among us known through our own unique witness of love.
- Together with all the other apostolic couples and priests, we become a mighty force for changing the world.

*“We are called to be true witness of hope in today’s world. At the Prayer Vigil of Pentecost for the World Day for Movements, new Communities, Associations and Lay Groups, Pope Francis stated that:*

*“Today’s world stands in great need of witnesses, not so much of teachers, but rather of witnesses. It’s not so much about speaking, but rather speaking with our lives.”*

*“As a Presenting Team for Worldwide Marriage Encounter, you can change the world because your love is a witness of God’s love for us.”*

**FORMATION:**

As sacramental couples we are sent out two by two to share in Christ’s mission. We are called to spread the good news of loving our relationship by our words and actions. Each time we offer a selfless gift of our love to others, we become bread broken and blood outpoured for others.

**Our Relationship Strengthens Through Fulfilling Our Mission**

**NOTE:** This section must be positive. The focus is not on what you had to do, but what your relationship gained.

**Suggested wording:**

*“Fulfilling our mission as Presenting Team gives us the opportunity to closely examine how we are living the values we teach on the Weekend – values like acceptance, forgiveness and healing, listening with the heart – and learn from others who are striving to live those same values and witness this very different lifestyle.”*

*“Sometimes this requires us to step out of our comfort zone and do things we never considered before and at the same time, reaping benefits we never thought possible. Dialogue is something we never considered before we went on our weekend and daily dialogue seemed impossible at first.”*

- Share your dialogue journey as a couple - what daily dialogue means in their everyday lives.
  - Be specific when describing the effects of your daily dialogue – consider:
    - how you are different as individuals and as a couple
    - how you relate to each other because you dialogue daily
    - how you listen with your hearts
    - how forgiveness and healing is part of your relationship
    - how you decide to love or be loved by our spouse
- Do not generalize! Avoid vague words such as “deeper,” “better,” “closer,” “happier,” etc. Give specific compelling reasons to yearn for the same effects in their own relationship.
- Share what you have learned, how your relationship has grown and your intimacy flourished as a result of:
  - Meeting with and learning from the witness of other Team couples at Team Meetings, Sweeps, Enrichments
  - Writing and presenting talks for the Weekend and Parish Enrichments
  - Being involved in community and attending Weekend Renewals
  - Inviting couples and priests to attend a weekend so they can experience the joy and fulfillment we did
  - Getting a sense of how big our WWME family is by attending Regional and National events.

- There are many ways we might be called to fulfill our calling and all bring their own reward. They keep us close to the Weekend experience we all share.
- It is important that the couples understand our involvement is not just another date on their calendars. They need to understand that we have made being a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Presenting Team our first apostolate as a couple. We are asking them to consider doing the same.

### **Set A Time Line To Reach/Choose A Direction**

- The first step toward choosing a direction to share their gifts is to set a date when the prospective team will have completed their review of the information provided at this Process, dialogued, prayed and decided upon their choice of direction for continuing the discernment. The prospective Presenting Team should leave with a clear understanding that the next step is theirs. That it is the beginning of a process of developing a plan which will help them, and us, to identify where they might be most comfortably involved with the Marriage Encounter lifestyle and values.
- Set a date and time to meet with the couple/priest to discuss their discernment, answer any questions they may still have and to decide how they are going to answer their call. Assure them this will not be a long meeting. Set a location that is best suited to their needs. Send a follow-up email clearly setting expectations.
- If the couple says “yes” to The Second Meeting then schedule a time when you can help them determine where they can best use their gifts.
- Encourage the couple to be involved in post-Weekend activities.
- Give suggested Dialogue Questions To Help With Evaluation to use.

### **Answer Questions**

- Tell them specifically how you will offer prayers and more for them while they are discerning.
- Ask if they have any questions.
- Answer their questions but do not keep them long. Be considerate of the time they have been away from their family.
- Offer your availability for further discussion or to answer questions.

### **End With Prayer**

If you have a specific prepared inspirational prayer use that. Or use spontaneous prayer or scripture.

