



BUKAS-LOOB SA DIYOS

Covenant Community Phoenix

Diocese of Phoenix

Date

Dear _____,

With delightful hearts, we would like to invite you to join us for a Marriage Encounter Weekend (ME #10) from Friday, January 8, 2010 at 5:30 p.m. to Sunday, January 10, 2010 at the Windemere Hotel and Conference Center, 5750 E. Main Street, Mesa, AZ 85205.

The Marriage Encounter Weekend is the most beautiful and rewarding experience we have had as a couple and we would like to share it with you.

We have enclosed for your reference a brochure with a registration form for you to fill out and return to us together with the other requirements. We look forward to your acceptance and being with us on this most rewarding and enriching experience. The weekend fee is \$250.00 which covers meals for 2 days and accommodation for 2 nights. Please make checks payable to BLD Phoenix. Please send together with your registration form the said fee and a copy of your Catholic Marriage Certificate.

A welcome letter will be sent to you to confirm your registration, and provide you with detailed information to prepare for your weekend. If you have any questions please feel free to call us. If you want to learn more about us please check www.BLDPhoenix.com.

Yours in Christ,

Alex and Lina Alba
Class Shepherds
Sponsoring Class ME #9
Tel # 480-596-0579
Email: lianns@aol.com



Marriage Encounter Class #9
Contact Info:

Rock & Rosie Calvo	480-570-4167
Jong & Malie Gabriel	623-570-6032
John & Christine Minch	480-543-8400
Nelson & Malou Reyes	480-332-5100



BUKAS-LOOB SA DIYOS
 Covenant Community BLD Phoenix
COUPLE INFORMATION SHEET
Marriage Encounter # 10
(Please Print Clearly)

Husband's Photo	Wife's Photo
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PART I - BASIC INFORMATION

Husband's Last Name	Husband's First Name	Husband's Nickname	Husband's Date of Birth
Wife's Last Name	Wife's First Name	Wife's Nickname	Wife's Date of Birth
Residence Street Address		City	State Zip Code
Home Telephone No. ()	Cell Phone No. ()	Fax No.	Home E-mail Address
Civil Status (Please Check) Single (Religious) Married Widow/Widower		Date/Place of Marriage	Catholic Marriage Certificate Submitted YES NO
Current Parish, City	Parish Priest	Prayer Group Affiliation (if any)	
Name of BLD Sponsor	Sponsor's Telephone No.	Sponsor's BLD Affiliation (ME# or LSS#)	

PART II - ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

	For Husband	For Wife
Highest Educational Attainment		
Occupation / Profession		
Employer's Name		
Employer's Address		
Work Telephone No. Cell Phone No. Personal E-mail Address	 () ()	 () ()
Membership in Religious/Civic Organization/ Prayer Group		

PART III - CHILDREN'S INFORMATION

Name of Child	Sex M / F	Date of Birth MM / DD / YY	Name of Child	Sex M / F	Date of Birth MM / DD / YY

Husband's Signature

Date

Wife's Signature

Date

A Community of Encountered Couples and Families
Joyfully invites you to share the Fruits of our Marriage Encounter Weekend

THE SUBSTANCE OF THE "ENCOUNTER"

The Encounter presented by Bukas-Loob sa Diyos is open to couples married sacramentally in the Catholic Church. The Marriage Encounter is an invaluable experience of renewing our marriage relationship. It enriches the process of communication between husband and wife. It guarantees to make "good" marriages "better" and "not-so-good" marriages "good"! It is presented in a full weekend detached from the usual everyday distractions.

An "ecclesial team" trained and prepared for ministering the Encounter process conducts the weekend: a "Team Priest" and at least two "Team Couples" who manage together its instructional and experiential components.

Most, if not all, who have received the Encounter experience have fully rediscovered their marriage relationships, strengthened their conjugal and family life and become fully aware of the living presence of God in their marriage and family life.

WHAT IS THE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER?

The Marriage Encounter Weekend is a positive and personal experience for a couple, which offers them a technique of loving communication that they can use for the rest of their lives. It is an opportunity to look deeply into their relationship with each other and with God. Also, it is a time to share their feelings, their hopes, fears, joys and frustrations.

Marriage Encounter is not a retreat, nor is it a marriage clinic or sensitivity course. It is not a time to look at the past, but rather to look to your future together. The weekend is a positive, simple, common sense experience between husband and wife, that revitalizes marriage by helping couples to see what their relationship could and should be.

WHAT IS THE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER FOR?

Marriage Encounter is for any couple who wants to enrich their marriage. The weekend is designed to expand and deepen the joys a couple share together whether they have been married for a short time or for many years. Marriage Encounter is also for priests and religious who want to revitalize their relationship with the people of God and develop an even deeper appreciation for their own vocation.

 Our Threshold to the Household of God 

WHAT HAPPENS AT A MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER?

An atmosphere is created on the weekend in which the couple can concentrate exclusively on one another. A series of talks is given by a team of trained couples and a Priest. Each talk gives the husband and wife the opportunity to look at themselves as individuals and to look at their relationship with each other, with God and with others. Marriage Encounter starts with the love you have for your spouse and helps you build, expand and deepen that relationship. The weekend shows you the way to do this and provides you with the means - the rest is up to you! **The only talent one must have to make a Marriage Encounter is the talent to love and a desire to make a good marriage even better.**

DOES THE WEEKEND RESPECT THE COUPLE'S PRIVACY?

