

Léandre Lachance

# For the HAPPINESS of Couples and Families



Foundation of the Chosen Ones

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by Léandre Lachance

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*The mission of the Foundation of the Chosen Ones is to promote the diffusion, experimentation and integration of the messages of Love of the Lord entrusted to Léandre Lachance.*

### Editor's note:

*In this document, use of the masculine is generic and is used for conciseness purposes only.*

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

## INTRODUCTION

PREFACE	8
MOTIVATION	9
GOAL	10

## PART ONE - THE FAMILY

THE FAMILY	12
CAUSES OF PROBLEMS IN COUPLES AND FAMILIES	14

## PART TWO - APPROPRIATE TEACHINGS

2.1 COUPLES EXPERIENCING DIFFICULTIES	18
2.2 COUPLES DIVIDED BY SEPARATION OR DIVORCE	21
2.3 IMPORTANCE OF A LIFE IN GOD	23
2.4 OFFERING OUR PARTNER AND CHILDREN TO GOD	25
2.5 DIVIDED FAMILIES	26
2.6 SOLUTION TO DRUG PROBLEMS	28
2.7 TRANSFORMATION OF OUR BEING BY LOVE	29
2.8 ABOUT COMMUNION FOR PEOPLE LIVING IN COMMON-LAW	30

## PART THREE - APPLICATIONS

3.1 DIFFERENCE AND COMPLEMENTARITY	34
3.2 SELF-ACCEPTANCE	34
3.3 UNWAVERING TRUST	35
3.4 GROWING PAINS	35
3.5 FORGIVENESS	35
3.6 CONCEPTION OF LOVE	36
3.7 SEXUALITY	37
3.8 FAITHFULNESS	39
3.9 TRUTH, CHARITY, FREEDOM	39
3.10 FINANCES	39
3.11 PRIORITIES	41
3.12 QUALITY TIME	42

3.13	BATTLE AGAINST THE SOURCE OF DEPENDENCIES _____	42
3.14	TRUE LIFE EXAMPLES _____	43
3.15	MINISTRY OF THE HOLY ANGELS _____	44
3.16	ROLE OF THE COUPLE AS PARENTS _____	44

## **PART FOUR - FOR YOUNG PEOPLE**

4.1	THE IMPORTANCE OF GOOD COMPANY _____	48
4.2	COMMITMENT _____	48
4.3	DIALOGUE WITH ONE OF MY GRANDSONS WHO IS 21 YEARS OLD _____	49

## **PART FIVE - THE SACREMENT OF MARRIAGE**

5.1	THE SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE _____	52
5.2	THE COUPLE: SIGN OF LOVE _____	52
5.3	THE COUPLE CALLED TO BE FRUITFUL _____	52
5.4	MARRIAGE: A SACRAMENT _____	53
5.5	MARRIAGE: A GIFT _____	53
5.6	GOD'S PLAN OF LOVE _____	53
5.7	THE INDISSOLUBILITY OF MARRIAGE _____	54
5.8	FEAR OF COMMITMENT _____	54
5.9	THE SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE: A GIFT FROM GOD _____	55
5.10	THE FAMILY, THE DOMESTIC CHURCH _____	55

## **PART SIX - TESTIMONIES OF FAITH**

6.1	LIBERATION OF A COUPLE _____	58
6.2	THE FRUIT OF A C.L.S. (COMMUNITY OF LOVE AND SHARING) _____	60
6.3	OUR SACREMENT OF MARRIAGE ... _____	60
6.4	SPIRITUAL DIFFERENCES BETWEEN SPOUSES _____	60
6.5	THE SACREMENTALITY OF MARRIAGE _____	62

## IN CONCLUSION

IN CONCLUSION \_\_\_\_\_ 66

## EXTRAS

ITEMS FROM THE FOUNDATION OF THE CHOSEN ONES \_\_\_\_\_ 68

FREE SUBSCRIPTION TO THE THOUGHT OF THE DAY \_\_\_\_\_ 69

YOUR DAILY DOSE OF SPIRITUAL VITAMINS \_\_\_\_\_ 70



# INTRODUCTION

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Preface, by Fr. Guy Giroux, priest

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Motivation

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Objectif

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# PREFACE

*If someone were to tell you that one out of every two air planes are likely to crash, you would doubtless be very hesitant to use this method of transportation to travel. You would hope that expert mechanics, engineers, and technicians could improve the machinery so that the plane would be more secure and allow you to travel throughout the world.*

*We are aware that life as a couple is in turmoil. Yet, men and women seek their soul mate and wish to find happiness in conjugal life. Even if one marriage out of two ends in divorce, in forming a couple, people want it to last forever and both partners to be filled with happiness. We also observe that many people are reticent to commit. People decide to live together to see if it will work; they are not in a hurry to get married. It's attempted marriage.*

*The little booklet that you hold in your hands is not an exhaustive reflection on marriage. It is the product of a lived experience. Léandre Lachance, concerned with the happiness of people and particularly of children, took the time to write down his experiences as a husband, father and grandfather. In these pages, we will also recognize the teachings of the Lord and of His Church. Yes, marriage is a beautiful challenge and it is possible to succeed in it.*

*To profit from these reflections, you must read them slowly. They are full of good advice. This book will help successful couples go further. Those who are facing the storm will find paths to solutions within it. Those who are torn will find in it lights to heal their wounds and believe in love again.*

*May God, Source of Love, be at the heart of your conjugal and family life. With Him, you will cover great distances which will lead you to happiness.*

***Fr. Guy Giroux, priest***

# MOTIVATION

In publishing this booklet, I want to express my thanks to God for the precious treasures that He has allowed me to discover in the Sacrament of Marriage, and share them with you. In spite of the highs and lows of life, I consider myself to be a fortunate man to have lived with my wife, Elisabeth, for over fifty years. This inexhaustible wealth is available to everyone.

My wife and I have been called to accompany couples. We have witnessed the action of God and the repercussions in their conjugal and family lives.

This document is destined to all couples who wish to live a greater happiness in their relationships, no matter what their marital status may be, whether they are:

- couples married before God;
- couples who are separated or divorced;
- future couples;
- couples bound by civil union;
- couples living in common-law.

# GOAL

In hope of encouraging a most harmonious family environment, the objective of this work is to highlight various family situations and to try to prevent certain suffering which flows from conflict within the couple. Thus, constant love between parents and children is a promise for them:

- to live in the security provided by a unified home;
- to benefit from a framework necessary to their full development;
- to be free of the suffering caused by the separation of their parents;
- to be influenced, for their future, by the example of good parents;
- to become happy, responsible people capable of clear discernment;
- to enjoy a good conscience that builds profoundly free people;
- to be better equipped to build a New Society, more just and more beautiful.

# PART ONE

THE FAMILY

PART ONE

# THE FAMILY

Family is the institution and the vehicle where the growth of the child and the full development of the couple occur.

More than ever, family is in the grip of unheard sufferings: problems that stem from discord between spouses and division of couples. These situations directly influence the complete evolution of our children and, in turn, affect our whole society.

In the face of the magnitude of the damages, it is urgent that we stop to reflect and ask for God's help... for, He alone has the power to turn the situation around and help us find our balance. That is why, we put all our confidence in Him, while remaining at His service.

If, today, I present you this document, it is with the intention of following up with a reflection that my wife and I have shared:

Elisabeth and I have an experience that many people who act as marriage counsellors are oblivious to. We have fifty years of conjugal life and now, thanks to God, we are very happy together, in spite of the suffering and difficulties that we have gone through.

I would like to be able to give you a grace that I received at a time when I was finding our relationship difficult. I had to, for the first time, accept putting my pride aside and confide in a person full of wisdom. Older than I, he had a long experience of matrimonial life. Deacon and faithful witness of Divine Providence, he was animated by a great faith.

After having confided my sorrows to him, I thought he would say: "I will meet with Elisabeth," or: "I will meet with the both of you." After having listened attentively to me, he said: "Love Elisabeth, and tell her that you love her".

Truly, I felt that it was God who was speaking to me through him. So, I heeded his advice to the best of my ability. That was the solution; a path evidently too simple for the wise and the intelligent.

One day, while Elisabeth was having a very animated and aggressive discussion with one of our daughters who was seventeen years old – such a painful situation for me to put up with and I had tried on several occasions to modify my wife’s behaviour – I withdrew to the living room and I prayed as so: “Lord, wouldn’t it be possible to walk with You in Love?” And I opened the volume Power in Praise:

“Can’t our faith grow in easy and pleasant circumstances? Yes! But the purification and trial of our faith must be done through events which are a challenge to our will to believe the Word of God, to rely on it and to count on it. Thus, our faith grows when – God telling us that he makes everything work for our good when everything seems to be going wrong – we cling to His Word and thank Him for everything that happens<sup>1</sup>.”

Without delay, I told the Lord: “If this is the cross you are giving me, I accept it and join my sufferings to Yours so that they may be transformed as graces and blessings on Elisabeth and the children...” Spontaneously, the following reflections arose in me:

- > Who are you to think that your way of raising the children is better than Elisabeth’s?
- > Lord, You could not have been wrong when You chose Elisabeth to be the mother of my children. She is surely the mother that You want her to be, and I hope to be the father that you want me to be!

