

THEME 3: COMMUNION OF LOVE AND LIFE

Relationship to Lived Experience

Reflection

When they were newlyweds, both were sure that this was the one person who completed their world. They thought they could never love each other more. When they found they could not have biological children, they adopted their little girl and discovered a new dimension to their love. The day they first held her in their arms, they suddenly saw each other in a new light: Mom and Dad. In becoming parents, they began to understand something new about why God had brought them together. Their feelings of great joy were accompanied by feelings of overwhelming responsibility; they knew they would need God's help.

Discussion Questions

1. What can couples who have no difficulty conceiving learn from an adopting couple like the one in the story? In what additional ways can a married couple have a procreative relationship and attitude?
2. Think of a couple with children whose family life you admire. From your observation, how are the children a blessing to that couple's marriage?
3. How can a couple maintain intimacy when they are parents?
4. How can we as a parish communicate the message that children are an important part of marriage?

Journaling Questions

1. In what ways do you and your spouse need to change or grow in order to be able to welcome a child (or another child) into the family?
2. If you are a parent, how has your child been a blessing to you? How have you changed for the better since becoming a parent?
3. If you do not have children, how do you expect that having a child would change your marriage?