

A Love Letter from Our National Leadership

Bob & Joy Hernandez and Msgr. Chuck Kosanke

Dearest WWME Family,

It's been much too long since we wrote to you — so much has happened! We are so proud of you, our WWME Family, whom we have the honor to serve. We are very grateful for the gift of meeting many of you personally as we travel across our beautiful U.S. Secretariat. You continue to be our inspiration!

Pillar Planning Meeting

In March, we met with our four U.S. Pillar Coordinators in Vienna, VA. At this 3-day meeting, we build relationship, clarify plans and strategize to implement the vision articulated in our State of the Movement. We are so blessed by the enthusiasm and zeal of the couples & priests who faithfully assume the responsibilities of leading the four Pillars for the U.S. Secretariat.

Hispanic Section Leadership Meeting

We also met with our five Hispanic Section Leaders in Ontario, CA. We gather together three times yearly to listen to and respond to the specific needs of our ever-growing Hispanic family. We were in Section 14 and experienced an uplifting evening with the local community after our meeting on Saturday night. Our Section 14 Leaders, Leonardo & Angela Ramirez and Fr. Jose Varela, invited several members of the California Korean community to join us on Saturday night. It was an inspiring, multi-cultural event — a great example of our value of interdependence in WWME!

National Priest Experience

During the week after Easter (April 18-20), we were privileged to be part of the National Priest Experience in San Diego, CA with 60 WWME Presenting Team priests. We presented with Pat & Terri O'Hara (U.S. Presenting Team Pillar Coordinators), Fr. Larry Brault (Section 1), Fr. Tom Griffith (Section 1), and Fr. Emile Frische (Section 2) in the mid-week sabbatical experience "Earthen Vessels". Each priest was invited to explore the Paschal Mystery and connect the journey of Jesus to his own life. It was a very moving and insightful time for all involved — our only sadness was that more of our dear Presenting Team priests were not able to avail themselves of this opportunity.

Sec. 17 Team Convention

In early May, we participated in the Section 17 Team Convention in San Mateo, CA along with about 200 Presenting Teams. The theme was built around the life of St. Francis. Also invited were John & Ann Geer, U.S. Structure Pillar Coordinators, and John & Regina Rupert, Section 12 Leaders — again, living the value of interdependence. The music, presentations, and Special Event on Saturday night were very moving. We were enthusiastically welcomed and, despite our poor Spanish, enjoyed meeting and sharing with our Hispanic family. Gracias!

Franciscan International Award

Two days after returning from Section 17, we boarded a plane bound for Minneapolis, MN. We were hosted by the Franciscan community and, on May 11, had the honor of

accepting the 2006 Franciscan International Award on behalf of all the WWME faithful who sacrifice so much to further our mission to renew our Catholic Church and change the world! We hope everyone has had an opportunity to see the photos and text of our acceptance speech on eMatrimony. We urge you to use the press release we sent to you to garner as much publicity as possible for WWME in your Local Area!

World Council

On May 13, we departed for Austin, TX to participate in our WWME World Council, hosted for the U.S. Secretariat in Section 10 under the able leadership of Jose & Marilyn Garcia and Fr. Len Stegman. The meeting was at Cedarbrake, the Catholic retreat center of the Diocese of Austin, TX — a peaceful, pastoral setting in the hill country of Texas. The full week meeting was very productive, addressing many challenging issues facing our movement in the 21st Century. Two couples prepared all the meals for us — our “Happy Cookers”. We humbly and gratefully acknowledge Charlie & Mary Copeland and all those on their World Council Hosting Committee for their outstanding hospitality and organization. God bless each of you and your Local Areas who prayed for the couples and priests of the World Council. Without your love and support — and the grace of God — leadership for all of us would be fruitless.

Leading Through Relationship (LTR)

Now, we are preparing to meet our newly selected WWME leadership couples and priests at the Leading Through Relationship (LTR) experience in CA next weekend. We feel excited to have both our English and Hispanic leaders participating together and are optimistic that the weekend will strengthen interdependence and foster long-lasting friendships across the United States. Please pray for all the couples and priests who are embarking on their leadership adventure!

US Secretariat Board - June

Shortly after our return from the LTR, we will be in Houston for our U.S. Secretariat Board with our nineteen U.S. Section Leaders — English, Hispanic, and Korean. Even though sometimes challenging, we gain formation, insight, and renewed energy as, together, we lead our beloved movement.

Sec. 5 Family Convention

At the end of June, we will gather with our Section 5 WWME family in St. Petersburg, FL to celebrate their 2006 Convention “I Chose You”.

And so, dear ones, this is a quick (or not so quick!) update on our lives and our service to you. We pray for you daily and feel encouraged knowing that you labor in the Lord’s vineyard for the sake of our Church and our world.

With much love,

Bob & Joy and Msgr. Chuck