I therefore accepted Elisabeth the way she was, as wife and mother. This acceptance on my part was the beginning of great transformations and, together, we have witnessed the Action of God in people’s hearts. Love has replaced verbal aggression and violence.

---

1 Power in Praise, Merlin R. Carothers.

It became clear to our eyes that our relationship as a couple had to come first, for, if we wanted happiness for our children, we had to be unified parents. To remain unified, there had to be someone beyond the partner, and that someone was God.

One day, I said to Elisabeth: "You are the person that I love most on Earth after God." She answered me the same way. We had just taken a great step forward in our life as a couple!

## **CAUSES OF PROBLEMS IN COUPLES AND FAMILIES**

I took some time to find the causes which threaten the harmony in couples or in families. It would be interesting to underline those which concern you, and to add others, if applicable. This little exercise will bring you clarity to identify the elements which could be improved:

- The differences which divide us instead of completing us;
- The flawed notion of love;
- The absence of good company fostering acceptable decisions;
- The fear of commitment which hinders the love of the couple;
- The absence of expressions of our love;
- The lack of communication: we put off until tomorrow the adjustments we need, thinking that things will get better by themselves;
- Non-acceptance of our limitations, our poverties, our wounds;
- The unresolved complexes which poison our relationships;
- The excessiveness of our expectations: I expect too much of my partner, without wanting to implicate myself as much;
- The lack of real presence in the couple and the family: I feel better outside the home than in it;
- Money that brings stress and discord;

- Grudges, jealousy, infidelity which trouble relationships;
- Competitiveness: I am better than my partner, he does nothing, I do everything;
- Suspicion which leads to overcritical control.

Faced with these numerous problems, one can imagine a multitude of more or less effective solutions. To solve them, one must first realise that there is a problem, and have a deep desire to remedy it. After that, the solution that seems extremely effective to me is to turn to God and pray. If it is possible to do it as a couple, it is even more effective.

For me, this solution includes and surpasses all the others. God is Love! He is the Source of Love from which healing gushes! No suffering, no waywardness, no folly is serious enough to hinder His Grace from reaching us. Faced with His Action, we look at Him, we contemplate Him and we give thanks for what He does and, in faith, for what He will continue to do.

As a solution, and in the second part, I take the liberty of giving you a few lessons excerpted from the books I have published<sup>2</sup>.

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2 Léandre Lachance, For the Happiness of My Own, My Chosen Ones – Jesus (Sherbrooke: Fondation des Choisis de Jésus, 2012), Volumes 1, 2, 3.





# PART TWO

APPROPRIATE  
TEACHINGS

PART TWO  
TEACHINGS EXCERPTED FROM THE BOOKS  
FOR THE HAPPINESS OF MY OWN,  
MY CHOSEN ONES - JESUS

## 2.1 COUPLES EXPERIENCING DIFFICULTIES

Here is the prayer that I addressed to the Lord in favor of couples:

*Lord Jesus, I present You couples experiencing difficulties. You know that they are numerous and they are influenced by counsellors who, oftentimes, direct them toward separation, thinking that suffering is too hard to bear and that, according to them, there is no other solution.*

*We know that this option leads to another path of suffering for, very often, it leads these people into an adulterous situation, bringing forth more relationship failures.*

*Here I am listening to You and I want to be available to write down Your teachings.*

*Thank you for listening to and answering my prayer. I love You.*

“My little one, succeeding in dividing a couple is what pleases the Adversary, and here is a way he uses to achieve that. God unites couples who are complementary for the good of children, therefore they are different from each other. One often sees that it is precisely this difference which attracted them to each other. There comes a time when, after having lived together, one – and often both – would like to change the other so that he or she will think and act as the spouse wishes. Faced with failure, he or she becomes more and more aggressive and even hurtful in order to achieve his or her ends. This attitude then provokes mutual hurt and hampers the partners’ freedom. Each partner feels trapped, and life becomes intolerable. They suffocate, they even become ill. Counsellors, and sometimes even priests, feel justified in recommending separation.

Counsellors are right when they state that the situation is untenable, but they are mistaken when they recommend separation as a solution where there is another way: recognizing our faults, asking forgiveness of one another, giving all the forgiveness and accepting completely one's difference in respect of one's interior freedom.

But first and foremost, it is the responsibility of each person to place all his or her confidence in God with a total and sincere 'yes' so that He will come, not to change the other person, but to change me, so that I may become the spouse that He wants me to be.

In other words, the attitude to take is to surrender everything in the Hands of God, expect everything from Him and Him alone, expect nothing from the partner, knowing full well that God alone has the power to transform everything. And He will begin to effect the change in my partner when that transformation will have progressed in me to the level that God desires.

The remedy is to have a 'threesome marriage', by placing God at the centre and above the two, as soon as the situation becomes difficult or that the other does not seem to understand what I would like to communicate. Forcing the door is not a solution: one must address God so that He can touch the heart of the other.

You are entering a New Civilization, the Civilization of Love. You must therefore learn to put all your confidence in the Love of God and forget the solutions which are the rotten fruit of a civilization that has wanted to build itself without God, putting all confidence in the power of humankind, leading it to self-destruction.

Forget what you have been taught so as to discover the Total Power and Love of God, for, from all eternity, you are loved. I would like to remind everyone who is suffering in their relationship as a couple: 'Come throw yourself into My arms; you will find Peace, Joy and Happiness, for, tenderly, wildly and divinely, I love you'<sup>3</sup>.

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3 Editor's note: This message has not been published.

“My little one, let us pursue together this teaching on conjugal life. When one of the two partners accept to put his or her confidence in the Love of God to restore the situation, it is not necessary that both of them have the same confidence; just as it is not indispensable, although preferable, that both of them want and accept to be transformed by God. However, it is mandatory that one of them give his or her ‘yes’ to be transformed by God. This transformation begins as soon as one person really opens his or her heart to God!

- The graces of the Sacrament of Marriage become dazzling;
- The burdens of the couple unite themselves to Mine and are transformed into grace and blessings;
- Pride becomes humility;
- Recognition of faults overcomes the desire to be right;
- Requests for forgiveness replace accusations against the partner;
- Embracing the great Compassion of the Father and His Love replaces feelings of guilt within the couple;
- Embracing one’s partner, as he or she is, overcomes the desire to change that person;
- Gestures of appreciation replace criticism;
- Fulfillment and increasing happiness of the person replace anguish.

Putting all one’s confidence in the Love of God, when a couple encounters a problem, is to place one’s self on the road to happiness, the road to Heaven.

To try by your own means, or by means put forward by the world to solve the problem, is to continue on the road of suffering and, often, to descend into Hell.

In these difficult circumstances, the attitude of persevering in the ‘yes’ to God and putting all your confidence in Him, is to accept reaching beyond yourself in Love and is what contributes to becoming creatures of Love and building a New Civilization, the Civilisation of Love.

Happy are those who embark on this road for they will be fulfilled more rapidly. Pouring out My Love into hearts is the grace that I grant as soon as an opening is made to embrace it.

My Heart is so consumed with Love that it is able to transform instantly all the suffering hearts on this Earth.

Divinely, I love you all. Divinely, I love you personally<sup>4</sup>.”

Our faith is supported by the principle that: ***Man must not separate what God has united!*** No Christian, much less a priest, can advise a couple married in the Church to separate, except in extreme cases. Marriage is holy.

## 2.2 COUPLES DIVIDED BY SEPARATION OR DIVORCE

Lord Jesus, I present to You R.'s request to know what You wish from him and from C. On the same occasion, I present to You all the couples that You have united through the sacrament of Marriage and who are divided. Thank You for hearing and answering his request and mine. I love You.

“My little one, it is with joy that I respond to this request and, at the same time, I want to give you an instruction for all the people who find themselves in similar situations.

When a covenant is broken, deep rending and wounds are the result. It is impossible to think of rebuilding the relationship if this past remains present in the mind.

You must thus begin by obliterating or cleaning up this past. For that, there is but one sole means, total forgiveness, as much oneself as the other. And for forgiveness to be total, it must be given in the Spirit, taken to the sacrament of Reconciliation, be present in the heart and verbalized clearly, without ambiguity and without conditions.

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4 Editor's note: This message has also not been published.

It is only once this step has been taken that we can affirm that forgiveness is complete and that we can begin to think of rebuilding the relationship on totally different bases. The fundamental bases are the following:

- God is the one who unites in the sacrament of Marriage and that union is forever, except in certain cases where the Church has the authority to act.
- The spouses must acknowledge that in the future, God will occupy the first place in their lives, even before that of the other spouse.
- Consider that God, and he alone, can unify the couple in peace, joy and love.
- Each spouse must accept itself as it is, offering its imperfections, mistakes and blunders to God so that He may transform them into graces and blessings, after having given his/her total 'yes' to God.
- Each spouse must accept the other as he/she is without wanting to change him/her.
- Each spouse must convince himself/herself that he/she has absolutely no power over the other's behavior. If this spouse manages to act according to the Will of God – even if the other one's behavior is sometimes reprehensible – and allows God to act through him/her, this attitude is enough to save the couple.

In other words: expect everything from God, ask him for everything, be ready to accept the answer and give him thanks for everything.

Now I wish to address C. and R. directly to tell them the following:

“Dear little children of my Heart, you whom I have chosen for a beautiful and great mission, you whom I have united through the sacrament of Marriage, you who have suffered much, come and throw yourselves into my arms. Hand over your burden to me, you will find that my yoke is light.

