

# Ram's Horn

Marriage Retorno Newsletter  
May 2008 Vol. 117

Strengthening Marriages  
Through Scriptural Prayer



**Journey Together  
To God**

FROM THE EDITORS: Mike & Maureen Oates

Greetings! In this issue of the **Ram's Horn** you will find:

1. News and notes
2. The Fall 2008 National **MR** Conference
3. A report on an **MR** weekend, presented by Adrien & Mary Clare Auger and Fr. Mel Hemann
4. A report on an **MR** weekend, presented by Mike & Maureen Oates and Fr. Mel Hemann
5. Reflecting on the Ascension by Norman & Delores Schauls

## **1. News and notes**

Right after the May 2008 **Ram's Horn** was put on-line, we received the following e-mail message from our founder, Father Gabriel Calvo:

*Dearest MIKE & MAUREEN,  
How are you doing, my friends? How is your beloved family? First of all, thanks for your faithful and loving editing of **RAM'S HORN**. Secondly, God's blessings and*



*congratulations for your LIVING and CHALLENGING VIVENCIA in this last edition.*

*Thirdly, request of prayers for me: I am an 81-year-old priest, with precarious body's health and few physical energies, but - thanks to GOD and prayers -- I feel full of spiritual energies and challenging and creative dreams, to travel with my heart.*

*PRAISE THE LORD!!! Your brother and friend in the Sacred Family of Nazareth,  
Gabriel Calvo*

Since the May 2008 Ram's Horn, we have also heard from George & Shirlene Gonzalez, Fr. Ed Flanagan, Adrien & Mary Clare Auger, Joe & Mary Ward, Ben & Gladys Whitehouse, Rick & Deb Giarusso, and Lloyd & Kathy Christensen.

As we compose these lines, Adrien & Mary Clare Auger are with us on their way to the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, MN., where Adrien will be treated for a malignant tumor in one kidney. We are requesting your prayers for a speedy recovery for Adrien. May the God who made us all bless him and Mary Clare and strengthen them during this difficult time.

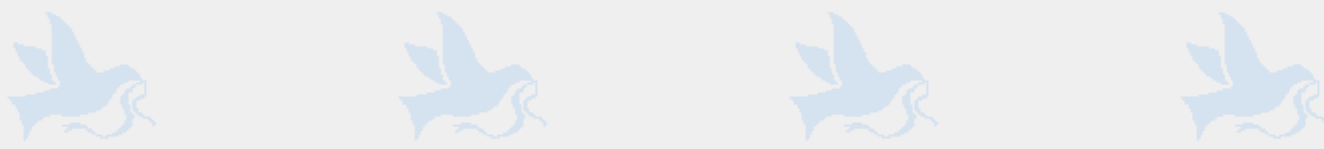
Since May 25th, Iowa has received a big share of the severe weather in our country. Tornadoes and flooding have been all-absorbing as we watch our television in between getting ourselves downstairs in a safe place and continually monitoring the amount of rainfall here. Thank God, Cedar Falls residents who live south of the river were not impacted by the overflowing Cedar River.

Those who live north of the river are still dealing with too much water and its after-effects. Like them, our neighbors in southern Iowa were hit hard and now the flooding is impacting residents of Illinois and Missouri, as well. All of us here in the northern Midwest, as well as everyone dependent on food grown here (because of the flooding of so much farmland), will be impacted by the tragedies of this winter/spring and the very high levels of precipitation here.

We are ready for weather forecasts that do not include the word "severe" in them. And we are very grateful for all the notes, messages, and phone calls which we received because of the disastrous weather.

Maureen continues to be delighted with her restored mobility. What a gift! Thank you all for your care, concern, and prayers.

Upcoming MR weekends scheduled:



1. July 12-13, 2008 in Paoli, PA
2. Sept. 12-14, 2008 in Gaithersburg, MD
3. October 3-5, 2008 in Moodus, CT
4. October 25-26, 2008 in Cedar Falls, IA
5. Dec. 5-7, 2008 in Gaithersburg, MD
6. March 28-29, 2009 in Cedar Falls, IA

Please consult the Marriage Retorno web site ([www.marriageretorno.org](http://www.marriageretorno.org)) for changes in the schedule. If you desire to set up a weekend in your area, a team can be provided. Please contact Dave & Lillie James. Phone Number: 518-785-5235 or E-mail.

## 2. The Fall 2008 National MR Conference

### 2008 NATIONAL MARRIAGE RETORNO CONFERENCE

October 17-19, 2008 at  
Cenacle Retreat and Conference Center  
513 Fullerton Parkway  
Chicago, IL 60614

*Theme: May we, as married couples, transform the world by awakening and deepening our faith and the faith of people of our times through the enrichment of our marriages.*

This year's conference will start with dinner on Friday evening at 6:00 and end on Sunday with lunch at 12:30. Cost for the weekend is \$280 per couple or \$140 single. Please contact our Local Host Couple, Lloyd & Kathy Christensen, and let them know that you plan to attend.

