

Study Guide: The Transforming Power of Marriage in *A Beautiful Mind* (2001, 136 minutes, rated A-III and PG-13)

1. Marriage is the gift from God of a covenant between a woman and a man who freely commit themselves to one another in love and in service. Give several examples that demonstrate John and Alicia Nash's love and service toward each other.

2. Marriage celebrates the most intimate union between a man and a woman, but it also celebrates "otherness." What are some of the signs of union and some of the signs of "otherness" in the marriage of John and Alicia?

3. Sacramental Marriage is an indissoluble covenant. What is meant by a *covenant*? Which signs do you see in the movie that John and Alicia consider their bond of marriage to be sacred and permanent?



Part 2

1. Fidelity in marriage requires the deepest level of trust, and at times confidentiality. How does Alicia, who faced a nearly insurmountable challenge in her marriage to John, convey to him that she is trustworthy and faithful to their marriage covenant?

2. The love that exists between two married people gives new life through children, and often new life through the sharing of gifts with the community. Describe how each of these is illustrated in the lives of John and Alicia.

3. The Catholic form of the wedding vow reads: "I, _____, take you, _____, to be my (husband / wife). I promise to be true to you in good times and in bad, in sickness and in health. I will love you and honor you all the days of my life" (*Rite of Marriage*, 25). Few people think about poverty or illness on their wedding day. How do you think you could deal with the types of challenges John and Alicia faced in their marriage?



4. What is the scene regarding the meaning of marriage that you will best remember from *A Beautiful Mind*? What does this scene show you about marriage?

(The quotation labeled *Rite of Marriage* is from the English translation of *Rite of Marriage* © 1969, International Commission on English in the Liturgy [ICEL], in *The Rites of the Catholic Church*, volume one, prepared by the ICEL, a Joint Commission of Catholic Bishops' Conferences [Collegeville, MN: Liturgical Press, 1990]. Copyright © 1990 by the Order of St. Benedict, Collegeville, MN. Used with permission of the ICEL.)