You made your first commitment mutually to each other, asking me to help you. Today, I am asking you to commit yourselves totally to me. That is why I am asking you to live together again, trusting that I will reestablish this union of love between you.

You cannot base yourself on what the other was yesterday to know what his behavior will be today, for between ‘yesterday’ and ‘today,’ I have visited his heart, and he is no longer the same. Neither can you know tomorrow’s behavior from what he is today for, between the two, I will visit him.

If you place your total and entire trust in me, I promise you a happy future, where you will be able to live in peace, joy and love. Over and above that, I am telling you that I need the two of you and your unity as a couple to help a multitude of couples who live in suffering after separation or divorce.

My Heart is burning with Love for the two of you. Come and warm up at the fire of My Love Fire. You will be transformed and fulfilled by it.

From all eternity, I have chosen you and I love you. Divinely, I love you.

R., divinely, I love you. C., divinely, I love you<sup>5</sup>.”

## 2.3 IMPORTANCE OF A LIFE IN GOD

**Lord Jesus, I am presenting to You the difficult situations of B. and R. as well as all the couples who are experiencing similar situations.**

*Come to their aid; send Your Spirit abundantly on them; make the power of their sacrament of matrimony burst forth; heal their wounds; open their eyes so that they may discover the power of Your love.*

*Thank You for hearing and answering this poor prayer. I am listening attentively to You and I love You.*

“My little one, life without Me is meaningless. I am the center of Love. I am Love. The Father has entrusted the mission of spreading His Love on the earth to Me. During these times that are the end times, everyone must discover this truth and reality.

Many believe that they can find happiness on their own, or by using means other than those I have entrusted to My Apostles and transmitted through My Church. They are mistaken; they are giving up the prey for the shadow. They are

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5 Lachance, Happiness of My Own, Vol. 3, message 69.



choosing the way of suffering and darkness. Since they are not on the way of light, darkness prevents them from seeing their wayward ways and they tend to immerse themselves in them more and more, hoping that they will manage to build their happiness on their own.

Suffering is there to make them discover that they are not on the right path. As soon as some people begin to experience this suffering, they throw themselves in My arms and discover there that I am the Way, the Truth and the Life. Others, influenced by worldly thoughts, persist in their wayward ways and accept to come to Me only after many sufferings.

It is up to the individual alone, as a free being, to decide on the direction to take. However, I want to make use of you to say the following to B. and R.:

“Little children of My Heart,

- You whom I chose before you were conceived to pour My Love into you;
- You whom I have joined by the sacrament of matrimony to receive and give this Love;
- You whom I am continually pursuing in order to transmit this Love to you;
- You whom I pursue continually in order to give you this Love;
- You who are suffering presently because of the distance you have taken with respect to Me;

Do not try, by your own means or by worldly means, to build your happiness: you will not succeed.

Come to Me immediately and throw yourselves in My arms. Acknowledge your helplessness and your limitations.

Acknowledge that I, Jesus, am your Savior and that there is no other.

Acknowledge that I love you with a Love much greater than the one you can accept now.

B., accept this situation without understanding it. Give Me everything and you will be a witness of My action in you, around and through you.

R., without your knowing this, I am the One, your God, whom you are seeking. I am in you in the depths of your being. The love you desire can come only from Me, and the person I have chosen to transmit it to you is B. Do not look elsewhere.

If both of you only knew how I love you, you would throw yourselves in My arms and your life would be changed. Besides experiencing a new happiness, you would be witnesses of My Love.

Receive My Kiss of Tenderness, Mercy and Love. You, B., I love you as you are. You, R., I love you as you are. I love both of you<sup>6</sup>.”

## 2.4 OFFERING OUR PARTNER AND CHILDREN TO GOD

*Lord Jesus, I offer You the concerns of M.C. about the education of her children and their father who does not share her beliefs. I am asking You to shed some light and to fill this home with your Love and your Light. Thank You for hearing and answering my prayer.*

### ***I love You.***

« My little one, I accept your request and I am making it my own before the Father. I am already very present in that home. My passage through you will allow me to have a still greater space in that home, but especially in the heart of M.C. whom I have chosen for a great and beautiful mission.

The more present I will be in her, the more I will guide her in her thoughts, her words and deeds of every moment, and I will restore the situation. I would like to tell her the following:

M.C., little pearl of my Heart, you see that on your own you will not manage to have an ideal situation. Acknowledge your lowliness, your helplessness and your limitations. Hand this situation entirely over to me. Give me your

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6 Lachance, Happiness of My Own, Vol. 2, message 91.

husband and your children, and you will witness my Action. Your trust must not be placed in your religious beliefs but really in me, your God, for what your children will be. Come and rest on my Heart, address your requests to me before you make a decision. If you think you made a mistake, hand it over to the Mercy of the Father and it will be transformed into graces and blessings for you and your family. Hand over your burden to me; you will find that my yoke is light. My Heart burns with Love for you and yours.

Tenderly, madly and divinely, I love you<sup>7</sup>.”

## 2.5 DIVIDED FAMILIES

A good praying lady, one who spends time in adoration before the Blessed Sacrament, wrote to tell me about her situation. Being a widow, she lives alone. Her only son, a homosexual, rarely communicates with her, as does her older brother who lives in common-law with his partner. Also living in a common-law relationship, her younger sister with whom she had always been very close, had just written her a five-page letter of abuse. At the end of the letter, she concluded with: “I hope that you have understood, I do not want to hear anything from you again.”

Here is my answer:

... I received your letter of last 24 February. I offer to the Lord your pleasant words about the mission He is entrusting to me. I give Him thanks for what you are and for your commitment in living in the Divine Will. I am united with you to associate your sufferings with those of Christ, offering them to the Father so that they may have a redeeming value for all the men and women you bear in your heart.

I know many people who, after a journey of faith, find themselves in a family situation similar to yours. I am really saddened every time. I present these situations to God and I pray for each one of them.

I find the need to ask Jesus to come and give us a teaching on these painful trials of divisions. Thank You, Lord Jesus, for hearing and answering this prayer.

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7 Lachance, Happiness of My Own, Vol. 3, message 92.

« My little one, it is always a very great joy to respond to your requests. The teaching I will give you will be addressed to everyone and not to one person in particular. Indeed, the commitment to God or the conversion of one of the members of a family sometimes gives rise to divisions in this family and is the object of great sufferings.

Some of these sufferings are necessary to verify the authenticity of the commitment. Others are necessary for the conversion of some other members of the family. Nonetheless, many of these sufferings could be avoided:

- > If the converted person had greater faith and placed his whole trust in me and not in his means to evangelize!
- > If he respected the entire freedom of the person as I respect it!
- > If he agreed to be forgiven for having hampered the freedom of the other person when he realizes he wanted to impose his faith on him!
- > If he was able to love the sinning person in depth while rejecting the sin!

You, little L. of my heart, do not be afraid. I am with you, you are Mine.

Divinely and madly, I love them. Divinely and madly, I love you<sup>8</sup>.”

*(The following year: She phoned me, completely happy, to tell me that she had just reconciled with her sister.)*

She told me: *“It took me a year before I could send her a letter. I wrote a great quantity of them that I tore up and threw out because there was always a bit of moralizing in them. Rereading it, I told myself that it still was not ‘it’... and I would throw my letter away. The one I sent her, on the day of my birthday, said this:*

*Today I am 65 years old... how quickly time goes by!*

*My only regret is not having been the sister that you would have wanted me to be.*

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8 Lachance, Happiness of My Own, Vol. 3, message 104 – letter to a correspondent.

*I organized my life the way I thought it should be. I forgot that you had the same freedom as I do. For all the times when I interfered with your freedom, I ask for your forgiveness. Your little sister who loves you.*

*As soon as my letter reached her, the phone rang and we were reconciled.”*

## **2.6 SOLUTION TO DRUG PROBLEMS**

*Lord Jesus, I am presenting to You this grandmother’s request which is worded as follows: “Please, speak to us about this drug plague among my grandchildren. Tell us how we can help them, accompany them ... when this situation has lasted for ten years and more? To listen attentively does not seem to be enough. So many of us are praying ... without any apparent changes. Your books are the living proof of the Love of the Father for His children.”*

*I am also presenting to You, Lord, all the parents and grandparents who experience the same sufferings and, in a special way, the men and women who will read these lines as well as their young people who are at grips with drugs.*

*Thank You for hearing and answering this humble prayer. I am listening attentively to You, and I love You.*

« My little one, the sufferings caused by the use of drugs are enormous and very frequent today. No one, no group of people living presently on this earth can eradicate this plague without a divine intervention.

For a divine intervention to take place, God must be entirely free to act. And that happens when people and situations are totally surrendered to him.

The first question that parents and grandparents must ask themselves is this one: Have I totally given and surrendered this child to the Lord? Have I totally surrendered this situation to the Lord or am I continuing to bear it?

The second one is this: Have I given my ‘yes’ repeatedly and completely to the Lord? Is He free to act in me? Around me? And through me?

Praying for one’s children and grandchildren is necessary and right. But letting oneself be transformed by Him so that his Love may pass through each one of you is much better.

The key to the solution to all your problems is love and transformation by love. This process starts with you then reaches others.

Divinely, I love you<sup>9</sup>.”