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**A CALL TO MISSION  
DIALOGUE QUESTIONS TO HELP WITH EVALUATION**

1. How has our relationship changed since the weekend? HDIFSTWY?
2. What gifts do I see in you? HDIFSTWY?
3. What are our gifts as a couple? HDIFSTWY?
4. What was my strongest feeling when I heard our gifts are unique to us? HDIFAT?
5. We can change the world. WIMSFAT?
6. Do I see dialogue as a value in our life?
7. After reading 1 Corinthians 12:4-11, WIMSF??
8. We have been called to share our gifts. HDIFAT?
9. Do I believe our love can make a difference in our world? HDIFSTWY
10. What is my strongest feeling, right now, about the consideration of being a Presenting Team?

HDIFSTWY? – How do I feel sharing this with you?

HDIFAT? – How do I feel about that?

WIMSFAT? – What is my strongest feeling about that?

WIMSF? – What is my strongest feeling?

## **The Fourth Invitation: *Hearing Our Call***

### **Timing:**

- Ideally, this meeting date was set at the first meeting and confirmed via email. It should be one week to ten days after the first meeting. Waiting too long will make the message fuzzy and it will be too easy for distractions to creep in.

### **The Preparation:**

- The facilitator of the Process should remain the same.
- Copies of the following documents should be copied for the couple and reviewed by the facilitator prior to the meeting:
  - Vision, Mission and Charism LG 102
  - Foundational Principles of Our Movement - LG 103
  - Presenting Team Commitment - LG 206
- Identify a mentor couple that will work with this couple as they continue their journey. The mentor couple should be a Presenting Team couple in good standing.
- Review LG 205: SUGGESTED WAYS TO ENRICH AND SUPPORT PROSPECTIVE PRESENTING TEAMS PRIOR TO THEIR DEEPER
- Ask the WWME Ecclesial Encounter Team or the Community Pillar and Weekend Pillar leads what non-presenting team opportunities exist or needed.

### **FORMATION:**

This meeting should be fluid and responsive to the couples needs. Be prepared to answer their questions. Be prepared to share from your relationship. Be prepared to help the couple choose a direction. If they are here, they have already decided they have gifts – help them decide how use them.

Remember, this must be presented as encouragement to all needs in the movement and the Church, not just Presenting Team. It cannot be a “take it or leave it” process for Team.

Don’t be strict in the time line. The couple may have questions, may need to test the waters a little at a time. The goal is to get them involved so they can experience the rewards of living this lifestyle.

The mentor couple you choose should mirror this attitude and continue to witness the rewards of living an intimate and responsible lifestyle.

## CONTENT:

### Opening prayer

### THEIR RESPONSE

- Thank them for taking the time to think about our invitation.
- Ask the couple to share
  - How their week has been.
  - What dialogue has come to mean in their everyday lives.
  - What they have learned about their relationship. How has it grown and their intimacy flourished?
- Acknowledge their sharing and share how they can keep growing in their relationship by being involved.
- Invite them to be involved with other couples who have made the same discoveries they have made.

#### **Suggested wording:**

*“We need the support of others who are willing to journey along with us. That is why in Marriage Encounter we have groups of couples, priests and religious who meet regularly to strengthen their relationships and grow through dialogue. Worldwide Marriage Encounter communities are unique in our Church and our society. We know of no other community that challenges married couples, priests and religious to grow as intimately in relationship through the use of dialogue.”*

- Share with them the opportunities to:
  - Join an Encounter sharing group
  - Be a prayer couple
  - Help with next weekend.
  - Host/lead an inviting activity

### ASK THEM WHAT THEY HAVE DECIDED.

Whatever it is:

- Affirm their decision.
- Answer their questions.
- Stay in control of the process

