

Wedding jubilarians celebrating together.

Married Jubilarians Share Their Wisdom

Each year the Diocese of Rochester invites all those celebrating their 25th, 50th (or more) anniversary to a special mass and reception with Bishop Matthew H. Clark.

These couples have shared with the Family Life Office their responses to the question: How has your marriage helped you to discover the meaning of faith?

"Our marriage has re-defined for us the faith dimension of our lives. We have learned, through experience, that we are not 'in charge' of our shared life, and that it is only by God's grace that we have journeyed together in love and fidelity for the past 25 years. Faith has a much broader and deeper meaning for us than it did 25 years ago."

"Marriage is a faith experience in learning to live and hope by and in faith. In the midst of a heated discussion between husband and wife to look into each other's eyes and see Jesus Christ and to love that person in and with the love of Christ."

Faith is a mystery, so is marriage. Faith is hoping, so is marriage. Faith is a gift, so are we to each other. Faith tells us we have a loving God, marriage re-



Bishop Matthew H. Clark greeting jubilarian couples.

affirms it. Faith was part of our wedding day and a trust we kept, a love we kept, a hope and gift we kept, for this day. And because of faith, we found Jesus in each other."

"Faith is trust. I place my trust in you and you in me. In marriage we become one and yet we are individuals who must learn to trust in the other."

"We have learned from each other what it means to offend and be offended, forgive and be forgiven. This constancy of love has increased our faith in a loving, forgiving God."

"Faith has brought us together, and faith has

helped us through depression, sickness, hardship, disappointments and kept us together for the 50 years of our marriage."

"Our trust in God has blessed our 50 years of marriage."

"In looking back on our 25 years together, we can see an unfolding of God's plan. We have experienced joy, trials, sadness, love, family togetherness. All this and much more can only be faced and made truly meaningful in the context of our faith. How cold and empty our lives would be without it. In seeing this our faith has been strengthened time and again."

The Honeymoon: A Time to Slow Down After Wedding Activity

By Lynn & Al Toth

A couples honeymoon is the start of their lifelong celebration of marriage. We believe it is important to have a honeymoon that will allow the couple to become more intimate and closer together. This time is often necessary since many of the couples prior to their wedding day have been under tremendous stress preparing for their special day. Parents, friends and especially the reception, plus all the many activities all tend to leave the couple tired. Therefore, the honeymoon should be a time to relax, to talk to each other, to make love and be intimate with one another. Time to grow in their sacrament. It may be a lifelong dream to tour Europe in six weeks but it is also stressful and exhausting

so we suggest putting this type of trip off for another time. The important part of a honeymoon is not how much you see or how much you do, or how much you spend. The important thing is how much more intimate and passionate you have become in your time together.

Honeymoons do not have to be long or terribly expensive. Sometimes a day or two at a nearby city can be just as great as two weeks in the Caribbean. Activities that you both enjoy make a honeymoon great as long as the activities bring you together and don't make you exhausted or tense.

Expectations on a couples honeymoon can also lead to problems. If you planned a week of sun and ocean and have a week of rain you can

easily become disappointed. We find it important to keep a sense of humor, since things never seem to go exactly as planned but hugs and laughs can turn a near catastrophe into a fun shared memory. We also have discovered a honeymoon does not have to be a one time occasion. Many couples, either due to time or money, can't have their dream honeymoon but in five years it may be possible. Annual honeymoons are also a possibility whether it's a weekend or just a night alone. All of these are important and should contain the same basic elements as the first. Namely, time to be alone, to be romantic, to love and to be loved, to talk and to celebrate the gift God has given you each other.

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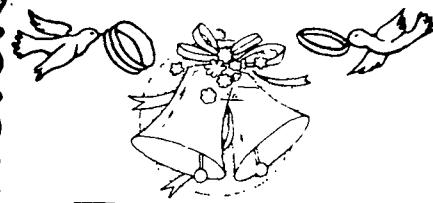
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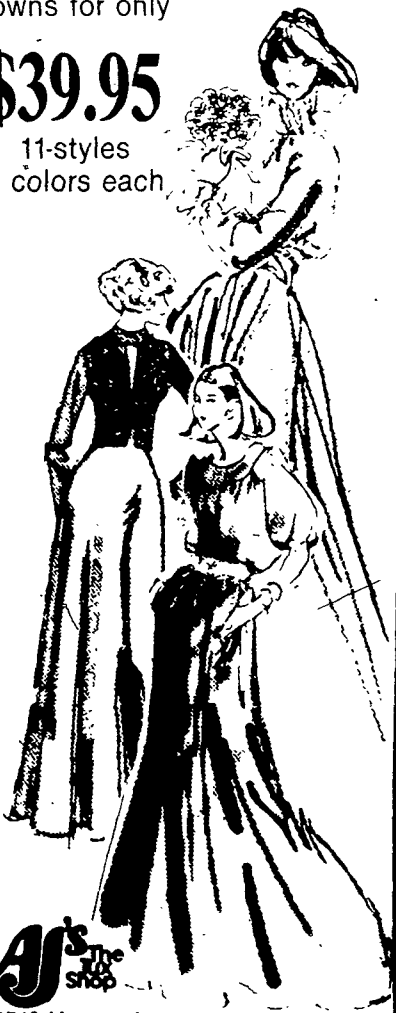


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