



GRACES OF THE SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE

By Father Gabriel Calvo

Graces are the visible and dynamic actions of the risen Christ. They are aids from Jesus Christ. The light, strength, and supernatural power engendered by the Graces, enable the couple to be unconstrained by dangers, and able to build up the family of God in this world.

Graces of the Sacrament of Marriage help the spouses to grow as individuals and as a couple. They are a manifestation of God's love as seen through one's spouse, and coming through one's spouse in everyday life and commitment.

Graces, then, are special helps you give to one another when you are aware of God's presence, and by which you are enabled to go beyond yourselves to make your marriage according to God's acting in the life of husband and wives.

There is a rich variety of sacramental marriage graces responding to the different needs and circumstances of each married couple. Following are some of the most common:

Unity: Working together to solve the problems of marriage and family life.

Fidelity: Faithfully keeping the promise to belong to each other exclusively.

Reconciliation: Giving and receiving forgiveness to and from each other.

Healing: Having the ability to mend each other's hurts and to heal the wounds of selfishness and pride.

Sensitivity: Experiencing awareness of one another's presence and needs and then responding accordingly.

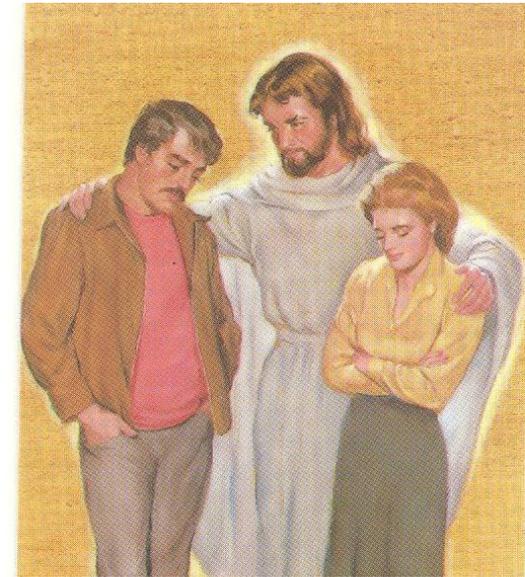
Encouragement: Having the power to lift each other up when discouraged.

Cooperation: Challenging and supporting one another to live and fulfill their mission of witness.

Sanctification: Helping one another to become holy in and through your marriage and family life.

Parenthood: Discovering God's plan in your lives and carrying it out in society and in the Church. Through this Grace parents become faithful collaborators with the Creator.

Radiation: Being reflectors of the presence, love and activity of Christ within you, everywhere.



I'll always remember the beautiful revelation of a wonderful encountered couple: "Gabriel, sometimes we fight and then we feel our marital love dying and so we are dying to one another and consequently, we feel that Jesus is dying in our relationship. That is our Good Friday.

But when we become reconciled through an honest encounter with ourselves and deep sharing with each other, then we feel that Jesus is coming alive again in our relationship. This is our Easter Sunday!"

Website for Fr. Calvo and FIRES

www.family-experiences.org