

Quarterly

Mount Claret Retreat Center



Engaged Encounter offered at Mt. Claret Marriage preparation retreat provides tools for lasting relationship

By Becky Sanchez

A wedding is a day....a marriage is a lifetime. A loving and true reminder of the commitment made when a couple marries in the Catholic Church. Mt. Claret has been home to the Phoenix Catholic Engaged Encounter of Phoenix programs since 2008

and is a perfect fit for this important marriage preparation event.

Catholic Engaged Encounter of Phoenix, known as CEE, is an offshoot of Worldwide Marriage Encounter which began in Connecticut in the late 1970's. CEE was brought to the Diocese of Phoenix in 1981 and provides stellar marriage preparation to an engaged couple who is preparing for marriage within our Diocese. CEE is approved by the Diocesan Marriage and Respect Life Office and is one of three approved programs under the Covenant of Love program.

Engaged couples, young and old, are impacted by the marriage preparation provided during a CEE weekend. We provide them the tools that provide a solid foundation for a lasting, loving relationship for many years to come. The most challenging task at hand for us is to help these couples understand specifically what their marriage commitment is now, what it will be in the years to come and why getting married in the Catholic Church is so important in today's society. CEE teaches that marriage is a true calling from God to live the Covenant of Love and

this weekend retreat assists couples in understanding this commitment.

John and Lisa Wakefield of Mesa are the Local Diocesan Coordinators for CEE with six other CEE communities across Arizona, West Texas, Utah and New

Coordinators is one of their roles, their first and foremost role is serving as the Retreat Leaders during the engaged encounter weekend which makes it all worth it! Through their unique ministry and in cooperation with the Bishop, they help couples to reflect on the depth of their commitment to each other. During this weekend they also help them to reflect on their relationship with God and God's place in their lives as husband and wife.

John and Lisa were first introduced to Mt. Claret in January of 1994 on their Cursillo. This Cursillo retreat in itself changed their lives and especially their ministry life. When they became the Local Coordinators of CEE, they realized Mt. Claret would be a perfect fit to host the CEE weekend retreats. John has stated that Mt. Claret is the perfect host for a variety of reasons. He states, "The atmosphere at Mt. Claret is somewhat surreal and the grounds are very peaceful and serene. The Mt. Claret staff is friendly and is always sensitive our event needs and willing to work with us. Mt. Claret provides cost effective sleeping accommodations for our

A wedding is a day....



a marriage is a lifetime.

Mexico. The Phoenix Local Community is one of thousands across the world with CEE programs being presented in over 30 countries. John and Lisa say that while being the Diocesan CEE Local

couples; great meeting space and full commercial kitchen access; making it perfect for any weekend retreat. The fact that Mass is celebrated every Sunday is

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also an added benefit for the couples. CEE Phoenix is led by a dedicated group of volunteers who are like-minded Catholic, married couples that value the Sacrament of Matrimony and have the unique opportunity to share their love with others through involvement with CEE. Facilitated by volunteer presenting teams, you and your future spouse will learn valuable communication and conflict resolution skills; explore the role of religion and values in your lives and

I know well the plans I have in mind for you... plans to give you a future full of hope.
Jeremiah 29:11

discuss important topics like children, marriage as a sacrament and the power of commitment. The weekend experience consists of personal presentations, individual reflection and focused discussions with your future spouse. Take time out of your busy lives to focus on your relationship with each other and God and plan to attend CEE Phoenix prior to your marriage.

A recent CEE attendee says of her experience, "We went to Catholic Engaged Encounter this past weekend at it was so amazing! I recommend this retreat to anyone who is getting married, even if you are not Catholic. It's for everyone! My fiancé and I both agree CEE has made us that much closer." For more information about CEE Phoenix, please visit their website at www.ArizonaCEE.org. Remember, A wedding is a day....a marriage is a lifetime.

**Boy Scout project becomes reality
Saints Prayer Garden
Dedicated at Mt. Claret**

Andrew Polowski, a junior at Seton Catholic Preparatory High School in Chandler and member of Troop 565 at St. Timothy Catholic Church in Mesa, recently dedicated his Eagle project at Mt. Claret Retreat Center in Phoenix. Andrew turned a cactus garden on the west side of the property into a Saints Prayer Garden.

Fr. Will Schmid, Seton Catholic Chaplain and Theology teacher, blessed the garden and then processed with the crowd through the garden to bless the 14 statues after scouts read brief histories of each saint. Andrew envisions the garden as a "quiet place for people to reflect on God and His role in their lives and inspire people to live holy lives."



Andrew selected Mt. Claret Retreat Center, nestled in the foothills of Camelback Mountain, as the location for his Eagle Scout service project after volunteering there with the diocesan Venturing Crew. He met with Mr. Tom McGuire, Associate Director of Mt. Claret in August 2010 and they discussed opportunities for a project.

Andrew quickly got to work planning and over several months, bases to support the statues were built, statues were purchased and plaques were placed on the bases to identify each saint. Several old statues found on the premises were repainted, benches purchased and gardening completed. In addition, six picnic tables on the property were rebuilt and a dozen others repainted.

Scouts and leaders from the troop, members of the Diocese of Phoenix Catholic Committee on Scouting, and family members were instrumental in performing the work. Mark Stoll, Jr., of Stoll Masonry donated masonry supplies and provided guidance in building the bases and Michael Espinoza and crew from the Diocesan Catholic Cemeteries office, installed the statues and plaques. Donations from several parishes, Knights of Columbus councils and others helped to fund the project.



