

Marriage Enrichment



**Schedule**

6:30 Divine Liturgy

7:30 Dinner

8:30 Talk

9:00 Questionnaire

9:40 Renewal of Marriage Vows followed by a champagne celebration, music and dance

**Questionnaire: Marital Conscience Exam**

1. What are my principal reasons to live? (The meaning I give to my life). What are the principal reasons for continuing to love and share life with my spouse?
2. What are my principal faults as a spouse?
3. What most unites us as husband and wife? What tends to separate us?
4. Can we notice any of the following in our marriage:

Yes No

* Habitual sadness? \_\_ \_\_
* Feelings of interior emptiness, loneliness? \_\_ \_\_
* Coldness in dealing with each other? \_\_ \_\_
* Lack of interest in what matters to my spouse?

\_\_ \_\_

* Lack of tenderness and care for each other (especially in the small things)

\_\_ \_\_

* Frequent fighting \_\_ \_\_
* Ridiculing each other \_\_ \_\_
* Resentment, grudges?\_\_ \_\_
* Lack of desire to be together frequently to spend time together?

\_\_ \_\_

* Certain topics which are “taboo”, about which we cannot speak without having tension?

\_\_ \_\_

* Do I have more confidence with people outsidemy family than with my spouse (friends, relatives)?

\_\_ \_\_

* Attitude of “realism “…”that’s the way I am and I can’t change now” \_\_ \_\_
* Lack of desire to sacrifice for my spouse, to be inconvenienced?

\_\_ \_\_

1. What was the hardest time for our marriage? What was this due to?
2. If the best time of our marriage was in the past, how can we renew that now? What obstacles have come up to living that happiness?
3. What are the most positive aspects of our marriage?
4. What have we achieved together? Are theylike the “trophies” and deserve to be kept in a place of honor where they are noticed? Do we keep our attention on those achievements as a sign of what we can still achieve with the grace of God?
5. What are some negative aspects of our marriage? What can we eliminate with a little effort? Why haven’t we done so already?
6. What is most difficult between us? Can we start working systematically to overcome them? Canwe study the problems, communicate better about them, pray over them, get advice or help? Why are we letting it simmer?

**Renewal of Marriage Vows**

*The celebrant first addresses the husband:*

**Priest**: N., my beloved son, do you continue to take N., here present, for your wife?

**Husband**: I do, Father.

*The celebrant then addresses the wife:*

**Priest**: N., my beloved daughter, do you continue to take N., here present, for your husband?

**Wife**: I do, Father.

**Blessing of the Marriage**

Priest: By the hand of God and his holy Word, our son, N. and our daughter, N. are blessed in marriage in the name of the most Holy Trinity: Father, Son and Holy Spirit, the One and only true God. May their marriage be as firm as the covenant by which heaven and earth were created, and be blessed as was the covenant by which Sarah was joined to Abraham, Rebecca to Isaac and Rachel to Jacob, so that nothing shall separate them but death.

All: Amen.

**Blessing of the Rings**

Priest: O Lord, extend the right hand of your Trinity and bless + these rings, which belong to your servants. Sanctify + them by our work and grant that they may continue to wear them + in the sharing of their marriage. May they be a wall of protection for their bodies, and shield them from all harm. May your grace shine upon them and your right hand, filled with mercy, bless them. In sharing their happiness, may they give you glory and thanksgiving.

All: Amen

Priest: With the continued blessing of your rings, may the right hand of our Lord Jesus Christ descend upon you. May the blessings of his grace, which fulfills all needs, abound in you. May they shield you from all harm. May you set out for the tabernacle of the Lord and mingle with his blessed flock. To you, O Lord, be glory, forever.

All: Amen.

**Crowning Prayer for the Husband**

*The celebrant prays over the Husband, saying:*

Priest: May the Lord who crowned our holy fathers with justice look upon you with love. You have come to the holy Church seeking assistance, may the Lord bless you, protect you always, and lead you to everlasting life.

All: Amen.

**Crowning Prayer for the Wife**

*The celebrant prays over the wife, saying:*

Priest: May God who crowned all the holy women and blessed Sarah, Rebecca and Rachel, bless you, be merciful to you, and exalt you with the crown of glory. Adorned with the fruits of the Spirit, may you continue to flourish as a blessed vine in the midst of the Church; may the Lord God fill you with joy as you dwell with your husband in love and abiding peace; (may your children be pleasing to God) through the intercession of Mary, Mother of God, and all the saints.

All: Amen.

**Prayer over the Husband**

*The celebrant extends his right hand over the husband and prays:*

Priest: May the Lord who rules the whole universe bless + you and richly endow the work of your hands. May your home be secure as the dwelling place of David. May your wife be precious in your eyes and be as a column of fire within your home. May you find happiness all the days of your life.(May your children stand upright before you like the cedars of Lebanon.) May God multiply your riches and may you give aid and comfort to those who call upon you. May you walk in the path of righteousness all the days of your life, that you may always give to God glory and thanksgiving.

All: Amen.

**Prayer over the Wife**

*The celebrant extends his right hand over the wife and prays:*

Priest: May the Lord who has filled creation with beauty and made the just women rejoice in their deeds, enrich you with good works. May he confirm your heart in his justice.(May your children be pleasing to him.) May you live with your husband in peace and abiding love. May your lamp be lit before the Lord on the day of his coming.

All: Amen.

**Concluding Prayer**

Priest: May the Lord God accompany you from his holy temple and protect you in body and soul. May he protect you from the snares of the devil and deliver you from the deceits of the wicked. After a long and happy life may he make you worthy to hear from him these words of joy: “Come, blessed of my Father, and inherit eternal life.”

*He then makes the sign of the cross over them with the hand cross saying:*

Father, Son + and Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.