

# MARRIAGE A SCHOOL OF LOVE



Father Joseph Kantenich, OME #20,  
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... when matrimonial love cannot cope with the crisis of love. Isn't it so, we all know it from experience, married life is not as we may have imagined it formerly. Marriage has many burdens for mutual love. Yes, what do the burdens consist in? This could be, first of all, disappointments which husband and wife experience in one another. The burdens could also be due to the children. If the girl, for instance, is too one-sidedly attached to the father, and the boy too one-sidedly attached to the mother, how easily jealousy can develop from this.

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So that matrimonial love will not be the death of real love, the marriage partners need a unique schooling in matrimony, or better, in love. And just as every school has levels, different classes, so it is also in the *school of love*.

The primitivism of mutual love must become in time a mature, serene, selfless love. You see, the main profession of the Christian is to learn to love. If I now apply this to marriage, to the family, then I think I should say: In what a happy situation we are as married couples! Our married life places us time and again before new crises, before

new demands. We must only take care that all difficulties in marriage become nourishment for the growth of matrimonial love. Look, therefore, the main concern is that divine love even pulsates through matrimonial love. Isn't it so, you remember how we stressed from the very beginning: sexual love has to be purified, and made transparent ...

Thus we understand, how did Paul lay the foundations for his sexual pedagogy? He brought to our awareness time and again: Through baptism you have been raised to a higher level of being, a higher position.

Divine life lives in you; you are members of Christ.<sup>4</sup> If we now examine: What consequences does Paul draw from this inner conviction, this new feeling for life, I am a child of the Father, I am a member of Christ? There are two consequences. First consequence: Away with all prohibited impure actions and deeds! Then secondly: Away with all lewd, doubtful, dangerous conversations.<sup>5</sup> What is the reason why we should avoid it? It is not appropriate for a child of God, for a member of Christ.

Question:

- ❖ Looking back in our history as a couple, have we been able to grow in love through the crises we have faced?

<sup>4</sup> See: among others 1 Cor. 12:27; Eph. 5:30.

<sup>5</sup> See: Eph. 5:3f.