## 2.7 TRANSFORMATION OF OUR BEING BY LOVE

*Lord, I am presenting to You M.'s request. I also want to thank You, praise You, bless You and give You thanks for the great joy that this letter has given me, by revealing the Love you have shown to this couple when You enabled them to make such a beautiful journey of faith. I also praise You for their generous response to your request to live as a couple in chastity for these three years.*

*You can only bless and fulfill these people even if the present situation seems difficult.*

*I am listening attentively to You and I thank You for the Love, Peace and Joy that You will kindly give them through the poor instrument that I am. I love You.*

« My little one, I really heard each one's request and I am presenting it to the Father so that it may be answered. I want to say this to M.: Little M., you whom I have chosen from all eternity for a great and beautiful mission, you for whom I burn with Love, you have nothing to fear. I am always with you.

The difficulties you are experiencing at this time are there for the greater beauty of your soul. You only have to hand over all these situations to me and you will be a witness of my Action. To your spouse, I say this:

You little N. of my Heart, come still closer to me; I want to shower you with my Love. Together, we have traveled a great part of the road, but the most beautiful is yet to come. Your past, having been given to the great Mercy of the Father, must be erased from your thoughts.

I am asking you to live the present moment freely and to accept the Love that I am pouring into you on this very day. Your happiness does not lie in what you have been. It lies in what you are at this moment and, tomorrow, it will lie in what you will be then. You will be what you allow Love to do with you.

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9 Lachance, Happiness of My Own, Vol. 3, message 90 – response to a distressed grandmother

Contrary to what you believe, your happiness does not depend on the other people's attitude. You will be happy by letting my Love act in you and, subsequently, around and through you, for, divinely, tenderly and madly, I love you<sup>10</sup>. »

## **2.8 ABOUT COMMUNION FOR PEOPLE LIVING IN COMMON-LAW**

“This matter of Communion for people who live together outside of marriage creates a great deal of confusion in My Church and among many of My priests.” *Lord Jesus, this morning, You are putting in my heart Father D.'s question concerning the Eucharist for couples who have remarried before a civil authority. I feel that this is a delicate question. If You wish to use me to answer this question, I am giving You a “total yes”; I am Your little servant. I love You.*

“My little one, I have told you again and again that the Love that comes from the Father for His children is boundless. I have also told you that He has given each one a great freedom of choice. To the men and women who have been introduced into the People of God through Baptism, and who constantly desire to do His Will, He has allowed My Body and My Blood to become spiritual Nourishment.

In order to allow each one to have a pure heart to receive this Nourishment of the soul, He has allowed Me to institute the Sacrament of Reconciliation which obliterates every sin for the man or woman who is sorry and firmly resolved not to repeat them.

This question of Communion for people who live together while unmarried creates a great deal of confusion in My Church and for many of My priests.

If it creates so much confusion, it is because they do not ask themselves the right question. It is not a matter of knowing if the person who has contracted a second marriage before civil authorities can receive communion, but really to know if this person has decided to do God's will or his own. Does this person desire to do the right thing or does he want to act according to his own pleasure? Is he ready to hand over his life into the hands of God or does he want to organize it himself according to his way of thinking? The real question that

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10 Lachance, Happiness of My Own, Vol. 3, message 86 – advice to a couple

the spiritual adviser must ask this person is that of knowing if he is saying 'yes' to God or to himself.

If he says 'yes' to God, the priest will advise him to remain faithful to the Will of God, or at least, this is what he should do.

The problem in many cases is that the person has decided to act according to his own will, either because many others do so or out of ignorance of the law of God, and often because of the two reasons at the same time. Subsequently, he is the one who questions the present saying: 'I want to keep on acting according to my will and gratifying my passions... could I receive communion?' In that case, the answer is 'no.'

On the other hand, the answer is 'yes' with open arms if the person admits his sin, asks for forgiveness and accepts to take the necessary means to live according to God's plan, stating that he has chosen God who comes to help him in his weakness. He scrutinizes events in order to live in harmony with God. This attitude requires a great deal of faith to take this plunge after having gone astray from the right path for a long time; a great deal of faith also for the spiritual adviser.

So, pray for a revival of faith and everything will fall in place. Never cast any judgment for you do not know what is going on in the heart of the individual; perhaps he has just become aware of his sin and has decided to live according to God's plan, appearances leading one to believe the contrary. Whatever the situation, this individual does not need your judgment but he has a great need of your prayers and of your Love to become Love as well. Tenderly, I love you<sup>11</sup>."





# PART THREE

## APPLICATIONS

PART THREE

# APPLICATIONS

## 3.1 DIFFERENCE AND COMPLEMENTARITY

The great beauty and richness of God's Creation is diversity. We are all amazed to realize the diversity that a rose garden offers to our eyes. It is the same thing when we look at humankind. This quality of difference attracts us to one another... and, at the same time, is seen as being the cause of many quarrels and divisions.

Why must that which unites us tend to become the cause of our divisions? With time, our different ways of thinking, analyzing, speaking and behaving are liable to irritate us or tire us out. Then, instead of accepting that we need to question ourselves and benefit from the advantages of complementarity, we want to change the other person... Since we cannot manage it, we become frustrated, anguished, sometimes angry and even violent or hurtful with our words, our attitudes and our gestures.

What helps us greatly to embrace the differences in people who are close to us is to accept that, in God's eyes, everyone is precious, no matter what his temperament, his character, his training, his possessions, his fulfillments or his responsibilities. These differences make us into complementary people to accomplish our mission in the Church and society.

In the same way, in a couple's life, this complementarity is necessary for the proper functioning of the home, but especially the well-being of the children and the fulfilment of every person.

Working for unity in diversity constitutes one of the most enthusing and valuable objectives.

## 3.2 SELF-ACCEPTANCE

Self-acceptance favours accepting others. Once I realize that I have been created by Love and that God loves me as I am, I thereby manage to accept myself and others.

### 3.3 UNWAVERING TRUST

In marriage, the confidence that we develop in each other is the foundation of happiness. The vow that we take at the moment of Marriage establishes a climate of confidence. It is important to be confident and to remain worthy of the confidence the other has in us. Isn't confidence the cure for fear, jealousy and even resentment?

### 3.4 GROWING PAINS

All through our lives, we go through stages of growth. What assures this growth is our continued effort to transform our way of thinking, being and acting that are not devoid of suffering. The latter produce a lot of fruit once we consent to question ourselves.

The difficulties in the life of a couple are opportunities for extraordinary growth. After a difficulty, we believe that our relationship will never be the same again. It is true, but it may be much better.

Too often, we believe that it is a destructive crisis when it is only a growing pain and a consolidation of our love.

### 3.5 FORGIVENESS

After a crisis, in order to restore the balance in our lives, we must start anew by turning the page on this past which broke some bonds. There is the importance of mutual and complete forgiveness, of one's self as well as of the other. In order to rebuild the bonds, one must consent to forgive one's self before the Lord who will act with the power of His Grace.

***Forgiveness is not human, it is divine!***

I quote this prayer that does wonders when it is accompanied by the Sacrament of Reconciliation:

“In Your Name, Lord JESUS, by the power of your Holy Spirit, I forgive (...) all the wrong that he (or she) has done to me, consciously or not.

***Liberation :***

In Your Name, Lord JESUS, by the power of your Holy Spirit, I free him (her) of all indebtedness to me, without any conditions and for ever.

***Blessing the other :***

I pray You, Lord JESUS, by the power of your Holy Spirit, to fill him (her) with Your Love and Your Blessings.

***Forgiveness of self :***

In Your Name, Lord Jesus, by the power of your Holy Spirit, I forgive myself all my sins that You have already forgiven, and I accept myself as I am, with all my weaknesses, all my limits, all my faults, all my qualities, and I love myself as I am, since You, first, Lord, have always loved me and You always love me this way.

***Liberation of self :***

In Your Name, Lord Jesus, by the power of your Holy Spirit, I free myself of all fear, all terror, anguish, anxiety. I free myself of all hatred, vanity, aggressiveness, bitterness, desire for revenge. I free myself of all feelings of guilt, insecurity, inferiority, etc.

***Blessing :***

And I pray You, Lord Jesus, to bless me and fill me with Your Love.”

### **3.6 CONCEPTION OF LOVE**

We often have a false conception of love. We want to receive and appropriate, and we hesitate to give. If the partners develop this same attitude, no one receives and no one gives. And from this selfishness practised to extreme, the result is an insupportable relationship... whereas forgetting ourselves more and more opens us to happiness for the other.

Yes, each must first be preoccupied with the happiness of the other. Thus, days are sprinkled with little gestures of tenderness that feed love.

“To love is to give all and to give one’s self<sup>12</sup>!” Just as Christ did for His Church!

### 3.7 SEXUALITY

We know that sexuality plays an important role in the life of a couple. Unfortunately, many believe that sexuality can produce love when, on the contrary, it is true love which gives sense to sexuality.

God want us to be fruitful and multiply. Pleasure is associated with the needs of the human being: pleasure accompanies eating, work, rest, intellectual development... and so on. In the function of procreation, there is pleasure in the union of man and woman.

All these pleasures must be lived in order and under control of your will, your intelligence and your spirit. The values which move us influence our attitudes and our behaviour in the area of sexuality as in all areas. In order not to lose our way, it is important to know the teachings God transmitted to His Church through His Word. In applying them, we enter into the manner that God foresaw for man and woman.

