



# Catholic Engaged Encounter

## United States National Executive Team

October 2010

Dear National Family,

As we began our journey in leadership in Catholic Engaged Encounter, we were told as Unit Coordinators about the chartering of a new Outline Revision Committee (ORC). We *thought we understood* exactly what that charter and the endeavor to review, revise and renew our national outline meant. That was in 2005 – five years ago! Believe us when we say now that we had NO idea what that endeavor would entail or what the charter would mean!

The work of the Holy Spirit is so evident as we consider that a junior couple, senior couple and priest from every district came together and spent years of their time, efforts and talents to create for us an outline that not only holds true to the core ideals and beliefs that we in Catholic Engaged Encounter hold so dear, but also meets the needs and learning styles of this new generation and generations to come. This does not mean that this document is stagnant! Just like the outline we have worked with for 35 years has been revisited and parts have been updated from time to time, we anticipate that this document will in future years also. The ORC is a standing committee which will continue to work on supporting documents and revising talks as needed.

Most of us would agree that change is challenging. However, we in Catholic Engaged Encounter live with the motto that reevaluation is not only important, but critically necessary. Reevaluation often includes change. The work of the ORC will impel us all to reevaluate our talks, and give us the opportunity to renew them with fresh ideas and stories that our lives have to offer. We are a passionate people! We believe in those core values of Sacrament, Communication, Values, Intimacy and Family. We gather together this weekend to “Reboot” not only our own vocation and sacraments, but to renew friendships and relationships that for some span across years and years of dedicated ministry through CEE. While the engaged couples who attend our weekends experience life through modern technological wonders, many have never experienced a marriage relationship that has lasted for decades. We, through our ministry within Catholic Engaged Encounter, provide for the engaged a view of the sacrament of marriage that they cannot receive anywhere else.

We are so proud of the efforts and work of the members of the ORC, past and present. We marvel at the accomplishment they have achieved in this new outline. We are profoundly grateful to Mike and Debbie Lafferty and Fr. Frank Pugliese for their leadership and guidance of the ORC over the past three years. We are indebted to those who had the vision five years ago to even begin such a monumental task, including Mike

and Phyllis Strain and Fr. John Crossin the first ORC chair team, and that National Board. We are grateful to John and Mary Saxman and Fr. Bill Hammelman and their National Board for picking up the gauntlet and carrying the torch for two and a half years. We are honored and blessed to have worked with a National Board over the last two years who has also spent countless hours in conjunction with the ORC to bring this new outline to you. The roll-out of this new outline is a beginning and a process. Think about how it must have been 35 years ago when the couples began CEE across the country. We pray that you will receive it with an open heart and mind, “not comparing it with any other weekend you may have experienced.”

In loving and prayerful support,

*Rick and Patty Ruppert*

*Fr. Joe Mozer*

Your National Executive Team