

# Only in Renewal Can Love Keep Marriage Alive, Fresh

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Coordinators  
Family Life Office

Climbing divorce rates, continual stresses from social and economic forces of change, and alternative lifestyles have raised questions in many circles about the viability of the family in the future of this society. Some have predicted the death of the family. But as Michael Novak, theological essayist, has written, "Choosing family life today is an act of courage and intelligence... marriage and family still express our highest moral ideals."

We salute you for your courage and intelligence, and most of all for your desire to make a commitment to each other, to God and to the Church in an age where such promises are seen as unnecessary, passe. We know the love you have for each other — so vibrant and alive now — is a cherished possession. We also know, as you must, that after the honeymoon that love will need to be constantly nourished and reaffirmed because it will be tested.

Your husband or wife and the faith you share must be number one. Build your lives around that relationship, and don't allow anything to take precedence — not jobs, or education, or friends, or even in-laws. Celebrate and renew that bond of love often. Work to keep it fresh

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and alive, because when you don't, it doesn't stay fresh — it withers, slowly but surely.

Finally, know that the Church is always ready to support you, and to accept your support. There are programs in many parishes throughout the diocese to help you discover how to live the sacrament you will celebrate soon. We want to be a source of inspiration, hope, encouragement, and healing for you when you

need it. We also want you to share with us the freshness and excitement of your marriage. You can be inspirational for so many couples who may have lost some of the glow you radiate.

So keep in touch, for our sake and yours. Become involved from the beginning in your parish. Learn about programs offered by the Family Life Office at (716) 436-5450.

## Honeymoon Planning Can Be Easy

What advice is there for the couple planning a honeymoon?

• Be honest with each other. How do you both really want to spend your honeymoon? Hiking? Shopping? Or just lazing away on a beach?

• Make your plans early. You'll have a better chance of getting exactly the space at the time you want instead of being disappointed or having to pay more because the rooms in your price range are all taken.

• Take advantage of timing — with night-flight savings, weekday, excursion, and special fares on land and in the air. And be sure to investigate off-season travel, too. Write to airline tour departments, hotel chain headquarters, and individual resorts for brochures, rate sheets, and honeymoon package details.

### ... THE TOAST ...

Experiment with ad lib comments. Time your speech. Bring in members of your family and friends.



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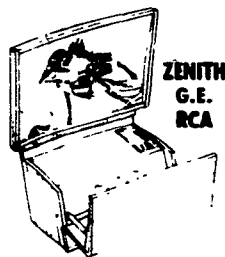
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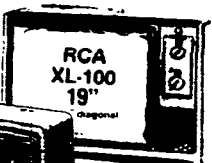
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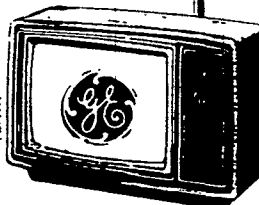


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