

THEME 1: A NATURAL AND SUPERNATURAL GIFT

Relationship to Lived Experience

Reflection

Many neighborhoods are blessed to have a married couple on the block who are the true community makers. This is the couple on whom everyone counts to generate enthusiasm for the block party or to make the first welcoming visit to new arrivals. When this special couple also happens to be Christian, their positive influence gives the Church a good name. People seek their opinion on moral questions or ask them to pray for their loved ones. They seem to enjoy working together in the yard and on church projects. Their dinner table always has room for another teenager. In such a couple, people witness the natural and supernatural dimensions of marriage in the flesh.

Discussion Questions

1. Think of a couple whose marriage you admire. Why do you admire them? What would you say are their best qualities?
2. What seems to make a marriage strong, despite the flaws of the spouses?
3. In what ways can your marriage become a gift to other people, not only to each other?
4. What practical steps could you take to extend encouragement or support to another couple who are struggling?
5. What signs do you see that the love of a husband and wife benefits society?

Journaling Questions

1. How has your spouse been a gift to you?
2. What would you like to do for your spouse that would express your love in a special way? Write down a plan for doing it, and follow your plan.
3. A couple who need our encouragement and prayers are _____. What can we do for them, individually or together? (Some suggestions: Babysit for their children while the couple goes on a date; write them a note of encouragement; invite them to work with us on a project in the parish or neighborhood.)