

## Regina Report

In 2006, Interchurch Families – Regina (ICF-Regina), led by Darrel and Maureen Chastkiewicz, changed their focus from bringing couples together on a regular basis, by: educating and informing the churches in their area about interchurch families; and connecting mixed marriage couples to the international network of support for interchurch families.

As a member of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Regina - Ecumenical Commission, Maureen is able to raise the awareness of interchurch families within the diocese. As a result, she and her husband, Darrel, have been given various opportunities to spread the word on interchurch families within the Catholic Church, which include:

- Providing an interchurch families presentation at the commissioning of the archdiocese ecumenical representatives in September 2006.
- Earlier this year, at the request of the Archbishop, the Vocation Ministry Office took on a more active initiative regarding marriage and family life. They conducted a survey of the deaneries asking which marriage and family life topic was of interest. It was brought to their attention that the main topic of interest was mixed marriages and interchurch marriages. As a result of the survey, Darrel and Maureen held a workshop in March 2007 sharing their interchurch story and providing helpful resource material. There was time for discussion and sharing. New connections were made with the couples that attended.
- Two upcoming interchurch presentations will be given at two workshops outside of Regina, with help from the Ecumenical Commission.
- With much appreciated assistance from Ruth Reardon, Maureen and Darrel submitted a letter, on behalf of interchurch families, to a sub-committee of the Diocesan Eucharistic Congress. The sub-committee had asked the question: “How can we engage people so that they will experience a renewed appreciation of the Eucharist?” The letter submitted by ICF-Regina, expressed the difficulties interchurch couples experience at the time of Eucharist. It went on to explain why it would be beneficial if special consideration be given to interchurch couples, at the time of Eucharist, including the explanation that it would encourage these couples to attend church together on a regular basis.
- At the Catholic Family Services marriage preparation weekends, they continue to share their story. As well, they started providing music ministry at St. Michael’s Retreat, once a month for the Sunday Mass, and four times per year, at the engaged encounter weekends. These opportunities have allowed them to interact with couples and make connections with clergy. The retreat center is located just outside of Regina. It was established in 1963, by the Franciscan Friars of Western Canada. At the present time, the Franciscan Friars together with the Roman Catholic, Anglican and Lutheran communities operate the Retreat Centre through an Interchurch Board.
- A feature article on their interchurch marriage appeared in the Prairie Messenger newspaper’s marriage and family life insert, on February 14, 2007.

Maureen’s continued work as secretary with the Regina Council of Churches will offer more opportunities for her and her husband in the coming year, with the hope of giving presentations to other denominations in the city and surrounding area.

[←Previous](#) | [Next→](#)

**Return to [IFIN Index](#)**