

A Love that Enriches

June 2018

[Married love] is a love which is total—that very special form of personal friendship in which husband and wife generously share everything, allowing no unreasonable exceptions and not thinking solely of their own convenience. Whoever really loves his partner loves not only for what he receives, but loves that partner for the partner's own sake, content to be able to enrich the other with the gift of himself.

(Humanae vitae no. 9)

Reflection

God's love and grace enrich our lives. Paul's letter to the Romans reminds us, "the same Lord is Lord of all, enriching all who call upon him" (Romans 10:12), and in his first letter to the Corinthians, he "give[s] thanks to my God always on your account for the grace of God bestowed on you in Christ Jesus, that in him you were enriched in every way" (1 Corinthians 1:4-5). This enrichment is given to us by God because he loves us.

Spousal love should mirror God's love for us in this way. In marriage, when spouses give fully of themselves to the other person they do so not for their own benefit, or to get something in return. They share everything for the benefit of the other person and in doing so enrich the other person with their love.

How has the love of someone else enriched your own life? How can you better enrich the lives of those around you?

Intercessory Prayer to Paul VI

God our Father,
fill all married couples
with your love.

Give them the grace
to love one another every day,
living out their promise to love
in all times and circumstances.

Help them to imitate your
freely given, sacrificial love,
that they may choose each day
to give of themselves,
reflecting your love for us
when you sent your Son to
die for our sins.

We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord,

Blessed Paul VI, pray for us!
Amen.

