



Bukas-Loob sa Diyos

(OPEN TO THE SPIRIT OF GOD)

A Covenant Community / Archdiocese of Newark

Marriage Encounter Weekend

Husband's Photo

Wife's Photo

COUPLE INFORMATION SHEET

(Please Print Clearly)

Part I - Basic Information

Husband's Last Name	Husband's First Name	Nickname	D O B	
Wife's Last Name	Wife's First Name	Nickname	D O B	
Address		City	State	Zip Code
Home Phone	E-Mail Address	Husband's Cell	Wife's Cell	
Status: <input type="checkbox"/> Married <input type="checkbox"/> Widowed	Date of Marriage	Is the copy of Catholic Marriage Certificate submitted? <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO		
Current Parish, City	Parish Priest	Diocese (i.e. Newark, Trenton, Brooklyn, etc)		
BLD Sponsor's Name		Sponsor's Phone No	Sponsor's BLD Affiliation	

Part II - Additional Information

Husband's Educational Attainment	Wife's Educational Attainment	Husband's Occupation	Wife's Occupation
Husband's Employer	Employer's Address (City, State)	Wife's Employer	Employer's Address (City, State)

Part III - Children's Information

Child's Name	M / F	DOB

The total cost of the weekend is \$250.00 per couple to cover materials, food and lodging. A \$120 subsidy from BLD is available at this time, bringing the cost down to **\$130.00** per couple. You may pay a \$25 deposit with your application and the balance is due anytime on or before the weekend. Please make your check payable to BLD Newark and give it to your sponsor.

Husband's Signature

Date

Wife's Signature

Date

Are you or your spouse member of any Religious or Civic Organization? YES NO

If Yes, name of Org:

If you have any questions, please e-mail us at MLA@BLDNewark.com

What is God's plan in our married life?



*An Invitation to a
Marriage Encounter
Weekend*

May 18 - 20, 2018
Hotel Executive Suites
30 Minue Street
Carteret, NJ 07008

MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER

The Marriage Encounter presented by the Bukas Loob sa Diyos (BLD) is open to couples married sacramentally in the Catholic Church. The Marriage Encounter is an invaluable experience of renewing our marriage relationship. It enriches the process of communication between husband and wife. It guarantees to make 'good' marriages 'better' and 'not-so-good' marriages 'good'! It is presented in a full weekend detached from the usual everyday distractions.

An 'Ecclesial Team' trained and prepared for ministering the Encounter process conducts the weekend: A Spiritual Director (Priest) and two couples who manage together its instructional and experiential components. Most, if not all, who have experienced the Encounter have fully rediscovered their marriage relationships, strengthened the conjugal and family life, and become fully aware of the living presence of God in their marriage and family life.

WHAT IS MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER?

The Marriage Encounter Weekend is a positive and personal experience for a couple, which offers them the ability to communicate lovingly, that can be use for the rest of their lives. It is an opportunity to look deeply in their relationship with one another and with God. It is also a time to share with your spouse your feelings, hopes, fears, joys and frustrations in a private manner.

Marriage Encounter is not a retreat, nor it is a marriage clinic or sensitivity course. It is not a time to look at the past, but rather to look at your future together. The weekend is a positive, simple, common sense experience between husband and wife, that revitalizes marriage by helping couples to see what their relationship could and should be.

WHAT IS MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER FOR?

The Marriage Encounter is for any couple who wants to enrich their relationship. The weekend is designed to expand and deepen the joys a couple share together, whether they have been married for a short time, or for so many years.

The ME is also for priests and religious who wants to revitalize their relationship with the people of God and develop an even deeper appreciation for their own vocation.

WHAT HAPPENS AT MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER?

An atmosphere is created on the weekend in which the couple can concentrate exclusively on one another. A series of talks are given by a team of trained couple and a priest. Each talk gives a husband a wife an opportunity to look at themselves as individuals, and to look at their relationship with each other, with God and with others. The ME starts with the love you have for your spouse, and helps you build, expand and deepen that relationship. The weekend shows you the way to do this and provides you with the means - the rest is up to you! The only skill one must have to make a Marriage Encounter is the talent to love and a desire to make a good marriage even better.

DOES THE WEEKEND RESPECT THE COUPLE'S PRIVACY?

Absolutely! The ME emphasizes communications between husband and wife through a weekend experience, which is free of the everyday distractions and tensions. You focus on your spouse to such extent that you are hardly aware of the other couples who are at the ME. The presentations are given to the group as a whole. After each presentation, the husband and wife have time in the privacy of their room for their own personal sharing, using the communication skills they learned that weekend. There is no group discussion.

HOW DOES A MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER ENHANCE A MARRIAGE?

The fundamental difference between marriages that are good, average or poor, is the level of communication between spouses. In all marriages, there are times when we take each other and our relationship for granted. The ME presents each couple with opportunity to get off the 'Modern World Treadmill', to stop and to take a fresh look at the 'two of us, at our

marriage and in our priorities'. We learn a communication skill which shows and encourages us to explore the important areas of our life together in a spirit of love and understanding. The Weekend offers every couple the insights, the tools and the confidence to enrich their marriage and to strengthen their love for one another. For many couples, their Weekend' is one of the most significant experiences of their lives!

THE BLD'S RESPONSE TO RELUCTANT COUPLE'S AND/OR SPOUSES

Objection: "We already have a good marriage."

Response: The difference between a 'good' marriage and a BEAUTIFUL marriage is the ME experience. Even if many difficult marriages are made right in the ME, many more couples with already good marriages have received continued blessings after the Weekend.

Objection: "We already have good communication between us."

Response: Please take a closer look. Can you truly communicate with each about your intimate feelings, aspirations, fears, anxieties? Do you have oneness and accord in your major decisions?

Objection: "We're too busy. We don't have time."

Response: Isn't a weekend a small price to pay for the joy, the peace, the blessings and the power of a lifetime made fuller by the ME? All you have to do is give one weekend to each other.

Objection: "We're too young."

Response: That's wonderful! Wouldn't you want to prevent growing old too fast, growing old alone? Wouldn't you want to be trained in living fully with each other as early as possible?

Objection: "We're too old."

Response: Then, you can be young again! Don't you agree there's always something new in you? Isn't there something you may have missed because you were not always aware of what was really in your spouse's mind and heart? Wouldn't you want a fresh look at each other?

Objection: "I don't feel at ease in spiritual retreats."

Response: That's how many of us felt before (and even during) our Encounter Weekend. But when we saw and met others like us who had successfully coped with that initial "uneasiness", we soon felt very much at home with the "spirituality" of the encounter. And later, we wanted more of it.