### If yes to Presenting Team

- Remember that the yes could include doubts and require more information. Be prepared to assure them that they are not walking alone.
  - Invite them to Team Meetings, where they will have the opportunity to be with and learn from couples who have also accepted this call.
  - Affirm them that they will be a witness to these very same couples.
  - Introduce them to their Mentor Couple who will:
    - Help this new couple feel welcome and included in the Team Community by building a relationship with an experienced team couple, meeting with them on a regular basis. This will help keep the relationship growing.
    - Assist them in developing a dialoguing lifestyle through the example and nurturing of an experienced Team Couple.
    - Help them understand what it means to live a radical lifestyle and the commitments of being a Team Couple.
    - Try to make introductions over the phone
  - Introduce and briefly review:
    - Vision and Mission Statements LG 102
    - Foundational Principles of Our Movement - LG 103
    - Presenting Team Commitment - LG 206
  - Provide them with important dates

**If yes to helping fulfill our Mission in some other way:**

- Ask them what gifts they think they can share.
- Discuss opportunities within your local area.
  - Think of the needs within your community. How can this couple use their gifts to help fill that need?
  - Stress some of the opportunities shared earlier
    - Join an Encounter sharing group
    - Be a prayer couple
    - Help with next weekend.
    - Host/lead an inviting activity
- Discuss needs in their parish or community. Stress that the gifts they are called to share are couple gifts, so whatever they choose to do, they need to do as a couple.

**QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS**



## **WRAP UP & AFFIRMATION**

- It is important to take the time and this opportunity to share our excitement for them. We focus on them and what we see in them and the effects they will ultimately have on others and the Church.
- Share what you sense, see and hope for them. What qualities have you experienced in them? What affect has listening to them had on your lives?
- We assure them that not only we, but the rest of their community will continue to support them in their efforts to live a **Sacramental lifestyle**. Remind them they will not start this journey alone.

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## The Fifth Invitation: Acting On Our Call

### Timing:

- This meeting is mandatory!
- This meeting should occur after the prospective Team has worked with their Mentor couple/priest and attended at least one Team meeting and at least 60 days before the Deeper Weekend. (see NALG 207). Ideally, this will be one to two months after The Fourth Invitation. Don't be strict if more time is needed. As long as the couple/priest remains engaged and present in community, they should continue to be Mentored and embraced by the community.

### The Preparation:

- Talk to the Mentor couple/priest – what can they tell you about the couple/priest? Is the prospective Team grasping the lifestyle? What gifts did they see? What stands out about the prospective Team? Does the Mentor have any concerns that need to be addressed?
- Stay in contact with the prospective Team just as you would in any relationship you are nurturing. Answer any questions they may have and continue to encourage them. Ask them if they are ready for the next step in their journey.
- Consult **NALG 207**: Travel & Registration Policy For WWME Deeper Weekends to ensure proper procedures are conducted in a timely manner.
- Consult **LG 204**: Presenting Team Deeper Weekend Process to familiarize yourself with the Deeper Weekend.
- No more than two Presenting Team couples and one Priest should attend this meeting - the couple that has been leading the Invitation Process and the Encounter Ecclesial Team.
- Have copies of handouts referenced in this section provided at end.
- Have a Bible with the readings from John bookmarked.

### **FORMATION:**

This is the final Invitation in the process. Accepting this Invitation is the last step before the couple/priest attends a Deeper Weekend. There should be no surprises. The Prospective Team should know what their commitment means as a result of the witness of the Team community they have formed a relationship with.

### **Begin In Prayer – A Reading from John 15: 1-17**

- The Vine and the Branches ~ This I command you: love one another

- Give your response to this reading and how it has grown as you have worked on your own love relationship.
- Ask the prospective Team to share their thoughts and discoveries.

## **THE DEEPER WEEKEND**

Transition into the next steps – the heart of the meeting.

It is important, at this point, to re-establish the firmness of their decision to say "yes" to becoming a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Presenting Team Couple.