Pleasures desired and lived without control lead the human person to slavery and go as far as destroying him and produce much suffering. Alas, this suffering has repercussions on those we love.

Contrary to popular beliefs, our experience of over fifty years of marriage allows us to observe that periods of chastity made our love grow:

- Chastity and abstinence before marriage fostered faithfulness between us;
- Chastity, during periods of fertility, so as to plan births, invited us to discover other ways of showing our mutual love;
- Sexual abstinence, during a given time, got us used to renunciation and, we are sure, God gave us particular grace to strengthen our life as a couple. In order to live voluntary chastity, the man and the woman must want it and be in complete accord. We are conscious, my wife and I, that these periods of abnegation contribute to repairing the evil done in

the world, and God, in His Mercy and His Tenderness, does not cease to pour graces and blessings on these small gestures that we make in our lives. By offering our chastity, we believe that God works to heal broken hearts, people wounded by life, especially in their sexuality. These are the riches of the communion of saints, that is to say that the love that is sown can touch the heart of other people elsewhere in the world, always in regard to the Goodness of God.

The Lord never lets himself be outdone in generosity. The more we renounce ourselves to please Him, the more He fills us with a true loving relationship of which He is the Source. All love comes from God, but our partner also contributes to filling us with love. The Love of God passes through the other and also through our children and our grandchildren who are our joy. This is marvellous and permits us to live already in a little corner of paradise on Earth.

This loving relationship with the Lord is lived by many single people. Regularly, I receive testimony to this effect. These people have points in common:

- They have totally accepted their situation in life, even if it wasn't what they had chosen or desired.
- They have given all their "yes" to the Lord.
- They set aside special time for daily prayer and the practice of the sacraments.

Let us ask Mary and Joseph, Models of excellence of the virtue of Chastity lived in true Love, to intercede for every couple whose conjugal relationship is suffering at this time. May this suffering associated with those of Christ be transformed into grace and blessings for all couples in difficulty! May our youth be capable of discernment in order to prepare well their future life according to God's plan and not follow the ways of this world!

I would like to say to all the young people who will read these lines: You have all been marked, either in a positive or a negative way by your parents' lives during your childhood. This life was influenced by the choices that your parents made well before your birth. Eventually, it will be the same for your children. Today's choices pave the way for tomorrow's happiness!

### 3.8 FAITHFULNESS

This virtue is necessary for the blossoming of a couple. Infidelity is a great cause of suffering. Remember that it begins in thought, and that, already there, it raises obstacles to love. Moreover, even if this behaviour is unknown to the other, it rebounds indirectly and casts a shadow on the relationship of the couple. And, even more importantly when this infidelity persists, it kills love. In the world we live in, one must really count on the help of God in order to remain faithful.

### 3.9 TRUTH, CHARITY, FREEDOM

For a good interpersonal relationship, the three virtues to practice are truth, charity and freedom. If one of them is weaker than the other two, the level of the relationship is reduced to the lowest of the three. Which means that in a couple, even if the degree of “charity” is 100%, “truth” is 100%, and “freedom” is 30%, this relationship is reduced to 30% of what it should be.

It is easy to respect the freedom of those who are far from us. But when it is a matter of those closest to us – those that we love and mainly our spouse, it is much more difficult to respect this freedom. I believe that in the life of a couple the virtue that is the most poorly managed is freedom. It is important to question yourself personally, to know how you practice these three virtues with your spouse.

*“Not manipulate my partner, not control him, but seek to know him. Not take him, but receive him from the hands of God to espouse him every day.” (Cardinal Danneels)*

### 3.10 FINANCES

We all know that money is often a point of discussion and division for many couples and families.

Here’s how my wife and I have functioned for fifty years: It seemed unfair and humiliating to me that Elisabeth had to ask me for money for her needs and for household costs... I therefore proposed to give her a certain amount every week.



After a certain time, I found it tiresome to make sure that I always had cash to give her each week: we agreed that we should organize twelve cheques. So, our “financial” conversation was limited to a few minutes a year, to decide on the amount and write out the twelve cheques.

Later, a new reality arose when the children reached adolescence. While vacationing, Elisabeth shared with me her preoccupation of answering the needs of the children and being fair in her purchases for each of them.

We therefore agreed to give them a budget for school expenses, their clothes and their activities. If they wanted more, it was up to them to provide for themselves.

We established this system which continued afterwards. When a child entered high school, we would write him ten cheques, covering the school year. This practice made every child much more autonomous and responsible.

A young woman (I’ll call her Martine) consulted me on this question of money. She was experiencing a great disagreement with her husband. Martine, a well behaved young woman, thinks she is responsible for everything, and wants financial security. She thinks she is very rational in her purchases; she likes to take time to think it over, to know if it’s a necessary or desirable purchase. Serge is a man full of talent, very active, entrepreneurial; he throws himself completely into everything he does. His stumbling block is the love of instant gratification.

When she consulted me, Serge had just started in business. He was having a hard time fulfilling his obligations and he was not sure if he would succeed in keeping his business afloat. On the other hand, two weeks earlier, he had traded in his car, which was still good, for another more expensive one. He had also just bought one of the most expensive sound systems on the market. Martine asked me, helplessly:

M.: *What must I do in such a situation for, if he keeps this up, we are going to be bankrupt?*

L.: *If you object, will that change anything?*

M.: *Not much, for when he wants something, he wants it so much... I think he’ll buy it anyway.*

L.: *What is most important to you: your financial situation or your love?*

M.: *Our love! said Martine without hesitation.*

L.: *Then that is the essential! You are completely right. If, one day, he did go bankrupt, he would need your love, more than ever. It is therefore important that you not jeopardize it because of dollars. You can give him your opinion but no more than that. And I continued with this proposition: Why wouldn't you behave like a wise woman, by saving some money yourself and, if one day, this bankruptcy should happen, you could tell him: "One thing is more important than your business, it is that I love you, Serge, and you don't have to worry because, with my savings, we will be able to live until you have the time to readjust your financial life."*

Five or six years later, Martine was telling me that this advice had been very precious to her, that she had decided to accept Serge with his limitations. I saw their love as a couple grow. What she expected never happened. On the contrary, Serge's business became very prosperous. He discovered spiritual values; material goods became less important to him, and he became more rational in his spending.

### 3.11 PRIORITIES

Work, social life, sports, recreation and obligations consume so much of our time that there is a risk that real priorities be put aside. Most of all, when we are, as I am, of an active and passionate temperament, it is easy to become enthused about carrying out a project or a job and no longer have time for what is essential. I have also noticed that we always have time for what is most important to us, and we have very little, and often none, for what is secondary. I had to establish priorities in my life. So as to avoid mistakes that can have grave consequences, I chose to pray and meditate before the Blessed Sacrament so as to put my priorities in good order.

Here is the order of values which crystallized in my mind:

1. **God:** every day, set aside some time for prayer, the Eucharist, spiritual reading and meditation;
2. **My wife, Elisabeth:** take time together to share the totality of our daily life be it joys, sorrows, work or preoccupations;

3. **The children:** be available to listen to them, accompany them and go out or do activities with them, according to their age.
4. **Others:** take time to listen to them and help them to a reasonable extent;
5. **Work and management of material goods;**
6. **Relaxation and physical conditioning;**
7. **Basic needs.**

This order of priorities was very beneficial to me!

### 3.12 QUALITY TIME

When the children were young and I was very absorbed by long hours of work, I compensated by offering them quality time. As I left work in the evening, the distance between the office and home permitted me to close the door of my working day and open the one of my family. The same process would work in reverse in the morning as I went back to the office.

I often heard Elisabeth say: *I prefer quality time to quantity.* At another time, I had the joy of hearing my eldest daughter reply to the following question: Your father has always been an active man, did you suffer from his absence? *No, because when he was home, he was really present.*

### 3.13 BATTLE AGAINST THE SOURCE OF DEPENDENCIES

The main dependencies that make the life of a couple very difficult are: alcohol, drugs, gambling addiction, sexual perversions, addiction to work, television, internet, immoderate attachment to things, to power and even to knowledge. These are behaviours which isolate. These dependencies are often brought on by a great inner emptiness that needs to be filled. The absence of God creates this emptiness. By being reconciled with Him, His Presence and His Help come to give us strength against the dangers of dependencies.

### 3.14 TRUE LIFE EXAMPLES

One day, I met a person who was openly presenting solutions outside of the Word of God and the doctrinal teachings of the Church, concerning divorced couples and those living in common-law. He ended his exposé by bringing up this question: “*Do you have other solutions?*” I quickly answered him:

“Yes, it is clear to me that there is another solution than those you espouse: It is Faith! Faith in an All-powerful God of Love, a God capable of making possible what appears impossible to the wise and intelligent of this world.”

Here are a few true-life examples, which I witnessed, and which confirm what faith produces when we decide to say a total, unconditional and irrevocable “yes” to God, and to live according to His teachings, without trying to justify ourselves living in sin or ignoring Him:

- Ronald had been living in common-law for eight years when he converted. In order to live his faith, he left his mistress and returned to live with his wife. For over fifteen years they have been very happy together and are the joy of their children. They became part of the Church and are living witnesses of the Power of the Love of God when we put our confidence in Him.
- Henrl was living in common-law at the moment of his conversion. He surrendered the situation to the Lord. They lived in chastity for one year and both had their marriages annulled. They have been married in the Church for about twenty years and, by their commitment, they do a lot of good around them.
- Danielle is the mother of two children. She was living in common-law with the father of her children at the moment of her conversion. She has only one wish: to do the Will of God. This couple received the grace to live in chastity, raise their children together and have a beautiful mission among divorcees to help them live in conformity with the teachings of the Church.

