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Please submit the following:
Completed Couple Info Sheet (Insert)
Copy of Church Marriage Certificate
Registration Fee,
check payable to BLD Camden

Mail to:
BLD Camden
PO Box 725 Cherry Hill, NJ 08003
Or
return to the person who invited you.



BUKAS LOOB SA DIYOS

Open in the Spirit To God

Catholic Charismatic Covenant
Community Diocese of Camden

Marriage Encounter Weekend

NOVEMBER 8-10, 2024



*Franciscan Missionary Sisters
of the Infant Jesus*

1215 Kresson Rd, Cherry Hill, NJ 08003

www.bldcamden.org

Process and Contents

There is a "rhythm" in the encounter process

- the presentation of a truth;
- the personal reflection; and
- the conjugal dialogue
- A truth is drawn from scripture or from the church teaching and made alive by life experiences of the presenting team. The "encounter truths" build up in four stages:
 - The "I" Stage
 - The "YOU" and "I" (or "WE") stage;
 - The "WE" and "GOD" Stage
 - The "WE," "GOD" and
 - "COMMUNITY" stage
- The "total" truth about ourselves as persons, as spouses, as parents and as members of the church, unfolds as the weekend progresses. After a truth is presented, we are given time for "personal reflection" on these truths. During these reflective times, we learned to commune with the interior life that each of us has.
- The conjugal dialogue is the heart of the encounter process. We express our deep-rooted feelings and responses to our spouse, and listen actively to our spouse's feelings and responses. The dialogue allows us to commune with our spouse and as we probe into the depths of each other in our relationship of consecrated love, we are given the opportunity to finally commune with the spirit of love – the apex of our marriage triangle.
- The content of the encounter is the new covenant – the covenant of love – which is the core of Christian Life. It is in this new covenant which we receive and place as the foundation of our marriage, our family and our community. At the center of the encounter is a profound opening of our spirit to the Being who is Love – GOD. Our process, therefore, is to be "bukas-loob;" Our Content – the One who "fills us" – is "DIYOS" – the person of God.

THE SUBSTANCE OF THE ENCOUNTER

The Encounter presented by the Bukas-Loob sa Diyos 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 "Team Priest" and at least two "Team Couples" who manage together its instructional and experiential component.

Most, if not all, who have received the Encounter experience have fully rediscovered their marriage relationships, strengthened their conjugal and family life and become fully aware of the living presence of God in their marriage and family life. All of us have discovered through the Encounter what Jesus referred to as "pearl of great price".

WHAT IS A MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER WEEKEND?

The Marriage Encounter Weekend is a positive and personal experience for couple, which offers them a technique of loving communication that they can use for the rest of their lives. It is an opportunity to look deeply into their relationship with each other and with God. Also, it is a time to share their feelings, their hopes, fears, joys and frustrations. Marriage Encounter is neither a retreat, nor is it a marriage clinic or sensitivity course. It is not a time to dwell on the past, but a time for the couple to look to their future together. The Weekend is a positive, simple, common-sense experience between husband and wife that revitalizes marriage by helping couples see how their relationship COULD and SHOULD be. It is a Catholic expression open to all happily catholic married couples regardless of race, age, education or financial status.

Marriage Encounter Weekend Our THRESHOLD to the HOUSEHOLD OF GOD

The Marriage Encounter is for any couple who wants to enrich their marriage. The Weekend is designed to expand and deepen the joys a couple share together whether they've been married for a short time or for many years. Marriage Encounter is also for priests and religious who want to revitalize their relationship with the people of God and develop an even deeper appreciation for their own vocation.

WHAT HAPPENS AT A MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER?

During the Marriage Encounter Weekend Seminar, a Presenting Team, consisting of two married couples, and a Priest, give a series of talks that provide the husband and wife an opportunity to look at themselves as individuals, their relationship with each other, with God, and with others.

The Marriage Encounter starts with the love you have for your spouse, and it helps you to build, expand, and deepen that relationship. The Weekend shows you the way to do this, and it provides you with the means. The rest is up to you! The only talent one must have to make the Marriage Encounter experience successful is the talent to love and a desire to make a good marriage even better.

DOES THE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER WEEKEND RESPECT THE COUPLE'S PRIVACY?

Absolutely! Marriage Encounter emphasizes communication between husband and wife that is free of every day distractions and tensions. The couple will concentrate exclusively on one another. The presentations are given to the group as a whole, and after each presentation, the husband and wife have time, in the privacy of their room, for their own personal sharing, using the communication technique they are learning. There is no group discussion.

HOW DOES THE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER ENHANCE A MARRIAGE?

The fundamental difference between marriages that are good, average, or poor is the level of communication between husband and wife. In all marriages, there are times when we take each other and our relationship for granted. The Weekend presents each couple with the opportunity to get off the "Modern World Treadmill", to stop and to take fresh look at the two of us, at our marriage, and at our priorities. We learn a communication technique which allows and encourages us to explore the important areas of our life together in a spirit of love and understanding. The weekend experience 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".



Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things and endures all things." (1 Corinthians 13:7)