Points to cover:

- The Deeper Weekend is not the place to make that decision. It must have already been made.
- Emphasize that if a couple makes the decision to be a Presenting Team and then cancels their attendance at the Deeper Weekend after airline tickets have been purchased, the couple will be responsible for the cost of the tickets.
- The North American Office will invoice the local Encounter, which will then obtain reimbursement from the couple

Once a firm “yes” has been offered, cover the following details:

### **Content of the Weekend:**

#### **FORMATION:**

This explanation is meant to give them a glimpse of what the Deeper Weekend can mean to them if they are actively engaged. The concepts they will be hearing are the same concepts as on their Weekend, but the Deeper will allow them to take their relationship to a deeper level.

### **Purpose of the Weekend**

- It is not the purpose of the weekend to "teach" them how to be a Presenting Team in the sense of how to write talks. It is an opportunity, indeed a calling, from their entire Catholic family to become even more deeply in love with one another for their own sake and for the sake of us, the Church. It is also another opportunity to experience a strong sense of community.
- They will be given the time and the opportunity, but it is up to them to decide the quality of the experience. Encourage them not to let anything interfere with their Weekend, especially worry about their children, job, etc. or fears that they are not good enough.

### **General Information:**

- Where and when the Deeper Weekend will be held.
- When travel arrangements will be made and what time the Weekend will begin and end.
- Remind them that the Weekend includes Monday.
- Explain that the content of the Deeper Weekend includes a series of talks given by one Cadre Presenting Team Couple & Priest.
- Let them know that either the couple or priest will be calling them prior to the Deeper Weekend to discuss the Deeper Weekend and to answer their questions.
- The Deeper Weekend includes interactive participation by the couples attending the Weekend in a number of formats, including small group sharing/discussion, open sharing, written love-letters and dialogue.
- Explain the format for open group sharing and the importance of “breaking the ice” at the first opportunity on the weekend. (If you don’t recall the format for the open sharing, please contact a current Cadre Team).
- Explain that love letters and dialogue will be like on their own Weekend.

### **Presentations**

- Each presentation includes a personal sharing by the Presenting Team, just as it was on their Weekend. The Presenting Team will also provide mentality in their sharing and inform the couples of those specific talks they will be presenting. It’s important to take notes during these specific presentations to assist them when they begin to write their presentations.

### **Open Sharing**

- Explain that everyone will be expected to share, and that we believe it is essential to the outcome of their Weekend that they begin to participate in open and group sharing right away.
- Their sharing should be brief in order to give everyone an opportunity to share. It’s important to talk about their own feelings and attitudes, rather than those they believe their husband or wife may have or want to hear. They need to be honest and above all real, but under no circumstances are they to share confessional material. It’s important for the couple to turn and face each other, sharing to each other, since this is a sharing to their spouse, allowing others to “eavesdrop”.
- Husbands and wives will not be sharing back to back so they are better able to listen to each other. It is important for each of them to share even if someone has already said the same thing. Their spouse needs to hear it from them. Their participation in the group sharing is the best preparation for their own personal love letter and dialogue.

### **Love-letter**

- A question will be given for their love-letter. It will focus on some aspect of their relationship. Encourage them to simply focus on one another and to be open and intimate with each other.

### **Dialogue**

- As on their Weekend, they will be dialoguing in the privacy of their own rooms. Encourage them to really work at being attentive to the Deeper Weekend experience by trusting one another and by being open and intimate in sharing their feelings with each other.

### **Small Group Discussion/Activities**

- Unlike their original weekend, there will be times when participants will break into small groups for activities or group sharing/discussion. This witness gives the participants an opportunity to encourage and challenge each other as they work through the concepts presented on the Deeper Weekend.

### **Re-Evaluation on the Weekend**

- Occasionally a couple is advised that being a Presenting Team would not be best for them; that perhaps they need to spend their love in another way. This conclusion is rare and is usually reached by the couple making the Weekend long before the Cadre Team would say anything to them. Assure them that there is no reason to let this unlikely possibility get in the way of their Weekend.

