

Cardinal praises Engaged Encounter's work

By Charlie Wieser
Catholic News Service

OMAHA, Neb. — Married couples involved in the Catholic Engaged Encounter movement deserve praise for their "dedicated work for the dignity of love and marriage," said Cardinal Alfonso Lopez Trujillo.

Cardinal Lopez Trujillo, president of the Vatican's Pontifical Council for the Family, took part in the Catholic Engaged Encounter national convention in Omaha in October, 1991. The convention drew more than 600 people from the United States and 14 other countries.

The Colombian cardinal said Pope John Paul II "is very appreciative of the service given by married couples who are helping to prepare couples for the sacrament of matrimony."

"It's wonderful how these married couples share their experiences with engaged couples," he said. "Their example of love and fidelity is important to see for people preparing for marriage."

Cardinal Lopez Trujillo presented the convention with a letter from Cardinal Angelo Sodano, Vatican secretary of state, in which the pope encouraged Engaged Encounter members "to share joyfully with others the



fruits of God's grace in their lives" in order to "lead young people to appreciate ever more fully the lofty place of marriage and the family in God's plan for the salvation of mankind."

At a Mass opening the second day of the convention, banners from the Engaged Encounter communities were displayed. One of the banners proclaimed: "A wedding is a day ... A marriage is a lifetime."

Omaha Archbishop Daniel E. Sheehan, principal celebrant of the Mass,

discussed how many married couples are finding a lifetime commitment difficult in today's world, with nearly half of the marriages in this country ending in divorce.

"The witness you give to engaged couples is very important," the archbishop said. "The kind of reality you can present helps these couples to realistically look at marriage."

James and Evelyn Whitehead gave the convention's keynote talk on "Celebrating a Christian Sense of Sexuality."

James Whitehead, a pastoral theologian and historian of religion, said people should view "sexuality as a gift of creation" and should be grateful for that gift.

"In regard to sexuality, we should be grateful for these stirrings in our

bodies," he said. "What if they are echoes of our Creator?"

Evelyn Whitehead said people must realize that their sensuality involves more than sex.

"It's all our longings to make contact with people," she said. "We can be moved by such things as music and nature's beauty. Our bodies nourish our spirit through our sensuality."

"A preoccupation with genital pleasure in our country" has confused many people when it comes to appreciating the gift of sex, Evelyn Whitehead said.

Among the more than 300 couples at the convention were Donald and Eunice Prideaux of St. Rose of Lima Parish in Simi Valley, Calif. The Prideauxs, who celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary Jan. 1, 1992, have six children, 13 grandchildren and five great-grandchildren and have been involved in Engaged Encounter about four years.

"We feel we can share our experiences from our first year of marriage all the way through to our 50th year," Eunice Prideaux said. "Helping these young couples keeps us young and helps our marriage to grow even stronger."

One of the keys to a successful marriage, she said, is communication. "Young couples need to learn the importance of communication because good communication can avoid a lot of misunderstandings," she said.

Edward and Dorothy Pisarski of Staten Island, said their first contact with Engaged Encounter was eight years ago prior to their marriage.

"After that experience, we decided it was something we wanted to do after we were married," Pisarski said.

In dealing with young couples, he said, "We've found many of them don't approach marriage seriously or with any thought. Few of them take time to look beyond the wedding day."

Dorothy Pisarski said these couples are "cheating themselves by not examining why they are getting married and who they are."

Attending the convention were couples from Australia, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, India, Ireland, Mexico, South Africa, Trinidad, Uruguay and Yugoslavia.

Marriage Encounter planned for weekends throughout '92

Marriage Encounter weekends have been scheduled for the following dates in the Rochester diocese: March 13-15; April 10-12; May 15-17; June 19-21; Aug. 7-9; Sept. 25-27; Oct. 16-19; Nov. 13-15; and Dec. 4-6.

The weekend is designed to help married couples "focus on their love for each other and renew their Sacrament of Matrimony," according to a press release from Worldwide Marriage Encounter.

Call 716/288-4713 for information.

DANDREA'S

RESTAURANT & PARTY HOUSE

At Dandrea's your party will be handled with the personalized attention that you deserve. We pride ourselves on our reputation of high-quality food and a friendly, well-trained staff. Our main objective is to help to make your special occasion a memorable one.

Special Wedding Packages Starting at \$9.95
Three Banquet Rooms Available

Your hosts: The Dandrea Family

1713 LYELL AVENUE
ROCHESTER, NEW YORK 14606
(716) 254-0028

Beautiful Weddings begin at



DAN'S

CRAFTS & THINGS

Hand-Crafted Silk Flowers
only your fiance is as unique.
only your love is as everlasting.

Wedding Accessories • Ribbons and Lace
Headpieces • Party Favor Supplies • Veiling
Cake Tops • "How To" Books and Videos

PHONE OUR BRIDAL CONSULTANT
FOR A FREE APPOINTMENT

WE SPECIALIZE IN HELPING YOU

352 EMPIRE BLVD.
ROCHESTER, NY 14609
Between 590 North and Culver Road
716-482-7850 • 716-654-8388

STORE HOURS
MON., WED., FRI. 10:00 - 5:30
TUES. and THURS. 10:00 - 8:00
SATURDAY 10:00 - 5:00
SUNDAY 1:00 - 4:00

start your own unique tradition



choose from our
wide collection of
handcrafted table
settings & serving
pieces
elegant and
affordable
bridal and gift
registries

porcelain by eve lurie



on canal walk in historic Bushnell's Basin
264-0770