



## DIOCESE OF PENSACOLA-TALLAHASSEE

OFFICE OF BISHOP

July 28, 2009

Steven and Claudia Schulz  
Rev Terence Runstedler  
Executive Coordinators  
International Catholic Engaged Encounter  
4609 Ithica St.  
Metairie, LA 70006

Dear Steven, Claudia and Fr. Terence,

Thank you for the opportunity to share my considered opinion of Catholic Engaged Encounter (CEE). This program has been helping our priests prepare couples for their sacrament of marriage in the Diocese of Pensacola-Tallahassee, FL for almost 20 years.

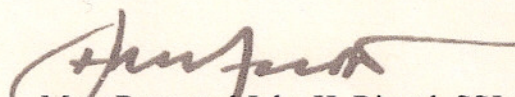
The CEE team normally consists of two couples and a priest with well prepared, consistent, and balanced presentations developed from a nationally prepared outline in use throughout the world, and yet easily adaptable to local diocesan guidelines. The team shares from their experiences on various topics such as: individual and couple strengths, weaknesses, goals, expectations, decision making, and attitudes concerning family life, children, sexuality, finances, and religion.

The Engaged Encounter weekend utilizes a dynamic process based on listening, writing, and dialogue. Through this series of writing and sharing exercises, couples are challenged to explore their attitudes in a deeper, more honest way. The team's presentations while highlighting the sacramentality and theology of a Catholic marriage provide the engaged couples an opportunity to examine and deepen their relationship with each other and God. Weekend reflection letters written by attendees consistently express gratitude for their being made aware of the importance of a Christ centered marriage.

I whole-heartedly endorse Catholic Engaged Encounter as the paramount program to enhance holy, Catholic, Christ centered marriages resulting in strong leavening families as we strive to attain our goal of becoming a Marriage Building Church.

With kindest personal regards, I am

Sincerely yours in the Lord,



Most Reverend John H. Ricard, SSJ  
Bishop of Pensacola-Tallahassee