### **Vision Talk**

- On the Deeper Weekend there will be a Vision Talk. The Cadre Team will be asking the couple to invest in the future of our movement and the training of future Presenting Team Couples and Priests. They will be asked to make a financial contribution at this time. The money they give will be used to support Deeper Weekends, like the one they will be attending. The dreams, vision and mission of the Worldwide Marriage Encounter Movement need to spread so we can continue to change our world. They will be asked to contribute in the form of cash, check, post dated check or credit card. We ask that they go to the Deeper Weekend prepared to invest in the future of our movement and the training of future Presenting Team Couples and Priests. This should be a positive sharing, with no apologies. They are investing in the dream and the vision of Worldwide Marriage Encounter.

### **Share**

- Share what your Deeper Weekend was like for you, your relationship and your daily dialogue.

<b>FORMATION:</b>
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Share why daily dialogue is so vital to our growth as couples and as priests. Daily dialogue is the way our Weekend stays alive in us. As a Presenting Team we share from our dialoguing relationship. And that is what those on the Weekends experience. It is not so much the well read talk that draws the couple and priest into the Weekend, but the visible relationship of those who live the Worldwide Marriage Encounter lifestyle.

It is extremely important that they have a solid dialoguing foundation going into the Deeper Weekend. In your sharing, include how daily dialogue has made an impact on your relationship. How you found your prime time for writing and for dialoguing and how it changes. How you got in touch with your feelings and how you learned to draw each other out. How you pick a question for the next day. Encourage them to talk about their joys and struggles in attempting to live a daily dialoguing lifestyle. Remind them that daily dialogue is one of the commitments we make as Presenting Team. Offer your support and encouragement for their daily dialogue.

**Share your personal experience of daily dialogue with them. Talk about how** your daily dialogue continues to be a strength in your relationship. Be sure to emphasize that daily dialogue is for the sharing of feelings and not for problem solving.

Points to consider:

- Share how your dialogue journey as a couple changed.
  - Did it become more important in your everyday lives?
  - Did you eliminate barriers?
  - Did the effects of dialogue extend beyond the 20 minutes?
  - Be specific when describing the effects of your daily dialogue.
- Ask them to share their personal experience of dialogue
  
- Share what you have learned, how your relationship has grown and your intimacy flourished since your Deeper Weekend.
- Ask them what they hope to gain from the Deeper Weekend experience. What are the hopes and dreams they have for their relationship right now?
  
- Share how you dialogue on areas and situations in your relationship.
- Remind them that dialoguing is about sharing feelings - in writing and discussing them verbally.
- Tell them that finding areas and situations for dialogue is not all that hard. Just look at what's happening now in their lives and relationships. Where are their strong

feelings, conflicts, joys?

- Give them the handouts with dialogue questions in the areas of **Sex, Possessions, God, Death, Children and Family** explaining that the focus is on the feelings which they experience in these areas.
- Ask them to use these before their Deeper Weekend. Tell them not get stuck on any one area. It is important that the couple examine their feelings in these areas before the Deeper Weekend.

## **QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS**

### **WRAP UP & AFFIRMATION**

- It is important to take the time and this opportunity to share our excitement for them. Focus on them and what you see in them and the effects they will ultimately have on others and the Church.
- Share what you sense, see and hope for them. What qualities have you experienced in them? What affect has listening to them had on your lives?
- Assure them that not only we, but the rest of their community will continue to support them in their efforts to live a Sacramental lifestyle. Remind them they are not on this journey alone.
- End in prayer.

