



Paul-André Durocher

Bishop of Alexandria-Cornwall

May 08, 2009

Mr. Bernard & Mrs. Ginette Charbonneau
Local Coordinators of
Catholic Engaged Encounter
40 A Anthony Street
Cornwall, Ontario, Canada
K6H 5J7

Dear Bernard and Ginette,

In response to the request for a letter recognizing the value of Catholic Engaged Encounter (CEE) in our Diocese, I want to say that it has been a part of the Alexandria-Cornwall Diocese since 1995. In the last two years, it has been the only marriage preparation course offered in our Diocese in English and I have participated as the team priest on two of these weekends. As a parish priest in Northern Ontario, I had been spiritual director of the movement.

I find CEE emphasizes the close ties between the sacraments of marriage and Holy Orders as lived in a common experience of sharing and responsibility on the weekend. The engaged couples' time together offers them a unique opportunity to deepen their commitment to one another and to understand God's plan that they love each other as He loves them with a love that is free, total, faithful and life-giving. It uses a unique yet comprehensive method of making couples aware that they are to become a sacrament, and that the beauty of their vocation is in their everyday lives as husband and wives and parents. In some cases, it can be an opportunity for evangelization.

I recognize CEE as a valid program currently operating in our Diocese and endorse it whole-heartedly.

Sincerely,

Most Reverend Paul-André Durocher
Bishop of Alexandria Cornwall