



July 1, 2010  
Thursday

My Dear Brothers in Christ,

Peace be with you! At the conclusion of the Year for the Priest, it is apropos to reflect on the reality that God has called all the faithful in Baptism to fidelity and truthfulness. It is for this reason that I am writing this letter in support of the Catholic Engaged Encounter movement.

In our Holy Father's homily at the Pontifical Shrine of Our Lady of Pompeii in 2008, Pope Benedict XVI speaks of the transforming power of love. He says, "Yes, God's love has this power: to renew all things, starting from the human heart which is His masterpiece and in which the Holy Spirit best brings about His transforming action [in the world]." Going on to reflect on the Wedding Feast at Cana, the Holy Father shows how Christ, the one who made wine from water, is the "new wine." This wine brings about true joy. This joy, given to the world at the Wedding Feast in Cana, is reflected in married life: a sign of Christ' love for His Church and her faithfulness to Him.

The Catholic Engaged Encounter helps men and women preparing for marriage to become wine for the world reflecting this transforming love of Christ our Lord. Couples who have prayerfully participated in this program speak of it favorably. It assists them in receiving the sacrament of marriage with hearts open to the grace which Christ imports. By bringing these men and women away from the world for a weekend, these couples are then able to hear the movements of the heart. Through the help and guidance of couples already married, participants hear the practical living out and the personal struggle which come in every marriage but leads to the glory of reflecting Christ's love and fidelity for His Bride the Church. The Catholic Engaged Encounter weekend provides the opportunity for the participation in the Sacraments especially Eucharist and Penance. It proclaims the truths of the Church's moral teachings, while giving real examples of couples who are living out these principles in their marriages.

It is my desire to endorse this movement as one which does help men and women prepare for the Sacrament of Marriage. May Mary, Mother of our Lord, guide us all, married and unmarried, to her Son, who brings us true joy. With prayers for you and your vocations, I remain

Faithfully yours in our Lord,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Glen John Provost". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

✠Glen John Provost  
Bishop of Lake Charles