- Marie–Pierre lives in France. She had been married for 25 years and was the mother of four children; she carries the great burden of living with a man that she said she had never loved. Well inspired to surrender this situation to the Lord... she fell in love with her husband, after 26 years of marriage, and lived a true honeymoon for six months.

I know hundreds of cases where faith made possible what seemed to be impossible.

### **3.15 MINISTRY OF THE HOLY ANGELS**

The Holy Angels can help us solve a multitude of problems. God, in His Providence, gave us at least one who is there only for us. He is always happy to serve us. Here is one way to use them, which has done marvels in many circumstances. I love to go through our good Mother of Heaven, Mary, who is at the same time Queen of Angels, asking her to order my Guardian Angel to go meet the Guardian Angel of the other person or people that I had to meet, to make unity in our hearts and spirits before the meeting. This prayer made a very great number of meetings easier for me.

### **3.16 ROLE OF THE COUPLE AS PARENTS**

Since the true fruits of the love of a couple are the children, I would like to pursue with you a reflection on our role as parents.

When we have children, we love them and we want to give them what is best. The best gift that we can offer them is parents who are united, who love each other and who are capable of expressing it.

Our children need a lot of love and a lot of firmness. I would say that they need to grow in firmness of love and love of firmness. We tend to believe that love means laxity and that firmness means being harsh. That is a mistake.

The theory of the child–king is surely a blunder. Letting a child jump on the living room couch while wearing muddy boots is not loving him. It is the same for all the conduct of life, there are consequences for actions that we take and the child must learn this from an early age.

If there are so many problems with our young people, we, as parents, would benefit from asking ourselves the following questions:

- Who is primarily responsible for the education of our children: society or us?
- How can our children be better than the totality of society, if we follow all the currents of worldly thought?
- Is it proof of love to expose to danger the soul of our children by permitting activities with doubtful outcomes, under the pretext that everyone does it?

I give glory to God to have given me parents who never accepted this argument: “Other people do it or other people go there.” My mother used to say: “*If other people go down themselves, will you go too?*” For her, it was a lack of character to let yourself be influenced by the behaviour of others. We had to learn to make our choices based on our values and not according to those of others. If she refused a permission, she justified the reason for her decision.

We learned to adapt our behaviour based on the needs of our children, and not on what society promotes. Here are the needs we identified:

- At every age, a child needs to receive a lot of love from his parents. During infancy, he needs attention, tenderness and firmness.
- Growing up, he must begin to exercise choices which have consequences for his future. Our role is to accompany him so that he can learn discernment and therefore, make good choices.
- In adolescence, he needs a bit more freedom. It is good to be tolerant in matters which have no serious consequences, to close our eyes sometimes to small details. It is also good to remain firm in matters which could have grave consequences for his future.
- When he becomes an adult, we must respect his choices, even if some of them appear to be very different from ours, while continuing to be available to accompany him and, sometimes, counsel him.

It is good to remember that the child is much more touched by what the parents are than by what they say.

The transitions from childhood to adolescence and from adolescence to adulthood are often very difficult periods for the parents. What helped Elisabeth and I to get through the different phases is to have entrusted them to the Lord and to have prayed for them. We put our confidence in Him to properly inspire and guide them.

Confident in the Action of the Lord to guide them in the choice of their partners, we have always abstained from all negative comments about their companions. Life experience teaches us that, even if the parents oppose their choices, they will more often than not persevere in them. Once committed to marriage, every negative word heard from their parents will resurface.

Besides, it is not what we are at the moment of marriage which guarantees success, but what we will become. The embrace and love received from the in-laws can encourage a harmonious life for a couple.

As we grow older, we often discover our shortcomings toward our children...  
What can we do?

- Ask for their forgiveness.
- Take these shortcomings to the Sacrament of Reconciliation to receive the forgiveness of God.
- Give these shortcomings to the Lord, knowing that He can transform them into grace and blessings for all.
- Accept our smallness, our vulnerability, our weakness, our limits and our omissions.

# PART FOUR

FOR YOUNG  
PEOPLE



PART FOUR

# FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

## 4.1 THE IMPORTANCE OF GOOD COMPANY

To choose the right partner, it is necessary to socialize. We learn to know ourselves, to know others, to love ourselves and to respect ourselves. Unfortunately, nowadays we skip these primordial stages. Rapidly, we fall into the trap of sexual experiences, thinking that they will answer our quest for happiness. That is a mistake. Happiness is built over time. When I was young, we were taught:

*During our youth, we sow... later, we reap what we have sown.*

I believe that this lesson is still valuable. There are always consequences to the choices that we make and the actions we take. That is why it is important to prepare our future well.

## 4.2 COMMITMENT

Many couples are afraid of commitment and get together on a moment's impulse. They go along from day to day, without investing themselves totally, since the commitment was contracted on a temporary and indefinite basis. To survive a crisis, it is not only necessary to have a firm and definite commitment, but we must also count on God's help and the grace of the Sacrament of Marriage.

His Holiness John-Paul II used to tell us: *"Do not be afraid of taking risks! There is no difficult situation that cannot be adequately confronted when one cultivates a genuine atmosphere of Christian life."*

Many people commit themselves to marriage with the idea of going 50% of the way, when a difficulty comes along. On the other hand, in the eyes of the other, this effort may represent only 10%. If each does only 10%, they will never meet. They must therefore be disposed to put out much more than 50%.

On the wedding day, the brides are generally very beautiful. I would like to tell the grooms this: If your bride is very beautiful it is because she feels loved.

If, one fine morning, you find her less beautiful, ask yourself if you have not neglected loving her or telling her that you love her.

### **4.3 DIALOGUE WITH ONE OF MY GRANDSONS WHO IS 21 YEARS OLD**

In a friendly one-on-one conversation, he begins by expressing his admiration for the beautiful family he is part of. He says he is particularly happy to have parents who are together, as opposed to his friends who live, more often than not, in a divided family. He observes that this situation brings much suffering.

Then, he tells me: “I know that it bothers you to see one of your grandsons living with his girlfriend when they are not married, and to see one of your granddaughters behaving the same way with her boyfriend. You owe it to yourself to accept that life is no longer the way it was when you were young. There are many failed marriages. It is therefore important that we be able to live together before committing ourselves definitely, to know each other better and know if we are able to unite ourselves for life. Now, society accepts that we can live together without being married. You should accept that.”

With God’s help, my answer was this: “You are right when you say that morals have changed a great deal... Very frankly, I must admit that I do ask myself what my own behaviour would have been if, at your age, I had been placed in a similar context. I really don’t know. But, today, I recognize that this skidding can only lead to a dead end.

I love you and I would so much like you to be happy; to avoid the great suffering that lives in our world. There are always consequences for what we do. You said that we have a beautiful family though there is much suffering in society. If we base our lives on what goes around in society, we will live the same suffering as society. If there is less suffering in our family it is because we have oriented our lives according to some values and beliefs and not on what society accepts. It is a choice that we must make every day.

You are now 21 years old, you are an adult. It is up to you to make your choices and we will respect them and keep loving you. It is certain that we would like you to avoid the great suffering of a wayward world. The choices for your own life are up to you to make. It is not up to us.

Based on my fifty years of married life, I think that it is false to pretend that an experience of ‘common-law life’, even if it has lasted five or ten years, will be a guarantee of success for the future, since love grows and builds itself every day. You are right when you say that failures are frequent and that it is difficult today for the life of a couple to succeed; which is why it is so important to get all the odds on our side. As for me, having favorable odds means committing to God, partnering with Him. It is so good to know that true and abundant grace flows from the Sacrament of Marriage for those who believe and accept to live according to the law of Love of the Lord.

I am marked by my thirty years as a professional. During this long period, I hired, trained and accompanied people in the domain of life insurance. It is a very difficult career where the rate of failure is about 90%. At the beginning, I thought the person wise who said to me: ‘I know that it is a difficult career; I want to try and later, if possible, I will decide if I will commit myself completely to it.’

After several years of experience, I realized that everyone who came to ‘try’ had failed. Those who had succeeded were those who, in the beginning, were determined to succeed. During the last years of my career, I refused to hire anyone who came to ‘try’ because it was a waste of time and energy. If commitment and determination are fundamental criteria for a successful career, even more so when it comes to a couple’s life.

For me, it is clear that the society in which we live and which wants to build itself without God, propagates many lies. We must continually ask God’s help to have His lights of wisdom and discernment so as to recognize what is good and what is evil, what can be fruitful and what can lead to serious troubles. We must ask for courage to organize our lives according to the values of the Gospel and not the current thoughts of this world while respecting the freedom of others.”

# PART FIVE

THE SACREMENT OF MARRIAGE

by Fr. *Guy Giroux*, priest

PART FIVE

# THE SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE

by Fr. Guy Giroux, priest

## 5.1 THE SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE

The story of Creation reveals to us that in the evening of every day, God marvels and sees that it is good. On the sixth day, He considers that it is not good for the man to be alone. He creates Eve. God blesses the conjugal life that begins.