## DIALOGUE QUESTIONS/SITUATIONS FOR COUPLES

### Sex

1. WAMFA my sexuality?
2. HDIFA my attractiveness?
3. When we make love I feel \_\_\_\_\_? Describe the feeling.
4. WAMF when I look at my fear of intimacy?
5. What are my attitudes about sex? Share and describe your feeling.
6. What inhibitions do I have about sex? WAMFAMA?
7. When you watch me undress I feel \_\_\_\_\_? Describe the feeling.
8. HDIFA my self worth as your lover?
9. When I say no to you in sex I feel \_\_\_\_\_? Describe the feeling.
10. When you say no to me in sex I feel \_\_\_\_\_? Describe the feeling.
11. HDIFA our sexual relationship right now?
12. What I find most attractive about you is? HDIFSTWY?
13. What are my fears about discussing sex with you? WAMFAT?
14. What I feel most inadequate about in sex? WAMFAMA?
15. What are my expectations in our sexual relationship? WAMFAT?
16. I enjoy our sexual relationship most when... WAMFAMA?
17. My greatest joy in our sexual relationship is.... WAMFAMA?
18. My greatest hurt in our sexual relationship is.... WAMFITA
19. I avoid sexual involvement with you when HDIFAT?
20. I most want to be sexually involved with you when... HDIFAT?
21. HDIF when I am intimate with you in our sexual relationship?
22. HDIFA my ability to satisfy your needs in our sexual relationship?

### Possessions

1. HDIFA my job?
2. HDIFA your job?
3. HDIFA our possessions?
4. HDIFA our hospitality?
5. HDIFA paying the bills?
6. HDIFA how we spend money?
7. What are my attitudes about spending money? HDIFAT?
8. HDIFA our financial responsibility?
9. HDIFA working out a budget with you?
10. HDIF when I/you balance the checkbook?
11. HDIF when I/you have to work overtime?
12. HDIFA how we use our financial resources?



13. WAMF when we make big financial decisions?
14. HDIF when we are faced with too many bills?
15. HDIF when we want something we can't afford?
16. HDIFA how we share our possessions with others?
17. What do I value most about our lifestyle? WAMFAT?
18. What do I value least about our lifestyle? WAMFAT?
19. Our lifestyle is a reflection of our values. HDIFAT?
20. My biggest fear about our financial situation is... HDIFAT?
21. What blocks me from talking about money with you? WAMF?
22. We are different in how we make decisions about money. HDIFAT?

### **God**

1. HDIF knowing God loves me?
2. What is my image of God? HDIFAT?
3. HDIFA praying together?
4. What do I expect of God?
5. The personality style I use with God is HDIFAT?
6. HDIFA living God's Desire for us?
7. HDIFA praying with our children?
8. HDIFA my spirituality? Or HDIFA my relationship with God?
9. HDIFA our spirituality ? Or HDIFA our relationship with God?
10. HDIFA seeing God in you (myself, our children, others)?

### **Death**

1. HDIF my death?
2. HDIFA your death?
3. HDIFA life after death?
4. HDIFA the death of my parents?
5. If one of our children died how would I feel?
6. Death frightens me (or not)? WAMFAT?
7. WAMFA being separated from you through death?
8. WAMFA living the rest of my life without you?
9. What I want you to remember most about me is.... HDIFAT?
10. Living today knowing we are not guaranteed tomorrow I feel?

### **Children**

1. HDIFA our children's needs?
2. HDIFA your tenderness with our children?
3. HDIF when I (you) discipline our children?

4. What are my hopes and dreams for our children? WAMFAMA?
5. HDIF when our children misbehave in public?
6. Seeing our children as gifts from God. WAMFAT?
7. Our children affect our relationship? WAMFAT?
8. HDIF when we leave our children for a few days?
9. HDIFA my role as mothers? Or HDIFA my role as father?
10. HDIF when I (you) criticize how (you) discipline our children?

### **Family**

1. HDIFA my family (parents & siblings)?
2. HDIFA your parents & siblings?
3. What are my expectations of my (your) family? WAMYITA?
4. What do I think my (your) family's expectations are of us? WAMFITA?
5. HDIFA your (my) relationship with my family?
6. HDIFA my (your) relationship with your family?
7. HDIFA sharing our lifestyle with our families?
8. HDIF when my (your) family makes demands on us?
9. We are blessed by the love of our families? HDIFAT?
10. HDIF when our families criticize our lifestyle and our involvements?

**WAMFA (T)** - What are my feelings about (that)?

**HDIFA (T)** - How do I feel about (that)?

**WAMFAMA** - What are my feelings about my answer?

**HDIFSTWY** - How do I feel sharing this with you?

**WAMFITA** - What are my feelings in this area?