

Why attend the Marriage Encounter Weekend when life is so busy?

On the third day there was a wedding in Cana in Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. Jesus and his disciples were also invited to the wedding. When the wine ran short, the mother of Jesus said to him, "They have no wine." John 2:1-3

Marriage requires time and attention.

*"No couple does this perfectly, and everyone needs help when love feels strained and the going gets tough. All marriages can grow in knowledge, faith, joy, and love."
(www.foryourmarriage.org)*

Marriage is a journey.

*"As for our marriage, the journey continues even now and into the future. New wounds from our past and new ways to grow and love each other are regularly discovered, presented, accepted, and worked through together. What we thought we've already dealt with in our marriage sometimes resurfaces, revealing a totally new facet. It's become almost rhythmic, this new uncovering of ever-deeper layers in our souls that Jesus wants to work on." (Sri, Edward and Beth, "The Good, The Messy, and The Beautiful."
Ascension, 2022.)*

Marriage is God's gift to families and the world.

*"The well-being of the individual person and of human and Christian society is intimately linked with the healthy condition of that community produced by marriage and family"
(Gaudium et Spes, no. 48)*

Important Information

A registration form is enclosed and can also be found on www.bldwashington.org.

February 2-4, 2024

Check-in is between 5:30 - 7:00pm.

Dinner will be served at
6:30 - 7:30pm

The Hilton Fairfax
12777 Fair Lakes Circle
Fairfax, VA 22033

Weekend Fee
\$400 per couple

It includes hotel room for two nights and six meals for three days.

Please make checks payable to:

BLD Washington

A 50% deposit is requested with your application and the balance is due anytime on or before the weekend. A payment plan is also available for interested parties. Your deposit/payment will be duly acknowledged and further details of the weekend will be sent to you thereafter.



Marriage Encounter Weekend

February 2-4, 2024
the Hilton Fairfax
Fairfax, VA



The Marriage Encounter Weekend presents each couple with the opportunity to take a break from the "Modern World Treadmill" and take a fresh look at the "two of us." Husbands and wives will be given the time and privacy to re-examine the important areas of their life together in a spirit of love and understanding. The Weekend offers every couple the real-life experience to reflect on their particular situation, gain communication tools and the confidence to enrich their marriage. The weekend fosters an environment of openness and honesty to strengthen the couple's love for one another.

Bukas Loob sa Diyos (BLD)
A Catholic Covenant Community
Archdiocese of Washington

What to expect during the Marriage Encounter...



- Stronger foundation for your future together
- Privacy during conversations and reflections
- Rediscover each other
- Confidentiality
- No group discussion
- No counseling/therapy
- No judgements

The Weekend atmosphere is created for you and your spouse to focus on each other. A series of talks are given by a team of trained couples and Priest. Each talk gives a 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 to 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!

Who should attend the Marriage Encounter Weekend?

The Encounter presented by BLD Washington is open to couples married sacramentally in the Catholic Church. The Marriage Encounter is an invaluable experience of renewing marital relationships and oneness.

“When Christian couples receive the grace of the Sacrament of Matrimony, Christ dwells with them, gives them the strength to take up their crosses and so follow him, to rise again after they have fallen, to forgive one another, to bear one another’s burdens, to —be subject to one another out of reverence for Christ, and to love one another with supernatural, tender, and fruitful love.”
(USCCB, [Marriage: Love and Life in the Divine Plan](#), p. 32-33.)

About the Sponsoring Community

The Bukas Loob Sa Diyos Catholic Covenant Community, or simply referred to as “BLD Washington”, is a community of disciples inspired by the Holy Spirit. The community originated from the Philippines in 1985 and can now be found in neighboring Asian countries, North America and other parts of the world. BLD responds to the challenges of our particular place, time, and culture. Our formation is grounded on the sacraments, personal and family prayer, pro-life values, Catholic social teachings, and stewardship. BLD is a 501C-3 non-profit organization.

Marriage Encounter Weekend Team



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.



Fr. Eardman B. Pandero, PhD
Marriage Encounter Weekend Spiritual Director

He is a Roman Catholic Priest from the Archdiocese of Cagayan de Oro, Phils. He was ordained to the priesthood on August 8, 2011. He graduated from Xavier University with a degree in Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy (2001). He had a graduate degree in Pastoral Ministry at St. John Vianney Theological Seminary (2010) and Doctor of Ministry in Intercultural Ministry from Catholic Theological Union in Chicago (2017). He is enrolled currently in the Catholic University of America for his second post graduate program (PhD) in Biblical Studies.



Geoff and Chat Ampoyo, (571) 245-1958
Marriage Encounter Coordinators