



Office of the Bishop

Dear Brother Priests,

I am writing to express my support for three internationally recognized ministries designed to strengthen marriages in our diocese: **Retrouvaille** (marriage renewal and healing), **Worldwide Marriage Encounter** (marriage enrichment), and **Engaged Encounter** (marriage preparation). All three shared a common heritage rooted in the Marriage Encounter movement that began in the 1960s.

These ministries are led by dedicated volunteer married couples who share their lived experience of Christian marriage. Through structured couple dialogue, guided reflection, and personal witness, they help couples deepen communication, strengthen their relationship, and grow in their vocation to marriage. Each weekend, which typically runs from Friday evening through Sunday morning, is accompanied by a priest who serves as spiritual director, offering sacramental and pastoral support.

I am deeply grateful for the bountiful fruits these programs have produced. While our diocese is blessed with many ministries that serve marriage and family life, these programs continue to provide a unique and proven means of accompanying couples at different stages of their vocation.

I ask for your continued support by encouraging couples to participate, promoting these opportunities within your parish, and warmly welcoming collaboration with the volunteer teams who make these ministries possible. All three ministries are available in our diocese in both English and Spanish. As we know, marriage and family life are the foundation of our Society.

May the Lord continue to bless you abundantly in your priestly ministry, and may He strengthen the marriages and families entrusted to your care, so that every home may grow ever more fully into the "domestic church."

United in Christ,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Michael J. Sheehan".

Bishop of San Diego