

Dearest WWME Family,

We are Bob & Joy Hernandez and Fr. Chuck Kosanke, United States Secretariat Leadership Team. The three of us were selected on August 16, 2003 by the couples and priests of the U.S. Secretariat Board. With the Board, our responsibility is to provide direction, vision, and guidance for WWME in the United States.

One of the wonderful privileges we have in this leadership role is to represent you, **our family**, at the World Council. The World Council is composed of a leadership team (couple & priest) from each of the seven Secretariats within WWME—Asia, Latin America, Canada, Pan Africa, Europe, Pacific, and United States, plus the International Council Team, Lee & Jan Kremer and Fr. Rich O'Brian. Most Secretariats are comprised of many countries, cultures, and languages, yet all share in our mission to renew the Church and effect change in the world. Overall, the WWME experience is presented in 83 countries and 11 different faith expressions!

In September, the World Council was hosted by the Pacific Secretariat and met in Cairns, Australia, which is in the state of Queensland in northern Australia. We enjoyed the hospitality of the Sisters of Mercy in their quiet retreat house, and were lovingly cared for by the Cairns WWME community who served all our meals, prayed for us throughout our meeting, and taught us to sing "We Are Australian".

Each Secretariat represented at the World Council was "adopted" by one area of the Pacific. Fiji and the Solomon Islands (Oceania) requested the United States in gratitude for our continued reach-out efforts to help them establish WWME. On your behalf, we humbly accepted many heartfelt expressions of love, prayer, and thanksgiving. We were also presented with small handcrafted gifts such as baskets and painted place mats. Our meeting table was covered with a beautiful, painted cloth decorated with tropical scenes combined with the American, Fijian, and Solomon Islands flags.

Our five-day meeting was inspiring, informative, productive, and fun! We listened to incredible stories of sacrifice and hardship endured by couples and priests as they labor to bring our beloved Weekend to their people. We are truly a Movement of living saints!

As the three of us criss-cross America and the world, we take you with us in our hearts and share you with those we meet. More than ever, we believe we will CHANGE THE WORLD!

With much love and admiration,

Bob & Joy Hernandez and Fr. Chuck Kosanke
United States Secretariat Ecclesial Team