

Coming Up

Celebrate Love

A two day seminar for married couples exploring spirituality and sexuality in the Catholic context.

2009

Batemans Bay, NSW	Oct 10/11
Mount Isa, QLD	Oct 31/Nov 1
Sydney, NSW	Nov 7/8
Perth, WA	Nov 7/8

One day - abridged version
Central Coast, NSW Oct 25

2010 Dates Coming soon

www.CelebrateLove.com.au

Embrace

Preparing to Live in Love

A six session programme for dating or engaged couples preparing to marry in the Catholic Church.

Available Now!

Sydney, Newcastle, Brisbane, Perth,
Wagga, London

Four formats:

- individual couple-to-couple mentoring
- small home based groups
- large parish based groups
- correspondence (remote areas only)

www.Embrace.org.au

Living Well Media Resources for Catholic Families, Schools & Parishes

Multimedia and print materials featuring Christopher West, Fr Tony Percy, Teresa Pirola and Byron & Francine Pirola

www.LivingWellMedia.com.au

Renaissance

of Marriage Mini-Conference 09

Declaring a new spring-time in marriage formation. Check website for local dates.

www.thepmrc.org/renaissance

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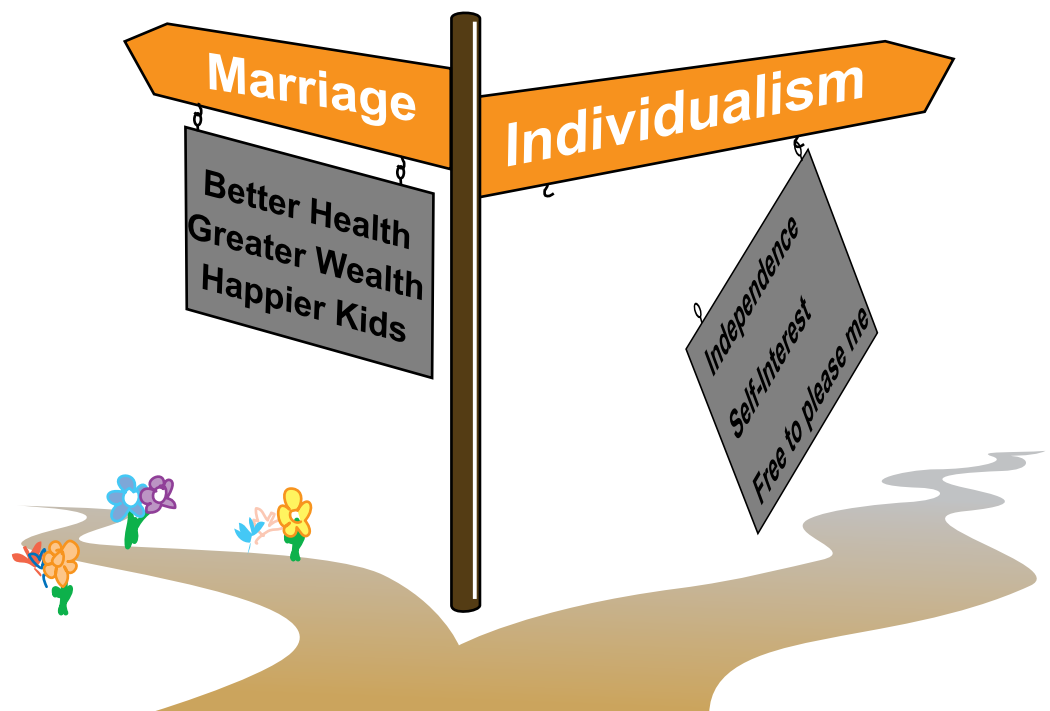
Knot Yet! #6: The Marriage Drain Myth

"You're throwing your life away!", was the message one bride in her early twenties was told. Many people delay marriage, and discourage other young would-be newly weds, because they believe that marriage demands more than it gives. There is a persistent perception that being single and uncommitted (or in a relationship but still uncommitted) protects one's freedom to craft one's life to suit oneself. This 'freedom to please me' is believed to guarantee that one's personal happiness and wellbeing will thus be safeguarded. Conversely, marriage is expected to doom one to boredom and emotional anguish.

Yet research* continues to confirm that marriage is good for us. Good for our physical health, our mental health, our financial security and our social development. It's also good for our children. Most of these benefits are present even in cases where the marriage relationship is not as personally satisfying as it might ideally be. Moreover, these marital benefits are not present to the same degree (and in some cases not at all) in cohabiting relationships, even long-standing ones. There is something about the permanent life commitment made before the community of family and friends that bestows a special character on the marriage relationship.

Clearly marriage gives back far more than it demands.

Yet still people persist in avoiding marriage out of fear that it will 'tie them down'. This widespread aversion is energised by the value system of 'Individualism.' Individualism is the prevailing lifestyle philosophy of Western society. It places the freedom, independence and self-interest of the individual above anything and anyone else. Marriage, on the other hand, is based on a value system of other-centred loving and self-sacrifice. The two are diametrically opposed. In a culture that enshrines Individualism, it is a rare person who will be able to disentangle himself from its influences in order to clearly see the enduring benefits of life-long marriage.



* Ref: Numerous articles and books detail the benefits of marriage. For example, see *Twenty One Reasons Why Marriage Matters*. Dads4Kids Foundation, Australia 2009.