

## My priesthood in Marriage Encounter

I'm Fr. "Holy Huggable Harry" Harold Brown, C.P.P.S., ordained May 31, 1959 and made my original Worldwide Marriage Encounter Oct. 12-14, 1977 at Brunnerdale High School Seminary, Canton, Ohio. I was principal there at that time. I was "extra ready" to make my original Weekend since I was completing 15 years of teaching and administrating in this seminary. I was very touched and moved by this experience which truly gave me a "super lift" in my sacrament of Holy Orders. Soon thereafter, I decided to resign my principal-ship in order to take up full-time ministry for Worldwide Marriage Encounter (5 years). What a fantastic ministry that was! It was a lot of hard work – presenting 3 out of every 4 weekends monthly across the U.S.A. I was a "flying priest" and enjoyed every minute! During this time I was based in Tampa within Section V (arrived in 1979).

In 1980, I developed my now popular "Super Marriage Sunday" for recruiting purposes<sup>1</sup>. I got the idea from a tiny article printed on loose leaf paper about Marriage Encounter (almost like scrap paper). That was the kernel or spark I needed to initiate and develop many more challenging ideas for a successful recruiting tool. And thank God it was very successful for the sale of WWME. I kept rather accurate stats over the years from 1980 to 2003. The stats:

Total "Super Marriage Sundays" given by myself	263
Total couples recruited within Section V	8,644
Total couples recruited outside Section V	1,060
Grand total couples recruited	9,704 couples
(plus over 10 priests and 2 bishops)	

For this success I praise and thank God who continues to use me today for recruiting (signed up 265 in the Toledo Diocese during the past 7 years). My next WWME Weekend will be No. 184 for me (only a small count relative to many of our pioneer priests who have given 400-500+).

My current assignment as pastor of a large rural parish (over 950 families) in Glandorf, Ohio, limits me now to one WWME Weekend and two "Super Marriage Sundays" annually in the Toledo Diocese. Today, I know a large WWME family through the U.S. – both couples & priests! I feel very loved by them. I'm very thankful for my priesthood.

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<sup>1</sup>Editor's Note: A "Super Marriage Sunday" is an organized Inviting/Recruiting "blitz". Pulpit/Witness talks or other inviting activities are organized to be presented, within a span of one or two weekends, at every parish during or after as many masses as possible within a concentrated geographical area.