



BEING AN OPEN AND COMMITTED COUPLE

By Father Gabriel Calvo

Couples have come to realize they have the mission to show by their living example that God does have a vision for marriage, and that He lives in them to be able to show through them what His vision is.

It is not a question of waiting until their couple relationship is deepened before moving into the family; or waiting until family life is deepened before moving into society.

Couples cannot forget that they are part of the world. They must be givers of life to each other, their children and their community. To focus on the couple alone stifles the flow of married love.

Couples must become aware of their mission and responsibility to build a more human and better world by opening and witnessing the richness of their marriage relationship through the testimony of their love and unity.

Couples must put into practice the things they have become aware of through the Marriage Encounter experience. From here the commitment comes.

The carrying out of this commitment must be ranked in accordance with the vision of God outward in a spiral fashion — from the person to the couple, and from the couple to the family, relatives, friends, the community.

Marriage according to God's Vision IS NOT a closed relationship of husband and wife, but an open relationship to all those with whom they come in contact.

You are called to show your marriage as a

Faith relationship, being "signs" of God's love and unity not just to one another, but to your children and to your community.

This way, Jesus' words will be fulfilled in you: "You have not chosen Me, but I have chosen you and have appointed you to go and bear fruit." (John 15:16).

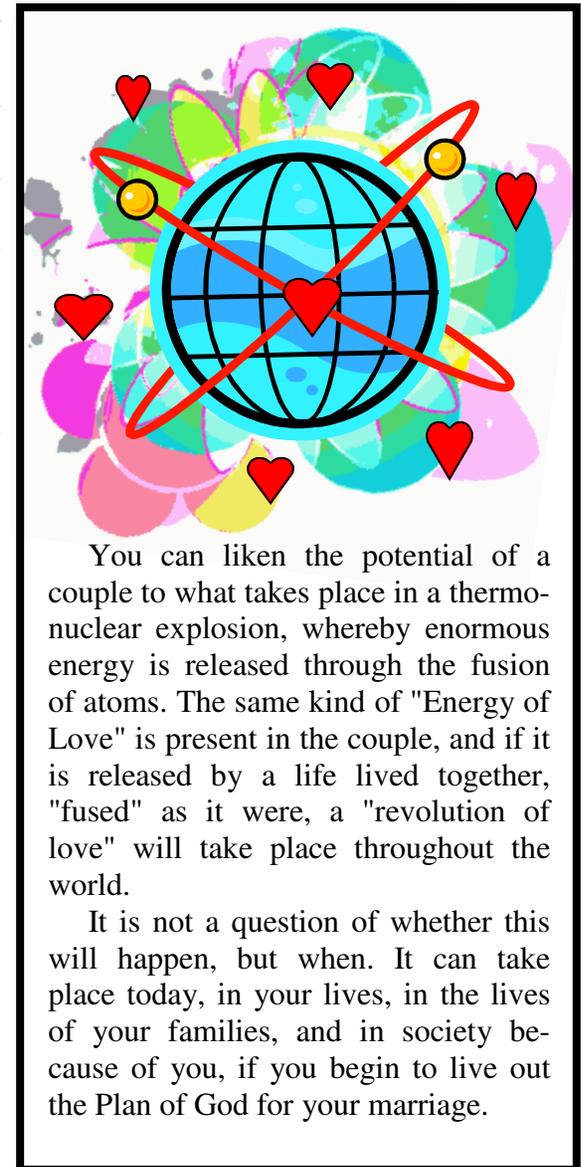
Your life with your children in the home and with those in your community must flow from your married life and unity "in the Lord." That is in accordance with God's Plan and Vision. These actions will strengthen and nourish your married love and unity. The "inside" action of your marriage will continually feed your "outside" action and vice versa.

Your Marriage Commitment is threefold. There is no limit to the possibilities of practical commitments in each of these three areas:

- 1) Commitment to Your Spouse: loving, communicating, being faithful ...
- 2) Commitment to Your Children: loving, communicating, educating ...
- 3) Commitment to Society: being involved with the poorest, the needy ...

There is no limit to the possible number of commitments you can have at one time; they change, increase, decrease, or simply cease, depending on your fluctuating circumstances.

Through your own mutual confiding and dialogue you begin to discover and become aware of your opportunities, talents, and responsibilities. You discover whether you are over-committed or under-committed.



You can liken the potential of a couple to what takes place in a thermonuclear explosion, whereby enormous energy is released through the fusion of atoms. The same kind of "Energy of Love" is present in the couple, and if it is released by a life lived together, "fused" as it were, a "revolution of love" will take place throughout the world.

It is not a question of whether this will happen, but when. It can take place today, in your lives, in the lives of your families, and in society because of you, if you begin to live out the Plan of God for your marriage.