

COUPLES' RETREAT

2024

THEME:
COMPETITIONS IN MARRIAGE



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THE DOS AND DONTs



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OUTLINE:

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- UNDERSTANDING MARRIAGE
- AREAS NATURE FORCES COUPLES TO COMPETE
- AREAS THE AUTHOR OF MARRIAGE NEEDS COUPLES TO COMPETE
- REMEMBERING THE GOOD OLD DAYS
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LEADING TEXTS

- ‘Because of where God places Marriage, Devil will not allow marriage to rest’, Ejiofo, Innocent, *‘This is Marriage: Alumdinanwunye’*. (Conf. C. 849, twofold: created in the world & adopted as His chosen, the Church.)
- ‘Satan himself is more afraid of marriage than he is of the Church because he knows that marriage is the foundation of the Church’, Ejiofo, Innocent, *ibid*). Foundation once **destroyed**

“In **REAL LOVE**, you want the **other person’s good**. In **ROMANTIC LOVE** you want the **other person**” Margaret Anderson. In marriage both are very necessary, but former, more than later

“Take every care/Do all you can to preserve the **UNITY** of the Spirit by the **PEACE** that binds **you** together” (Eph. 4: 3)

INTRODUCTION

- Every Marriage is so unique that any form of imitation may appear adulteration.
- Because every Marriage is still Marriage, there are some common characteristics they MUST share in common, the frequency and the degree notwithstanding.
- It is based on these two principals of uniqueness and commonalities, which help every marriage to perfect itself, that the issues of competitions stand.
- Unfortunately, many couples 'COMPETE' where they should not, and left to rest where they ought to COMPETE, resulting to pills of files in our diocesan marriage tribunals, many separations, and divorces. Beware of ***Social Media!***

UNDERSTANDING MARRIAGE

- The primary reason for the institution of marriage: COMPANIONSHIP.
- “It is not right/good ... him a helper/helpmate”, (Gen. 2: 18) The New Jerusalem Bible, Study/Popular Edits,
- The 2nd reason is: GENERATION OF OFFSPRINGS = Bt. + Trg.
- “Be fruitful, multiply, fill the earth & conquer it” Gen. 1: 28; C. 1055, 1154)
- Essential Props of Mg: UNITY and INDISSOLUBILITY, (C. 1056); Mt. 19: 6)
- Marriage is not easy: “If that is how things are b/w husband & wife, it is advisable not to marry”, Mt. 19: 10). (It is not everyone who can accept what I have said, ... Let anyone ... who can’, v. 12).
- This is why MARRIAGE **MUST** BE A SACRAMENT, for it not, ...

AREAS NATURE FORCES COUPLES TO COMPETE.1

- Conspiring to do evils, (Act. 5: 1 – 5)
- Comparing partners with others
- Envy and Jealous of each other or others, even of relations
- Monitoring partners, eg. phones, in the name of caring/checking on my love
- Selfishness, (Phil. 2: 3)
- Deceptions, lies, and manipulating others against partner



AREAS NATURE FORCES COUPLES TO COMPETE.2

- Backbiting, wars, killings, and other family violence, (James, 4: 1 – 2)
- Bearing grudges and being revengeful (unforgiving)
- I can't beg or ask for forgiveness
- Pride, Uncultured, Hurting and Keeping Malice
- Pretending to be better than the other
- Inviting a dangerous third party. (If you want to be trusted be transparent), Etc.

AREAS THE AUTHOR OF MARRIAGE NEEDS COUPLES TO COMPETE, 1

- Being devoted to each other in love (Rm. 12: 10); love must be sincere, (Rm. 12: 9). Hate what is evil (action), not the person, (actor).
- Trusting, being human, gentle, and loving, (Eph. 4: 2); forgiveness and forbearance, (Col. 3: 13)
- Acknowledging & praising your partner in every good act, (Songs 2: 9), no matter how insignificant it may appear
- The degree of the intimacy & will existing between them, dialogue and understanding; emotional intelligence
- Strengthening your spiritual bond always, Complimenting and completing each other, (Gen. 1: 18 ; C. 1055)
- Giving of affections, gifts, & other forms of positive surprises the other might like, according to your sincere ability

AREAS THE AUTHOR OF MARRIAGE WANTS COUPLES TO COMPETE, 2

- Encouraging, (1 Peter, 3: 7) congratulating, and protecting each other; being prayerful, (Lk. 18: 2; Mt. 6: 6; James 4: 3; 1 Thess. 5: 17; 1 Tim. 2: 8)
- In sexual fidelity, (C. 1135; C. 1151); purity, understanding, patience, and kindness, (2 Cor. 6: 7)
- In faith, speech, and knowledge, (2 Cor. 8: 7); in righteousness, (2 Cor. 6: 7)
- In faithfulness, (1 Tim.3:2), & diligence, (Heb.6:11) Unity, (Phil.2:2); (C.1056)
- Team parenting, Live a life worthy of your vocation, (Eph. 4: 1); (C. 1136, C. 1134, C. 1135, C. 1151)



Living a holier and fuller family life. (C. 1062-4)

REMEMBERING THE GOOD OLDEN DAYS

- As it was in the beginning.
- A need to restore the old good days.
- Remembering the good old days, if any...
- Only if MARRIAGE is built on LOVE, CARE, & CONCERN
- This is WHY PARENTS MUST train their children from the very beginning, (Proverbs, 22: 6), and NEVER FORCE or MANIPULATE any into marrying; rather show SINCERE concern, listen CAREFULLY & OBJECTIVELY, and then direct them LOVINGLY, WITHOUT any kind of SELFISH INTEREST.
- NO CHILD IS MUM'S OR DAD'S INVESTMENT, but GOD'S! don't challenge HIM; you wouldn't like the result if HE

CONCLUSION

Am I convince from this?

What shall I do **NOW**? This takes an eagle eye to discover!

Where will I start? Any need to ask for forgiveness, or to apologize; to accept forgiveness or apologies? Am I humble enough for this union?

How many of what the Devil wants me to do, am I doing? List them.

How many of what God wants me to be doing am I doing? List them.

Was I forced into this marriage by parents or conditions? Any errors to be corrected? (C. 1156 – 1165 Validation of Marriage)