## 5.2 THE COUPLE: SIGN OF LOVE

The Catechism of the Catholic Church presents us the Sacrament of Marriage as a great event and it is! Those who believe in God see in Marriage the union of God and Humanity. They also recognize the Love that Christ has for his Church. Through marriage, the Christian couple wants to be a visible SIGN of this Love. God created man for love; he also called him to Love. The man and the woman who commit themselves to one another before God and before men thereby become signs of the Love of God. Our world needs blatant signs of faithfulness. We often hear the expression: "Love means forever". By getting married, couples want this love to never die... On the contrary, they want it to last forever.

## 5.3 THE COUPLE CALLED TO BE FRUITFUL

God, who is Love, created man in his image. Man and Woman he created them, he blessed them so that they would be fruitful. The fruitfulness desired by God is not only of a biological order (to have children) but also of a spiritual nature (their love brings to the world a desire to live better). Through the Sacrament of Marriage, God acts in a particular way for the happiness of the couple, the happiness of the family, but also of society.

## 5.4 MARRIAGE: A SACRAMENT

First, what is a Sacrament? It is a visible sign in which God manifests himself to give a particular grace. But what is a grace? A grace is a supernatural gift that God gives us for our Salvation. What is the visible sign of Marriage? It is the mutual consent, the “yes” of each of them, as well as the physical union of a man and woman who consecrate their love to God.

Through the Sacrament of Marriage, man and wife help each other to reach Heaven as one while leading their children there as well. It is as a family that we walk toward God. When a family keeps its eyes on Jesus Christ and does His Will, the whole of society benefits from it.

## 5.5 MARRIAGE: A GIFT

The Sacrament of Marriage is therefore a precious gift from God. Through it, we recognize the presence of God Love who acts in the hearts of the spouses, their love ever growing. God always manifests Himself to fulfill His children with happiness, even if, sometimes, there are obstacles to overcome, hardships to meet. God, by His presence, incites man and woman to go further in self-giving. In the framework of Christian marriage, God gives very particular graces so that the love of this new couple will not stagnate but will blossom and bear fruit in abundance.

## 5.6 GOD'S PLAN OF LOVE

Let us remember the words of Jesus: “I have loved you just as the Father has loved me. Remain in my love... love one another<sup>13</sup>.” Therefore Jesus wants men and women to love each other with the same Love that Jesus received from the Father, the same Love that wants to be poured into the hearts of spouses. The grace of God is therefore indispensable to foster the opening of their hearts so that they can live together in an intimate communion of love and life.

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13 John 15, 9.12.

If, through the Sacrament of Marriage, man and woman are called to be happy and fruitful, they must not forget that for the grace of the Sacrament of Marriage to bear its fruit of salvation, the spouses must live according to the Gospel. The Word of God must always be their guiding light.

Even when the couple receives the Sacrament of Marriage if, after the celebration, the spouses do not focus on adjusting their married life to God's plan, grace will not be able to blossom. It will come as no surprise if their love stops growing. It will be like the parable of the sower who sows good grain. It falls on the side of the road or among thorns... It cannot mature. The good grain of the Sacrament must fall on the proper soil of the hearts of the new spouses to ever reach maturity.

## **5.7 THE INDISSOLUBILITY OF MARRIAGE**

The Church teaches that Christian Marriage is indissoluble. Why? The gold standard, for married couples, is that of Christ and the Church. Saint Paul proclaims: "Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the Church and gave himself up for her<sup>14</sup>." Christ will always be faithful to the Church, and the Church to Christ. In contemplating Christ and the Church, men and women find their roots and their inspiration.

In stormy weather, this model invites us to go beyond ourselves: Christ gave His Life for the Church. He died out of love for her. Does the husband agree to do the same thing for his wife? If, in times of trial, the husband remains preoccupied with the well-being of his wife, this situation will become a launching pad for going farther. Thus, love will deepen. It is the same when all is well: each wants the happiness of the other; here again, life together becomes a source of growth.

## **5.8 FEAR OF COMMITMENT**

Many, nowadays, shun the Sacrament of Marriage. They decide to live together, see if it works... and, later, they will see what they'll do about it. This mindset is widespread. On the other hand, the Sacrament of Marriage truly consolidates mutual love. It averts discord and infidelity. United by this Sacrament, we come

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14 Ephesians 5, 25.

to present our love to God. We want Him to be at the heart of our life as a couple. It is a meeting with God which brings very particular grace so that love does not stagnate but blossoms and fills us with happiness.

Life together is not always easy. However, God in his infinite mercy gives to man and woman the grace to bring the union of their lives into accord with the original divine plan<sup>15</sup>. He wants them to be happy together. When we count on the graces of this Sacrament and we refer to it, great healing happens. Many are those who can testify to this. When they thought that it was all finished, that there was nothing left to do, by praying together sincerely, asking God for the graces of their Sacrament of Marriage, special insights came to them and they began again more beautifully than the first time.

## **5.9 THE SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE: A GIFT FROM GOD**

The Sacrament of Marriage is a marvellous gift that God gives a couple. This constant presence of God at the heart of the couple brings veritable light for the path of each of them. In order for God to manifest himself, we must know how to nourish ourselves of Him. The Eucharist, prime Sacrament of the Presence of God, is the food that strengthens us. Listening to the Word of God, receiving communion of the Body of Christ, this is the Life of God which flows in each person. When the Life of God is there we feel the fullness of Love.

## **5.10 THE FAMILY, THE DOMESTIC CHURCH**

Husband and wife, united by God, form the domestic Church. The Catechism of the Catholic Church says: “The Christian home is the place where children receive the first proclamation of the faith. For this reason, the family home is rightly called ‘the domestic church,’ a community of grace and prayer, school of human virtues and of Christian charity<sup>16</sup>.” Thus the Church has great respect for Marriage and the Family. May the God of love live at the heart of your lives and fill you with his Spirit of Love. I bless you.

***Fr. Guy Giroux, priest***

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15 Compendium of the Catechism of the Catholic Church, no 339.

16 Compendium, no 350.





# PART SIX

TESTIMONIES OF FAITH

# TESTIMONIES OF FAITH

## 6.1 LIBERATION OF A COUPLE

For about two weeks, I have been praying the liberation prayer on page 217 of volume 3, given by Fr. Guy Giroux (see below). Oh! Marvel! On the morning of August 6, on the feast commemorating the Transfiguration of Our Lord Jesus Christ, my husband and I were freed from a kind of demon, as he told me. This demon amused himself by making us disagreeable and even insufferable to each other. This happened three days after having received your letter and the number of the message that Jesus had for me. Upon reading this message, I made the following admission to Jesus: Yes, Jesus, it is true, I do not know how to accept all Your Will for me. So, God made me understand that “that” was the main obstacle to our union. Enlightened and freed by Him, we since have a more harmonious life; and, it is delicious! Glory to You, Lord!

L. D.

*“Lord Jesus, I believe You are the Son of God created Man,  
born of the Virgin Mary.*

*I believe You died to redeem the world. I believe You rose  
from the dead to give me true life. I believe that You ascended to Heaven  
to prepare a place for me in Your Kingdom of Love.*

*I recognize in You the God on Kindness, Tenderness,  
Mercy and Forgiveness.*

*I ask Your forgiveness for all my sins.  
I wholeheartedly regret them.*

*I know You’re waiting for me with arms wide open  
to welcome me in Your Mercy.*

*Holy Father, through the power of Jesus' Name, of His redeeming Blood, through the merits of His Passion, of His Death and of His Resurrection, through the power of Your Spirit, the intercession of the Immaculate Virgin and Saint Michael the Archangel, covered with the great Mantle of the Holy Family, Jesus, Mary and Joseph, I ask You to liberate me of everything that doesn't come from You.*

*Liberate me in the depths of my being,  
to the roots of the evil that resides in me.*

*Liberate my unconscious, my subconscious, my conscience of everything that could have proven hurtful to Your Love, voluntarily or not.*

*Liberate my soul of every selfish reaction, of setbacks, pride, complacency, reckless judgments.*

*Liberate my mind from painful memories of my past life, which trouble my soul. I place everything that is not from You, Holy Father, at the foot of the Glorious Cross of Christ, so that all may be shattered by His Precious blood and thrown into the abyss and that it may not come back.*

*Instead Lord, my God, I ask You to fill me with Your Holy Spirit, Your Spirit of Light, Your Spirit of Truth, Your Spirit of Humility, Your Spirit of Strength, Your Spirit of Piety, Your Spirit of Gentleness, Your Spirit of Purity, so that, seeing Your Will, I may have the courage to accomplish it.*

*Finally, Lord, I ask You to bless all those who hurt me with words, gestures and actions. Fill them with Your blessings and Your Spirit.*

*Holy Father, I thank You for this liberation that You grant me now, because I'm certain that You hear my prayer.*

*I believe in Your Love. Amen! Alleluia!"*

*(Fr. Guy Giroux, priest)*

## **6.2 THE FRUIT OF A C.L.S. (COMMUNITY OF LOVE AND SHARING)**

The book *For the Happiness of My Own, My Chosen Ones*, JESUS healed a couple's family and conjugal relationships. At first, it was a great relief for the husband who could no longer stand his wife, and from the moment she had the book in her hands, she transformed herself. They have found a ground for communion and take time to talk to each other and form, in their own way, a little C.L.S. Beautiful, isn't it? Alleluia!

