

# A Message of Marriage Fulfillment



By Jim & Mary Carroll  
Executive Board Members  
Rochester Marriage Encoun-  
ter

A while ago a young man working in a Rochester store received a phone call from his wife. He was obviously delighted, and proud to mention to a customer that they liked to talk to each other during the day. The customer asked, "How long have you been married?"

"Two years," answered the young gentleman and added, "Oh, I know, you're going to say, 'just wait! that will wear

off."

That's the message this couple had been hearing about marriage. The customer's answer is how we'd like to begin our message to all engaged couples and newlyweds. "No," he said, "we've been married many years and it doesn't have to wear off at all."

We in Marriage Encounter, are couples who believe in marriage and try to live every day with a freshness and newness in our marriages. The commitment you are making to each other is a beautiful "yes" to a way of life that calls you to marry each other each day of your life.

How can a marriage survive, much less blossom, in a world that keeps saying, "do your own thing." Fulfill yourself. How can we, as Catholic couples, speak to those approaching marriage in a way that will encourage and

support their marriage? We ask you to believe in your marriage, and take time for each other, now and every day.

Take time to talk about your marriage, your dreams, and what's important in your life together.

Take time to have fun together; enjoy each other's company.

Take time to make love. Your sexual relationship is so important to your marriage.

Take time to disagree. The only way you'll ever change and agree is to open yourselves and listen.

Take time to turn back to each other and heal each other when you hurt.

Take time to know that your love and caring for each other will blossom if you reach out to touch the lives of

others together.

Take time for faith, to pray together. Center your life in Christ. Believe that whenever you decide to turn to each other in love, whether in joy or pain, hurt or pride, physical need or satisfaction, doubt or confidence, His grace will be

present.

The sacrament of marriage is different from just civil marriage in that the sacrament is a daily "celebration" of two people's commitment to be a sign of God's unconditional love to each other and to build a life

of ministry to others among a faith community of fellow believers.

We rejoice with you at this special time in your life. We believe in you. Our wish for you is that in building your life together, you experience much joy, peace, and love.

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## Pre-Marriage Programs Offer Spiritual Growth

Dear Special Lovers,

Congratulations! Couples planning to be married are so full of joy and hope — that's why we are calling you special lovers. We, too, are pleased about your upcoming marriage, and we share in your excitement and your hope. We are delighted you are choosing to be married in the Church, as we know that symbolizes caring for each other and a commitment to each other and to God that is very special. We believe in Christian Marriage as a way of life, and we want the best for you and your future.

To help you in planning for your future, we urge you to take some time very soon to attend a Marriage Preparation Program. On the Pre-Cana schedule, appearing in this issue of the Courier-Journal, and also obtainable from your parish, you will notice the dates and places of the sessions we have scheduled. There are one day sessions included especially for those couples with different working times, or where one of the couple is out-of-town. Engaged Couple Encounter dates are listed, too. Engaged Encounter dates are listed, too. Engaged Encounter is an excellent program which you may want to consider. Please also notice, there is a special program — New Horizons — for those couples who have been previously married, and have gone

through the Church annulment process. We recommend that you register for one of these sessions as soon as possible — participation six to eight months before your wedding date is ideal.

Marriage is a lifelong experience of challenges to grow as individuals, and as a couple. We who are involved in the Ministry to Engaged Couples care about you and your marriage and we are anxious to share with you. We see marriage preparation as the opportunity for the two of you to get away from the hustle and bustle of planning your wedding day, and to spend

time together with other engaged and married couples and a priest to do some in-depth thinking about marriage as a vocation. After all, your wedding is a day — your marriage a lifetime.

Again, congratulations. Our prayer is that God will bless you as you prepare to celebrate your marriage, and that His love will continue to shine upon you as you grow through your years together.

Peace, Love and Joy  
Jim and Donna Fitch  
Pre-Marriage Coordinators

There is no more lovely, friendly and charming relationship, communion or company than a good marriage.

### To A Bride

Let all the Joys be as the month of May,

And all thy days be as a marriage day:

Let sorrow, sickness, and a troubled mind

Be stranger to thee.

Francis Quarles

Among the intelligent people the surest basis for marriage is friendship, the sharing of real interests, the ability to fight out ideas together and understand each other's thoughts and dreams.

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