

# Faith and Respect Primary Ingredients for Achieving Solid Marriage

Last October, many couples in the diocese who were celebrating their silver or gold anniversaries during the year gathered at a special celebration in Canandaigua. They were asked to give their responses to the following question.

Because we believe in your wisdom, because we believe many married and engaged couples have much to learn from you, would you please share with us your thoughts on this question: How has your marriage helped to discover the meaning of faith?

A few of the reflections follow:

"Marriage is like a beautiful garden in which 'weeds' of one form or another keep popping up and need to be dealt with (problems, conflicts, hardships). We have found that only through prayer and trust in the Lord have we been able to have the strength and continual endurance, of loving enough, to work at removing the weeds that might otherwise overrun and destroy our beautiful garden."

"Our marriage has deepened our mutual love, respect and faith and acceptance of those things God has intended for us. Similarly, faith in God is

premised upon love, belief and acceptance. As our marriage grows, so does our faith in God."

"After 50 years of marriage we attribute our happiness and success to cooperation, patience and respect for one another. From the very beginning our marriage was tested during the depression of the 30s and was tempered during the flood of June 1972. We survived the crises because we had faith in God, faith in the teachings of our Catholic Church, and faith in each other."

"Marriage and faith work hand and hand. If you don't

## The Proper Way To Receive Guests

The receiving line is an excellent way for both families to meet and it is a warm, friendly way to start the reception off.

Usually it is formed as the wedding guests arrive at the reception, though some people prefer it to take place in the church vestibule right after the ceremony.

It's a good idea to go over the guest list beforehand, but even if you forget some names, don't panic — just smile and ask. Each person should introduce the next person in line.

Take off your rings to

have faith you have nothing. We love, trust, share and have faith in one another. We have had wonderful times and some difficult times. We have learned from both. We would change nothing. Our love, trust and sharing has taught us how to appreciate our faith. Faith is what binds all together."

"We could never have survived and endured the trials, heartaches, sickness, deaths of loved ones, both of our parents and brothers, if not for our faith in God and our religion. Without God's love and guidance and support we could never have reached and survived 50 years of marriage."

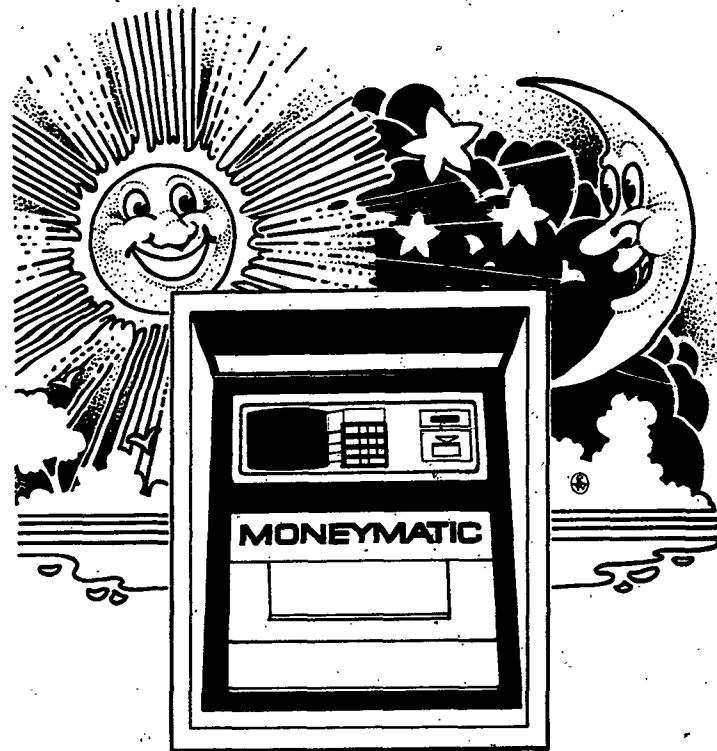
avoid painful handshakes, and rub a little anti-perspirant on your palms to avoid wetness.

The traditional line-up is as follows: mother of the bride, groom's mother, bride and groom, the maid of honor and then the bridesmaids.

The bride's father and the ushers should circulate among the guests, and bring drinks if desired to the people on the receiving line.

It is helpful to set up a small refreshment table near the end of the line to encourage mingling.

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