



# CREED FOR MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER

## We Believe

**That** God didn't and doesn't make junk or trash. God created all of us good and made us in His image, both male and female.

**That** we can't love what we don't know — especially ourselves.

**That** feelings are neither morally good or bad. They simply are. (What we do with our feelings, however, can become a moral question.)

**That** the state of marriage in modern society is in a crisis situation.

**That** marriage and the family are the basic institutions, the main building blocks, of society.

**That** each person is unique. So, each relationship between two unique persons is also unique. It is up to the two of us to discover, to grow in, and to live out this unique relationship.

**That** marriages need support of other married couples to survive.

**That** a loving marriage relationship is a dynamic growing reality. It can have no limit because love, like God, has no limit. So, a love-relationship never reaches its ultimate stage.

**That** dialogue, the continual and mutual self-revelation of thoughts and feelings, is the life blood of a marriage relationship,

**That** the "Basic Law of Life" is the continuous series of stages, referred to as Illusion - Disillusion - True Joy. This is the natural ebb and flow of life, and describes how we grow. Likewise, this "Basic Law of Life" is similar to the biblical theme of Birth-Death-Resurrection.

**That** it will be very difficult for children to learn how to love if they do not experience love in the home at an early age — mainly between their mother and father. So, the most important thing a father can do for his children is to love their mother and for her, to love their father.

**That** discovery and belief in God comes through a human love relationship for most of us. The most natural place for this experience is in marriage. And this seems to be God's plan.

**That** the marriage relationship between husband and wife and the spirit of love between them is the living image of God. Marriage is a community of love and is God's plan, or model, for unity among unique human persons.

**That** the joy and beauty planned for us by God in the Sacrament of Marriage is far beyond our wildest imagination.

**That** the nature of married love, like all love, is a spiral. If it is real, it cannot be contained, but must be open to the whole world. For it is of the nature of love to reach out beyond oneself.

**That** you can't give to the world what you don't have. How can anyone attempt to solve the problems of the world, communicate with others, or heal the wounds of an alienated society, if he or she can't communicate with or is alienated from that person he or she has chosen to live with until death?



## ELEMENTS OF COUPLE UNITY

- H**abitual dialogue
- E**ncounter self
- L**ittle acts of love
- P**ray together
- M**ake love
- A**ppreciate our differences
- T**rust in God
- E**njoy time together
- S**piral our love to the world