*A reader on the Island of Reunion*

## **6.3 OUR SACREMENT OF MARRIAGE ...**

After 27 years of marriage, we are convinced that there is grace attached to the Sacrament of Marriage. Over all those years, there were periods when we had the impression of no longer understanding each other, when we no longer felt our complicity, when we had the impression that we no longer loved each other as much as before, and each time we prayed to God to intervene by the grace of our Sacrament of Marriage, we felt a difference in our hearts. It is as if our perspective on things changed instantly. We also called on this grace in our role as parents. How often we felt humanly powerless and we asked God, by the grace of our Sacrament of Marriage, to come speak to the hearts of our children. If all young couples could know this force which originates from the Sacrament, they would have no fear of committing themselves to the path of marriage.

*Sylvie and Jean-Louis*

## **6.4 SPIRITUAL DIFFERENCES BETWEEN SPOUSES**

With different backgrounds and different life styles, it is normal that religious motivation and spiritual exercises express themselves differently for each of the spouses. All sorts of possibilities can appear. In our couple, the disposition of my wife towards spirituality resembles that of Quebec women in general, that is to say pretty weak, while for me the gift of piety, thanks to God, is rather higher and this situation has existed from our first encounters. And being recently retired,

this gap in spiritual interest is growing between the spouses since I consecrate most of my time to the Lord. How can such a situation be viable on the long run between two people who are pretty independent and having raised three children? Here is what I learned during these forty years of marriage that were marked as in most couples by ups and downs, joys and sufferings, harmony and conflict...:

- If at least one of the spouses praise the Lord, the grace of marriage blesses them equally according to their needs.
- Basically, respect of differences was established between the partners while avoiding abusing extreme situations or exacerbating oppositions.
- By seeing where conflicts lay, I learned to avoid escalating them; it is a matter of one partner showing self-denial so that the internal dynamic of the couple can become more positive.
- I often noticed that the Lord works through my wife to speak to me, to call me, for example so that I may live a more authentic Christian life...
- I also believe that there are people who want to be less engaged and demonstrative on the spiritual level but who walk faithfully in their duty under the kind supervision of the Most High.
- Finally, when we allow conjugal love to grow with good will despite the inevitable lapses, the Lord perfects his masterpiece of growth in each spouse, bringing a new and deeper enrichment to the marriage...

**Marcel**

## 6.5 THE SACRAMENTALITY OF MARRIAGE

If I have hesitated to give here my testimony, it is because I consider that the true testimony is sometimes expressed to expressed with difficulty in words, but rather in that we live in transparency of Him...and that the fruits which result from it are often hidden from the eyes of the world, by grace of thoughtfulness and wisdom of God.

I confess, however, that this little exercise contributes to a re–reread of my journey, after the rupture of the bond with the husband, and this, several moons ago.

I will expose myself to reopen my wound, buried in the Injury of the Risen One.

I gaze with wonder the foreshadowing which appeared at the moment of our engagement made on the hill overshadowed by a majestic cross of the Saviour.

At the foot of this cross, the future husband asked me in marriage.

I was giving my “yes” to a man who was certainly destined for me... Without my knowing it, I was giving my “yes” to a project sealed on the Cross.

This alliance allowed the birth of two wonderful children... But, later, an important pitfall made it fail. I had to learn that nothing can prevent God’s plan from pursuing its course... “*The grain of wheat that falls to the ground must die in order to bear fruit.*” Through all the fibers of my being, I turned to the Cross again. Contemplating it, I became aware that God had prepared me for this rupture, several years before, by the grace of a dazzling encounter with Him: the meeting of His Great Mercy.

“Recipient of Mercy,” He called me to become “Merciful”... That is why He constantly drew me, diligently, at his feet in ‘Adoration,’ to have me taste the better part... and, I dare add, in the continuation of the graces of our Sacrament of Marriage, always operative – although now directed to an unsuspected path: that of a new covenant with Him in Mary, which He will teach me of his luminous wisdom much later!

In error as in virtue, the spouses are united... and, in the abyss of our misery, God answers with the abyss of His Mercy. The problem is that the two spouses

are not necessarily ready, at the same time, to seek refuge in the arms of the Good Shepherd who asks only to collect his most puny sheep...

The Holy Spirit, through the Sacraments, performs his work of restoration. And, when Christ is incarnated in us, He dwells there forever: remorse subsides... accusations gave way to the humble reparative silence, before Him... the self-reflection is transformed as a gift of self... faith is strengthened... wounds heal in His Heart wounded by our refusal of love!

For the glory of God, allow me to continue: It is true that when the Lord closes a door, He opens a window!

Five years ago, a wind of the Spirit blew on the window of my soul... bringing me an ineffable light focused on Christ hidden in the Very Smallness of Mary.

The unfolding of this unexplored path came to me through my providential encounter with a priest whose heart was full of the Heart of Jesus, whose life, buried in Mary, is Perfume of Jesus, Mirror of Mary...

Thus, the Spirit, in him, introduced me to the school of Mary... the school of the very small... the school of obliteration in Her... the school of all schools! I was, and remain, fascinated as a child who discovers a marvel long hidden... and whose desire to enter into His Mystery is a burning desire!

I'm letting you know briefly of the role exercised by our Blessed Mother in all those who open themselves to her... It was taught to me by this favourite son: Her role is to shape the Son in us, to help us prolong his "Here I am" of Love to the Father, to enter into the movement of his prayer of intercession and in the manifestation of his Merciful Love made real in his surrendered Body, his shed Blood and his pierced Heart.

We are baptized in the Spirit; He continues his work of sanctification, according to the measure of our dives in the Baptism Death-Resurrection. My Baptism therefore draws me onto this narrow way so that what is lacking in the Passion of Christ may be completed in my flesh to engender grace, in Mary, for those whom God has given to me: a family according to the flesh, on which is grafted a family born of Mary, by the Spirit, in the invisible. The mystery of my life as a baptized person no longer belongs to this world, but to God... We receive Love, we live Love, we spread Love!



Inspired by this truth taught by Jesus Himself and transmitted by His Church – to know that by virtue of the sacramentality of Marriage, the spouses are bound one to another by an indissoluble character – I sense that there flows from it a mystery of complicity that binds the spouses, even after a break-up. Are they not committed “for better and for worse”? That is why, by virtue of this complicity, we immerse ourselves into the Mystery of the Death–Resurrection of Christ so that He will join us on our straying paths and lead us to the other side.

Paradoxically, “the worst” thrust me onto the unexpected paths of spiritual motherhood that grow from peeling away the layers of attachment to this world and my “self”, becoming smaller and smaller, forgiving again and again... until Love is born, in Mary...to attain the fullness of the age of Christ, in Her... at the service of the building of the Kingdom of God!

The Virgin Mary has known joy because She has opened her heart to the mysterious project of God... It is a beatitude called to continue throughout the ages...

Lord, may my heart tremble with joy at the call of Your voice to go further and further down this path of abasement where You preceded us without measure!

All my life, I will glorify Your Holy Mercy and I will adore It before the Very Blessed Sacrament of the Altar!

**M.R.**

IN CONCLUSION

# IN CONCLUSION

*It is important to remember that the very Source of Love is God! If we want to live in Love, we must be connected to the Source.*

*When love flows poorly in a couple, it is not advisable to blame the other. It is better to look at our personal relationship with the Source of Love: God Himself.*

*A question arises: Are there certain obstructions in me which impede the free flow of His Love in me... through me?*

*And this freedom is truly exercised when we renounce our own will to welcome His, by a "total, unconditional and irrevocable yes".*

*Not only is God Love, but He is the Almighty. It is up to us to put our confidence in Him and give everything to Him.*

*Already, we can praise Him, give Him thanks and bless Him for the marvels that he accomplishes in couples who surrender themselves to Him.*

*By the intercession of Mother Mary, we ask JESUS a very particular favour for the person or the couple who will have read, meditated and prayed with the help of this booklet.*

***Léandre Lachance***

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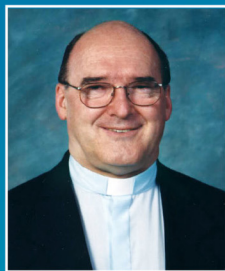


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*Because Love loves you, you become love!*



FR. GUY GIROUX

The little booklet that you hold in your hands is the product of experience. Léandre Lachance, preoccupied with the happiness of people and particularly of children, took the time to write down his experiences as a husband, father and grandfather. In it we will also recognize the teachings of the Lord and of His Church. Yes, marriage is a beautiful challenge and it is possible to succeed in it.

## GROWING PAINS

The difficulties in the life of a couple are opportunities for extraordinary growth!

In the aftermath of a conflict, we believe that our relationship will never be the same again. It is true, but it may be much better. Too often, we believe that it is a destructive crisis whereas it is a crisis of growth and consolidation of our love.

ÉLISABETH & LÉANDRE



## WE ARE AT THE DAWN OF THE MOST BEAUTIFUL STORY IN THE WORLD

A new civilization is rising and is happening thanks to the transformation of hearts. It is the "Civilization of Love", as taught by John-Paul II and by Benedict XVI. The time has come to build it, notably through couples.

*Léandre Lachance*

**Foundation of the Chosen Ones**

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