Pictured above: Mt. Claret Director Tom McGuire pictured with Eagle Scout and project coordinator Andrew Polowski. This photo: Fr. Will Schmid and Scouts from Troop 565 blessing the 14 statues that now enhance the cactus garden.

**Fundraising Update
New Carpet and Painting
Completed in Conf. Center**

Thanks to your wonderful support and generosity over the past year, we have been able to repaint and put down new carpet and tile in our 5000 square foot conference center. The Conference center is a heavily used facility for a variety of groups and activities. The carpet and paint that was there is from the original construction almost 17 years ago!

Thank you and God Bless you for your support!

Special thanks to our donors who have made special contributions to Mt. Claret over the past year. We would like to thank all of you who so lovingly support Mt. Claret with your gifts. Your generosity enables us to continue to make available this beautiful and Holy place to our Diocesan organizations, parishes, schools youth groups, and other ministry's that come here in prayer and renewal.

\$5000 & over

- Anonymous
- Mr. Roland Nehring
- Mr. & Mrs. John Powers
- Mr. & (Mrs.) Stephen Szalay

- Mr. & Mrs. George Chasse
- Mr. & Mrs. Dean Dwyer
- Mr. & Mrs. Francis Palamara
- Rev. Matt Feit
- Mr. & Mrs. Robert Hawley
- Mr. & Mrs. Stephen Maggio
- Mr. & Mrs. Robert Marusiak
- Mr. & Mrs. Stephen Chalmers

- Dr. & Mrs. Jack Hubbard
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- Mr. & Mrs. Andre Niebling
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- Mrs. Aleta Speier
- Mr. & Mrs. Carl Thomas
- Mr. & Mrs. Mark Travis

\$1000 - \$4999

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- Mr. & Mrs. Charles Pulido
- Mr. & Mrs. Gerard Severson
- Mr. & Mrs. Seth Chalmers
- Mr. & Mrs. James Edwards

\$100 - \$499

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- Mr. & Mrs. Craig Steblay
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- Mr. & Mrs. George Schein
- Mr. & Mrs. Robert Ramirez
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- Mr. & Mrs. Owen Cotton
- Mr. & Mrs. John Fees
- Mrs. Margaret Ziernicki

\$500 - \$999

- Mr. & Mrs. Don LoPiccolo
- Mr. & Mrs. Jim Grenier
- Mr. & Mrs. Gary Long
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- Mrs. Maria Jesus Bailon
- Mr. & Mrs. Lou Grubb
- Mr. & Mrs. Richard Bowers
- Mr. & Mrs. John Auther
- Mr. & Mrs. Dan Yahraus
- Mr. & Mrs. John Mulligan
- Dr. & Mrs. Jack Wilson
- Mr. & Mrs. Paul Borgesen
- Mr. & Mrs. Drew Brown

We sincerely apologize if we have inadvertently omitted anyone from this list. Please contact Tom McGuire at 602-840-5066 ext 20 if this is the case.



EVENING UNDER THE STARS
to be held
October 1, 2011

This year's annual dinner auction at Mt. Claret has a special significance as we are celebrating Monsignor John McMahon's 90th birthday! "Monsignor McMahon's Birthday Celebration "A Legacy - 90 Years in the Making. Msgr McMahan's impact on Mt. Claret is astonishing! From his efforts with the Diocese of Phoenix in 1988 to purchase Mt. Claret to his vision, and oversight of the remodel and new construction of the facility that we have today. Mt. Claret is a unique oasis of prayer and renewal available to all in the Phoenix area, but especially in service to our Diocese, parishes and schools.

Our Evening Under the Stars celebration this year is a great way for us to publicly honor and acknowledge his gift to us. Stay tuned for more information on this great event. You may call us at 602-840-5066 or go to our website www.Mt.claret.org.

Carmen Navarro retires after 25 years of faithful service

Carmen Navarro who has served as Mt. Claret's Office receptionist, Administrative assistant, and really the "face of Mt. Claret" has retired after 13 years at Mt. Claret. Prior to coming to Mt. Claret she worked at St. Thomas the Apostle School for 12 years. Like so many others at Mt. Claret, she was invited by Msgr McMahon to come to work at this center. Over the years Carmen has worked tirelessly in

support of Mt. Claret's mission by being available to support many different activities.

She has been active in the Cursillo Movement and has helped out on the Cena de Colores event as well as with Mt. Claret's Annual Evening Under the Stars. She has been described as a great "bridge builder" - able to work comfortably and lovingly with many different groups and

people that come to Mt. Claret. Her gentle loving presence is a comfort and a support to all who frequent Mt. Claret. With her attention she enables all to experience the beautiful gift of Mt. Claret more fully.

She will be missed by many but we send her on with our prayerful good wishes as she has the opportunity for more time with her loving husband Bill and their family!



Mount Claret Retreat Center

4633 N. 54th Street, Phoenix, AZ 85018
www.mtclaret.org

OUR MISSION

A Christ-centered holy mountain providing an environment for spiritual growth, healing and conversion in the Catholic tradition.

www.mtclaret.org
602-840-5066



Mt. Claret offers versatile meeting room accommodations for groups from 2 people to 300 people. Our dormitories offer a safe secure environment for all age groups. Our private room accommodations are very comfortable and we have several configurations to meet your budget and time needs. Contact our office for information on availability and rates.

Plan your next meeting or retreat at Mt. Claret
Mount Claret Retreat Center



Are you interested in volunteering at Mt. Claret?
Do you have an interest in developing retreat programs, marketing, finance or maintenance projects? Or possibly working in the gift shop? We have many opportunities for all and would love to speak with you about how you can share your gifts of time and talent.
Please contact Tom McGuire at 602-840-5066 ext 20.