



**INTERNATIONAL CATHOLIC ENGAGED ENCOUNTER  
ENCUENTRO CATÓLICO DE NOVIOS INTERNACIONAL  
EXECUTIVE COORDINATING TEAM**



June 2010

Dear Members of the United States Catholic Engaged Encounter Family,

On behalf of all the communities of International CEE around the world, we send greetings and warm wishes for continued success and blessings in our ministry. We hope Easter brought you joyous blessings and a chance for renewal in your commitment to our ministry as well as to your family and church. We are looking forward to seeing you again in Seattle or to meeting you for the first time there. Please be on the lookout for ICEE representatives from around the world who will be attending the 2010 ICEE Executive Committee meeting nearby and, hopefully, many will stay for the convention.

We thank you for your continued prayers for ICEE and ask that you continue to pray the Friday Prayer on behalf of CEE in the US as well as all over the world.

We would like to present the following thoughts to you as your community considers your 2010 donation to ICEE in support of the work we are doing all over the world in much the same fashion as you are doing there in your diocese.

With your help, we continue to have success in our two newest countries - Cuba and Kenya. Most of the Dioceses in Cuba now have CEE programs up and running and are actively presenting weekends. Also, through your generosity, and the generosity of other countries and regions, Kenya has a trained team who are presenting CEE weekends there.

We continue to have success in our existing twelve regions - Canada, Mexico, Central America & Spanish Caribbean, English Caribbean, South America North, South America South, India, Oceania (Australia & New Zealand), Spain and East Asia. Many continue to experience the ups and downs of CEE we are all familiar with. In most communities, the prevalent issues are recruiting and finances.

In October 2009, thanks in part to your generosity from the previous year; we were able to host our triennial ICEE Board meeting in Cuernavaca, Mexico. Because of distance and travel expenses, only the Executive Committee meets once each year; the full ICEE board, consisting of the Executive Committee and all Regional Coordinating teams, meets only once every three years. Because we were able to provide partial travel assistance to the regional coordinating teams – and some in poorer areas required greater assistance – we were blessed to, for the first time as far as we know, have the entire board present for our meeting. It was a blessed and rare opportunity to be able to work on important issues and grow as an international community. In addition to the Executive committee and the Board, we had guests in attendance from Argentina and Ecuador who wanted to find out more about the value of our international meetings and seek guidance in various administrative and weekend related issues. All told, there were teams or priests from Argentina, Canada, Columbia, The Dominican Republic, Ecuador, India, Jamaica, Mexico, New Zealand, Paraguay, Singapore, South Africa, Spain, Trinidad and the USA. Words cannot describe the love and presence of our Lord as we all worked diligently to cover all the important topics in the short five days we had to work with. We truly wish every member of CEE could have been there for even a small part of that gathering. The benefit to all in attendance was priceless. This is something we all will carry with us for the rest of our lives.

We hope that this International Update helps you to continue to appreciate the value of your community's contribution to the ICEE family and to the needs that continue. Below our signature, we have included information on how the money donated to ICEE is spent. We still have a lot to accomplish, many miles to travel and many hours of gruelling work to keep our International Ministry growing and moving in the right direction. The ICEE family deeply appreciates the financial and material support of all the communities of the United States. We are very excited about the US Outline Revision Committee and we look forward to the committee's work to improve the CEE weekend. In many ways CEE in the US provides the strong foundation on which other regions build. The world looks on you with awe and respect and deeply appreciates your generosity – without which CEE in many countries would not exist today. Additionally, we the Executive Coordinators, appreciate the generosity which has allowed us to minister to those communities in need, foster a worldwide family of CEE, touch and inspire our far flung leaders and, in general, minister to the ministers.

May God continue to bless your communities and our ministry to the engaged couples. Please pray for the continued success of International Catholic Engaged Encounter and send your donations to ICEE through your District Finance Team. Know that you in the US are always in our thoughts and prayers.

United in Christ, whom we strive to serve –

**Stephen & Claudia Schulz, Fr. Terence Runstedler**  
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Expenses for the 2009 ICEE Board meeting in Cuernavaca, Mexico totalled \$33,084.80. Included in this amount is travel expenses for the Executive Committee Members (four couples and four priests), who are fully covered for travel & meeting expenses, which totalled \$11,331.12. Travel assistance is offered to Regional Coordinators (board members) based on availability of funds. This assistance, as well as general meeting expenses, totalled \$21,753.68. Although this was an expensive meeting, it is hard to describe the value of getting representatives from every one of our 12 regions in attendance. Additionally, coordinators from several South American countries were there at their own expense as guests. There was the extra value of exposure of ICEE in Mexico – our second largest region in terms of teams and weekends. For most regions, this is the Regional Coordinators only opportunity every three years, to be enriched, supported and given the chance to share ideas with other leaders in their position.

Our other use of funds is for expansion expenses.

Expansion Expenses fall into three categories:

- (a) Expansion into new areas where EE does not exist
- (b) Revitalizing communities which may have grown dormant
- (c) Support for communities which may not be self sufficient

**At the 2009 meeting, the Executive Committee entertained requests for needed funds as follows:**

English Speaking Caribbean	- Jamaica (New community)	\$2,000.00
English Speaking Caribbean	- St Lucia (New community) prev. approved not used)	\$1,000.00
Spanish Speaking Caribbean	- Cuba (Not self sufficient) (weekend expenses)	\$5,500.00
Europe	(Revitalizing communities)	\$2,100.00
South America North	- Ecuador (Not self sufficient)	\$2,000.00
South America South	- Argentina (Not self sufficient)	\$2,200.00
Southern Africa	- Kenya (SA team to visit Kenya Bishop)	\$2,500.00
<b>Total Amount requested</b>		<b>\$17,300.00</b>

**The following requests were approved:**

English Speaking Caribbean	- St Lucia	\$1,000.00
English Speaking Caribbean	Jamaica	\$1,000.00
Europe		\$1,000.00
South America North	- Ecuador	\$1,000.00
South America South	- Argentina	\$1,100.00
Spanish Speaking Caribbean	- Cuba	\$2,000.00
<b>Total approved</b>		<b>\$7,000.00</b>

As you can see, much more funding is requested than we can support.

This past year, we felt that it was very important to get all twelve Regional Teams together with the Executive Committee to share thoughts and ideas and cover the important business – including the selection of leadership for the 2010-2012 term. Thanks to the generosity of all regions – especially the USA – this gathering of all regions was possible for the first time in ICEE history.

At that meeting, we truly felt Unity in the international family as well as God's presence working through us all.