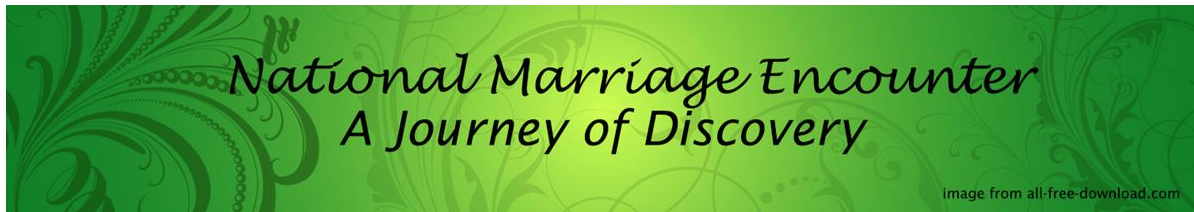


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Greetings from Your Executive Team



Hello Friends!

Awaken to Spring

And Spring arose on the garden fair,
Like the Spirit of Love felt everywhere;
And each flower and herb on Earth's dark breast
Rose from the dreams of its wintry rest.

- By Percy Bysshe Shelley

Spring has arrived in Northern California! We just got back from a road trip thru Oregon to see dear friends, and the blooming trees, new baby lambs and cows, and green and flowered hills were abundant

The "Spirit of Love" is in us as we look forward to hearing about the marriage events in your region, or the reunion/love circle events you host!

Another exciting item we are working on is to include a "*National Marriage Encounter Community Hour of Prayer*" into our existing Prayer Network hosted by the Vander Heydens.

We picked a time and day of the week to be the "National Marriage Encounter Community Hour of Prayer." You are encouraged, for as short or long a time as you are able, to join in the community prayer time, using your local time zone, to help lift up marriages around the world.

Look for more information about this on the sidebar of this newsletter. If you'd like to be included in the Prayer Network, please contact **Gene and Mike Vander Heyden**.

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Faith Community Worship Leaders

Dr. Gary Chapman
Baptist Church

Bishop Robert Morneau
Roman Catholic Episcopal
Moderator

Mindful Marriage Moments



Think about the music of
spring as the birds

We are looking forward to being in Jefferson City this July to see you all again at the **NME Conference!**

Please contact us if you need anything. We are here for YOU!

Hugs,
Mike and Joni

Friday Night Live & Saturday Night Special – That's Entertainment!!

The Friday night entertainment at the 2015 NME Conference will be FABULOUS – like nothing you've ever seen before. Because the main attraction is YOU: It's an NME Talent Show!

So, brush off your costume, tune up your instrument, or get out your old bag of tricks. Find a friend to partner with or go solo. We can't wait to see your talent. Remember this is a family event and you know that when we get together, it is all about **living, loving,** and **laughing!**



But wait! That's not all! There's more! Even if you don't have a talent you want to showcase on stage, you can still dress up. For the Saturday night dance, dress up as a famous couple. What do we mean by "famous couple"? Well, that is for you to decide. It could be Romeo & Juliet, Bogie & Bacall, Mickey & Minnie... or it could be Peanut Butter & Jelly, Macaroni & Cheese, Yin & Yang...use your imagination. We are so excited to see what you come up with that we plan to roll out the red carpet for you!

Online Conference Registration Option

If you plan to register for the conference by credit card, go directly to the donation page on National Marriage Encounter's **website**. It's quick, easy, and secure and best of all, your payment appears overnight in the NME bank account. Then scan your form and send the scanned copy **by email**.



migrate north. Think about the songs you heard, or heard about, on your Marriage Encounter weekend or event.

What song best describes your relationship with your spouse? Or what song would you dedicate to your spouse?

Dr. Gary Chapman is one of NME's Faith Community Leaders and a strong proponent of Marriage Encounter. These questions come from his Facebook page dated March 17, 2015.



Prayer Network

To submit your name to be on the list to pray, or to make a prayer request, send an email to: Mike and Gene Vander Heyden mikengene@gmail.com. Put Prayer Network in the email subject line.

NME Community Hour of Prayer

Each Wednesday morning beginning March 25th, at 7 a.m. (in your local time zone), will be the "National Marriage Encounter Community Hour of Prayer." You are encouraged, for as short or long a time as you are able, to join in this community time of

If you can't scan it, or prefer to send it by postal mail, that is fine also. Just follow the directions on the form. Here is a [link to the registration form](#) if you need one.

Affiliate of the Month: NME of North Texas



North Texas Marriage Encounter held our annual Valentine's weekend for 2015 at the Nazareth Retreat Center in Grand Prairie, Texas on the weekend of February 14-15. Although we only had 5 couples attending, we are focusing more on the quality than the quantity of the weekend. And the quality of everything was superb--from the facility and the Sisters of the Holy Family, to the great team and volunteers, to the wonderful attending couples, and even the weather. We definitely felt God's hand upon us as we struggled with working a morning Mass time into the schedule, finalizing a closing ceremony (without clergy), and managing all the logistics of taking our "show on the road" by transferring to and setting up weekend and kitchen supplies in a new facility. We were blessed to have team couples who traveled as much as 320 miles from Midland Texas to help out during the weekend. We even had one attending couple who made our Marriage Encounter a part of their driving trip from Iowa through Texas.

Last year, when we got the word that our long-time weekend home and storage area, the Catholic Renewal Center of Fort Worth, would be closing, we were inspired to retool and revamp many of our comfortable ways of presenting M.E. weekends. We decided to do more commuter weekends, like the one we did the summer of 2013 at St. Vincent de Paul in Arlington.

This year, with some fantastic cooperation from the staff at St Andrew's church in Fort Worth, we did our second commuter weekend in July of 2014. We had 11 attending couples and got some very positive feedback on the evaluations. The rave reviews have been picked up by St. Michael's church in Bedford Texas, and we have now been invited by them to do a commuter weekend this summer. So we continue praying that the future of NMENT is secure with both the promise of a beautiful new facility to hold our overnight weekends and the popularity of the commuter weekends as well.

prayer, to lift up
marriages around our
world.

*"And whatever you ask in
prayer, you will receive,
if you have faith."*
Matthew 21:22

Nazareth Retreat Center website is www.nazarethretreats.org

Upcoming Affiliate Weekends and Events

March:

March 27-29, 2015 - Central Coast CA

April:

April 11-12, 2015 - Hamilton, Ontario CAN

April 11-12, 2015 - Twin Cities MN

April 17-19, 2015 - Green Bay WI

April 22, 28, May 5, 12 - Central Iowa

May:

May 2-3, 2015 - Central Ohio

May 15-16, 2015 - Central Ohio

May 15-17, 2015 - Central Coast, CA

May 16, 2015 - Twin Cities (EE)

May 16-17, 2015 - Green Bay, WI

June:

June 13-14, 2015- Twin Cities

To see a full calendar of weekend/events, go to **Weekends 2015 on
the NME website.**



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