Phone Number: 773-284-9242

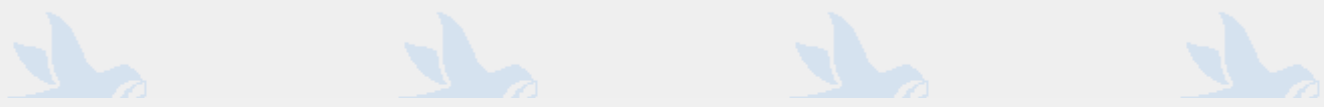
E-mail Lloyd & Kathy Christensen

**TOP**

From Deb & Rick Giarusso:

As promised in the May 2008 Ram's Horn, here are specifics about the Fall **MR** Conference speakers: Our presenting couple is **Bob and Rita Boeke**. They have been married for more than 40 years and have four adult children and six grandchildren.

Bob has over 30 years experience teaching physics and mathematics in a community



college. After retiring and doing consulting work for several years, he took a job teaching religion at Saint Viator High School. Bob has been active in parish work for many years in liturgy preparation, RCIA, and religious education. He has written a column on religion from a lay person's perspective and has been published in the Catholic New World and parish bulletins. Bob has presented retreats for teens at the high school and parish levels.

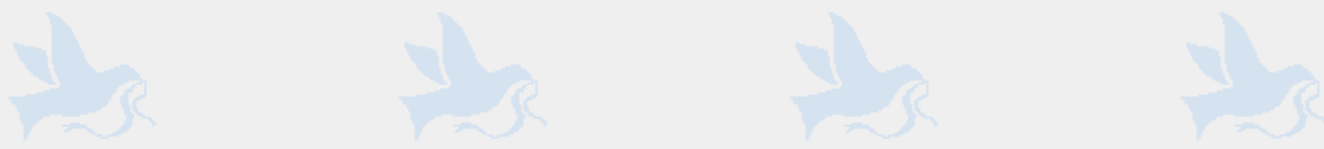
Rita Boeke has over 20 years experience teaching history and theology and as a campus minister in Catholic high schools. She teaches religion at Saint Viator High School where she also chairs the Religion Department. She has done liturgy planning and has directed teen retreats at high schools and parishes. Since 1974, Bob and Rita have presented over 100 retreats, workshops, and days of enrichment for married couples and priests. They have spoken at regional and national conventions of Worldwide Marriage Encounter. They have held leadership positions in Marriage Encounter at the local, regional, and national levels.

Together, Bob & Rita have been active in their parish chairing liturgy and family life committees. In addition, they have participated in marriage preparation programs and spoken to RCIA and other groups about marriage. They have worked with the Office for Marriage and Family Life of the Archdiocese of Chicago in promoting and planning programs and days of enrichment. They have completed a book designed to assist couples in enriching their marriages. They are currently working out the details leading to publication. They plan that the book will be available early next year.

**Cenacle Retreat and Conference Center:** A place of peace and restfulness in the midst of the city, the Cenacle is located on a tree-lined residential block in the lively Lincoln Park neighborhood, just two miles north of Michigan Avenue's Magnificent Mile and downtown Chicago. Within easy walking distance are lakefront parks, restaurants, shops, cultural institutions, theaters, the zoo, and the lakeshore. The Cenacle is centrally located for both O'Hare and Midway Airports. More information about the Cenacle is available at [Cenacle Retreat and Conference Center website](#),

**TOP**

**3. Marriage Returno May 2-4, 2008 in Gaithersburg, Maryland.**





Front row from left to right: Veronica Zeiten (Jim McKenna's wife), Maryellen Bashioum, Jeanie Alley, Joyce Anderson, Andy Anderson, and Marilyn Taylor.

Back row from left to right: Jim McKenna (Veronica Zeiten's husband), Doug Bashioum, Mike Alley, Urban Hakansson, Jean Hakansson, Father Mel Hemann, Tom Greenwell, Veronica Greenwell, Bill Taylor, Mary Clare Auger, and Adrien Auger.

The presenting team was Father Mel Hemann and Adrien & Mary Clare Auger. We had a wonderful weekend which was made even more interesting because of the diversity in ages of the participants. Having the younger couples participating reminds us that there is hope for the future of marriage and our faith community.

**TOP**

#### **4. Marriage Retorno May 31-June 1, 2008 in Cedar Falls, Iowa.**



Front row from left to right: Fr. Mel Hemann, Julie Paladino, Patti Luksetich, Linda Schockemoehl, Joyce Renze, Becky Lievens, and Maureen Oates.

Back row, from left to right: Jeff Molitor, Phil Paladino, Jim Luklsetich, Joe Schockemoehl, Tom Renze, Greg Lievens, and Mike Oates.