Yes! Marriage Encounter emphasizes communication between husband and wife through a weekend experience, which is free of the every day distractions and tensions. You concentrate on your spouse to such extent that you are hardly aware of the other couples who are in the Encounter. The presentations are given to the group as a whole. After each presentation, the husband and wife have time in the privacy of their room for their own personal sharing, using the communication technique they are learning that weekend. **There is no group discussion.**

HOW DOES A MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER ENHANCE A MARRIAGE?

The fundamental difference between marriages that are good, average or poor is the level of communication between husband and wife. In all marriages, there are times when we take each other and our relationship for granted. **The Weekend presents each couple with the opportunity to get off the "Modern World Treadmill", to stop and to take a fresh look at the "two of us, our marriage and our priorities".** We learn a communication technique which shows and encourages us to explore the important areas of our life together in a spirit of love and understanding. **The Weekend offers every couple the insights, the tools and the confidence to enrich their marriage and to strengthen their love for one another. For many couples, "Their Weekend" is one of the most significant experiences of their lives!**

PROCESS AND CONTENTS

There is a "rhythm" in the encounter process -

- the presentation of a truth;
- the personal reflection; and
- the conjugal dialogue.

A truth drawn from Scripture or from Church teaching and made alive by shared experiences of the presenting team. The "encounter truths" build up in four stages:

- The "I" stage
- The "YOU" and "I" (or "WE") stage;
- The "WE", "GOD and COMMUNITY" stage.

The "total" truth about ourselves as persons, as spouses, as parents and as members of the Church, unfolds as the weekend progresses. After a truth is presented, we are given time for "**personal reflection**" on these truths. During these reflective times, we learn to commune with the interior life that each of us has.

The conjugal dialogue is the heart of the encounter process. We express our deep-rooted feelings and responses to our spouse, and listen actively to our spouse's feelings and responses. The dialogue allows us to commune with our spouse and as we probe into the depths of each other in our relationship of consecrated love, we are given the opportunity to finally commune with the spirit of love -- the apex of our marriage triangle.

The **content** of the encounter is the new covenant -- **the covenant of love** -- which is the core of Christian Life. It is in this new covenant which we receive and place as the foundation of our marriage, our family and our community. At the center of the encounter is a profound opening of our spirit to the Being who is Love -- GOD.

Our process, therefore, is to be "**bukas-loob**"; Our Content -- the One who "fills us" -- is "**DIYOS**" - the person of God.

The following are some frequently-asked questions from couples who may be unsure if the Marriage Encounter is for them, and our responses:

"We already have a good marriage."

Response: The difference between a "good" marriage and a BEAUTIFUL marriage is the Marriage Encounter experience. Even if many difficult marriages are made right in the Encounter, many more couples with already good marriages have received continuing blessings after the Weekend.

"We already have good communication between us."

Response: Please take a closer look. Can you truly communicate with each about your intimate feelings, aspirations, fears, anxieties? Do you have oneness and accord in your major decisions?

"We're too busy. We don't have time."

Response: Isn't a weekend a small price to pay for the joy, the peace, the blessings and the power of a lifetime made fuller by the Encounter? All you have to do is give one weekend to each other.

"We're too young."

Response: That's wonderful! Wouldn't you want to prevent growing old too fast, growing old alone? Wouldn't you want to be trained in living fully with each other as early as possible?

"We're too old."

Response: Then, you can be young again! Don't you agree there's always something new in you? Isn't there something you may have missed because you were not always aware of what was really in your spouse's mind and heart? Wouldn't you want a fresh look at each other?

"I don't feel at ease in Spiritual Retreats"

Response: That's how many of us felt before (and even during) our Encounter Weekend. But when we saw and met others like us who had successfully coped with the initial "uneasiness" we soon felt very much at home with the "spirituality" of the encounter. And later, we wanted more of it.

WHEN AND WHERE

January 8, 2010 at 5:30 p.m. to Sunday, January 10, 2010 at the Windemere Hotel and Conference Center, 5750 E. Main Street, Mesa, AZ 85205. Please register early to reserve your spot as space is limited.

HOW MUCH DOES IT COST

We are a non-profit organization and we are willing to help anyone who is unable to afford the cost to attend this wonderful and blessed weekend. Please let us know of your special situation (either by calling or writing) and we will be happy to accommodate your request with the utmost confidentiality.

The cost of the weekend is \$250.00 per couple to cover food and lodging. A 50% deposit is required with your application and the balance is due anytime on or before the weekend.

All checks must be payable to BLD Phoenix and may be handed to any of the ME 9 class members and/or mail it the sponsoring class shepherds whose address and phone number are indicated below together with **the completed registration form and a copy of your Catholic marriage certificate.**

Alex & Lina Alba

13611 N. 80th Place Scottsdale, AZ 85260

480-596-0579

TO BE RETURNED WITH REGISTRATION FORM:

Catholic Marriage Certificate & Mentioned Weekend Fee (50% deposit or full amount)