

## CATHOLIC MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER NORTHERN IRELAND 2019

### Reference and Administrative Details for year 2019

**Charity name:** Catholic Marriage Encounter Northern Ireland

**Charity Commission Number:** 101458

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### **Trustees:**

The trustees serving for financial year 31/12/2018- financial year 31/12/2019

Madeline McCully

Thomas McCully

Daniel Lynch

Kieran Casey

Sarah Casey

**Secretary:** Elizabeth Murray

**Executive Officer** Thomas McCully

## 2019 Annual Review of Catholic Marriage Encounter Northern Ireland.

During the year 2019 Marriage Encounter and Engaged Encounter Weekends were held at venues in Northern Ireland and in the Republic of Ireland.

The National Leadership team, Thomas and Madeline McCully with Fr. Sean Coyle, attended three European conferences. Content of each meeting centred on Communication and Relationship training, education and spiritual formation for Christian marriage and family life. An important aspect is marriage preparation. Priests and religious received a parallel programme for ministry to Marriage and Family.

A Worldwide Council provides the content for these meetings and Continental Councils disseminate this. The European Conference, which the national responsible team for each European country attends, brings the training and formation to the National Board of Catholic Marriage Encounter Ireland. Meetings are held in regional areas for team training workshops and community group gatherings.

Catholic Marriage Encounter Northern Ireland supplied teams and interested couples for weekends organised by our umbrella organisation –Catholic Marriage Encounter Ireland.

The marriage preparation programme of Engaged Encounter was particularly successful and positively evaluated by the participating couples. A pilot preparation programme was presented over 5 nights and this will be evaluated as a possible alternative to a weekend programme although the original format will still be presented.

Married couples continue to meet in small groups of three or four couples on a regular basis across the province. These meetings had an emphasis on communication and listening skills with the objective of enriching their relationship and giving support in family, parish and community life.

A Deeper Enrichment Weekend with 27 participants took place in February and new teams are now undergoing training to present weekends here and in the south.

The participants on the Marriage Enrichment Weekends were encouraged to become involved in their parishes and communities and indeed many have. Two of the members, Michael and Rose Curtin are on the Committee of the Council for Marriage and the Family of the Irish Episcopal Conference. Tom and Madeline McCully were invited to be on the Derry Mission team. During the year members of Catholic Marriage Encounter and Engaged Encounter meet with different lay movements and associations involved in church ministries.

Signed:

Madeline McCully