Fr. Mel Hemann and Maureen Oates were the team for this group of deacon formandi for the Archdiocese of Dubuque as they made the *MR*, at the end of 1 ½ years of formation. We are grateful for all of the help and support of Tom (Director of the Permanent Diaconate) & Kris Lang. We, as team, have been gifted and blessed by this opportunity to share the MR experience with several classes of deacons in formation through the years. Thank you to Archbishop Jerome Hanus, OSB, and the Office of Permanent Diaconate of the Archdiocese of Dubuque.

**TOP**

## **5. Reflecting on the Ascension** by Norman & Delores Schauls

### **Questions for reflection:**

1. What, in my recent lived experience, makes me more aware of my need for God's mercy?
2. How does Jesus' Ascension reinforce my faith?
3. What fears do I need to jettison on my trip through life?

**Scripture:**

Acts 1:1-11

Ephesians 1:17-23

Matthew 28:16-20

**A few thoughts:**

We have been fans of our Space program from the very first flight that was launched many, many years ago. Almost 20 years ago, Delores & I had the opportunity to actually see one of our space shuttles lift off. We arrived just as the sun appeared on the horizon. Many people were already there. We were some 3 or 4 miles from the actual launch pad. It was a beautiful clear morning and the launch went off about 8:00 a.m., only a few minutes behind schedule.

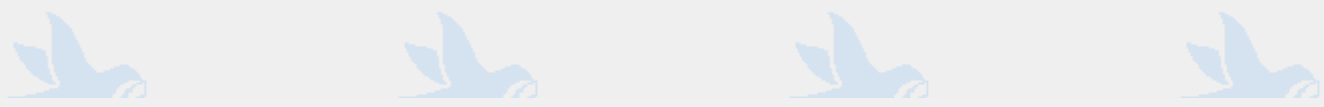


We first could hear the tremendous roar as the engines started up. We could feel the ground vibrate beneath our feet. The roar of the engines grew louder, it was a few seconds before the space shuttle, slowly at first, became visible in the distance. It was truly a very spectacular sight as it quickly gained speed and disappeared into the clear blue sky in about 90 seconds. Only the vapor trail was visible in the distance. I was standing in the middle of the road holding my camera. In the excitement of the moment, I forgot to take pictures.

Now, for few moments, imagine ourselves on the mountain top with Jesus and the apostles. Even from a distance of 2000 years, the Ascension of the Lord is truly an awesome experience. The view of Jesus' Ascension must have been even more spectacular and thrilling, for the apostles, than our experience of seeing the space shuttle lift off. And Jesus' final words were still echoing in their ears: "I am with you always, every day of your life." With that promise, we too feel His love and are deeply moved.

I know we were moved the first time we viewed a reenactment of His Ascension in a glowing white garment, as he slowly disappeared in the night sky, at the end of the Passion Play we saw a few years ago.

In the Acts of the Apostles we have some of the scriptural history of the Holy Spirit's working in the early Church. Luke shares with us a very tender story. We learn how the eleven apostles returned to Jerusalem to pray. They had just experienced the awesome event of Jesus' Ascension to heaven. We hear their names and we find the apostles and several women also, including Mary, the mother of Jesus and his brothers. They all gathered to pray in the "upper room". That is all we hear, but there is much there.



They have gathered in the room where they stayed in fear and hiding for many weeks after Jesus' death and resurrection; they are together in faith and prayer, hoping for the future. With Jesus' Ascension, the future arrives! Their prayer is no longer one of fear; now their prayers are of hope, as they prepare to go and teach the people and spread the words of Jesus to the whole world.

Today we also pray to live as Disciples of Christ trusting in the spiritual gifts we received at Baptism which were strengthened when we received the sacrament of Confirmation. We are strengthened often by the Eucharist. We pray in the freedom of knowing who we are as gifts from God at this time and in this place. We also pray with hope for healing and support.

We pray as well with the quiet faith and presence of Mary, the Mother of Jesus; whose actions spoke louder than her words. We believe she is present in our "upper rooms" when we gather as Church to pray or when ever we pray with our friends or with family at home. Her words are not recorded; she stayed faithful while she watched what she could not change. We too can pray with that same trust and hope for the future.

In Matthew's Gospel, we find Jesus praying for His followers who will remain in the world while Jesus is no longer physically present in that same world with them. We know beyond any doubt that all of God's promises are true, so it's not a matter of imagination. It's a matter of solid faith.

We are all struggling with the rising cost of gas and food, as well as other hardships. But, whatever our burden, we can lighten it by fixing our eyes on Jesus. So, put aside our worries for a few moments, and thank God for all He has done for us. Remember His parting words "I am with you always, when you are in prayer and helping others."

**TOP**

**E-mail**

[Mike and Maureen Oates](#)

**E-mail**

[Webmaster](#)