

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## **Lifelong Journey**

Most of you will marry, but all of us have to live, to one degree or another, in cooperation with others. Relationships with others help us to learn more about ourselves. Use your imagination to relate what you know about yourself now to the possibility of marriage in the future. It is always best to consider these kinds of questions *before* entering into the permanent covenant of marriage, rather than after.

- What do you think are some of your best personal qualities that you can bring to a marriage relationship?
- What are some of the shortcomings you have that you would have to work on before getting married? (For example, are you somewhat sloppy, disorganized, lazy, stubborn, a procrastinator, a gossip, not ready for fidelity, and so on?)
- What are some of the qualities you would look for in someone you would consider marrying?
- How do you think you will deal with the inevitable shortcomings and limitations of a spouse?
- Many people have difficulty getting along with college roommates. How easy do you think it will be to live with a spouse who may have different habits, interests, likes or dislikes, and so on, from your own?
- How will you and your spouse make decisions about the many issues you will inevitably deal with? (Some of these include when to have children, how many children to have, how to handle your finances, who works outside the home or who does not, where to live, who your friends will be, how much time you spend with each other's parents and family, how frugally or lavishly you will live, where you will live, what schools your children will attend, and so on.)



- What will you do if you and your spouse experience an unexpected and devastating change, such as a serious illness, the loss of a job, a serious and debilitating accident, the loss of a child, and so on? Will you be able to adjust and stand by your partner through difficult times?
- As time passes, the good looks and vigor of youth begin to fade away. Will your love be deep enough to survive the many changes that go with the process of aging?
- The average lifespan has continued to lengthen for women and men. Are you prepared to spend fifty or sixty or even seventy years with the same person? What will you do if you become a widow or widower at a young age?
- The way you are living right now is either preparing you for a life of fidelity in marriage or not. Do you consider yourself to be a trustworthy, compassionate, faithful, and chaste person? If you do not practice these virtues now, do you think that you will be able to be truly faithful to a spouse in the future?
- Do you see marriage as an opportunity to witness to the faithful love of Christ? If someone does not see marriage in this way, should they seek marriage in the Church?
- Who are the best models for marriage that you have in your life at this time? What hope for your own (potential) marriage can they give you? What can they teach you that you can try to emulate?
- In our society, many people live several years on their own, before marriage, as single persons. For many others, life as a single person is a valid and rewarding permanent choice. As a single person now, what can you do to bring new life to others and witness to Christ? How do you foresee doing this as a young single person in the world?

