

# True Love Grows After Your Marriage

By FATHER ROBERT COLLINS

A woman who had been married for some years was reflecting on the first year of her marriage. "At the beginning you live in your own world of daydreams and expectancies of what it's going to be like. It is only when you confront the reality of yourself and the other person and the fact that you both change and grow, surprise, disappointment and delight each other that you begin to recognize the importance of the words **together forever**. You really begin to know it when the magic of biology begins to wane and deep friendship slowly takes its place."

Every couple should be aware that however sweet and stirring life has been during the engagement, it is on the day after marriage that true growth in love begins, for it is only in the

### FEE SCHEDULE

The following is the diocesan schedule of offerings for the marriage ceremony:

- \$15 - Low Nuptial Mass
- \$20 - Sung Nuptial Mass
- \$15 - Wedding without Mass

An offering may be given to the altar boys.

married union that love reaches its full strength and purity. That is the reason why married love conceals a perfection and a holiness which are not to be found outside marriage and will never be known by those who are not married. However, the condition for this holiness is that one should learn to love, and it is only from the day when the couple become two in one flesh through the sacrament of Matrimony with the blessing of the Church, that the true growth process can begin - that which comes before is merely a preliminary.

The great work of marriage is the cultivation of this love; this can and must continue to grow until the end of life, to become evermore intense, to become richer year by year, by reason of the purification of both hearts and of all the memories held in common, the joys and sorrows shared, the labors shared, the sorrows even more than the joys. In marrying they enter on a career which leads to horizons of light, in which they will walk side by side, hand in hand, mutually sustaining each other, on the way to those horizons which grow ever wider, brighter and more

pure. When husband and wife are capable of realizing their vocation, it is not at twenty years old that their love is most beautiful, it is not on their wedding day; it is in the evening of their lives, when their vocation has been enriched by everything which life has brought and by the capacity for loving which they have been able to cultivate in themselves.

In the words of Eugene Cressler:

"We will not say in the future: Thou shalt not commit adultery, but let your married love be single-minded, total, deep, intensely personal. We will not say in the future: Thou

shalt not covet thy neighbor's wife but you shall love your wife with a whole and undivided heart as the basis of knowing how to love and knowing what it means to love and be loved.

In the meantime in this age of transition to new values, this age of exploration and experimentation, we may well cry in our hearts for the young who can only learn the hard way from their own experience and their own mistakes that living off youth and inheritance lasts only so long and that neither "sex" nor "freedom" is the great discovery in human life but LOVE is - love unto death and resurrection."



FATHER COLLINS

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