

## **MARITAL STEWARDSHIP**

By Rev. Thomas Soltis, Stewardship Director

A wedding anniversary master of ceremonies once quipped the question: “Why did God create women?” After a pause he said: “To tell men what to do!” After the laughter and cheers of the women subsided, he added: “And he made men dumb enough to listen.”

### **DON'T BE A NAG**

There's a word for a woman who tells her man to do too much too often - “NAG”. Some husbands are overly demanding. A self-centered, nagging, insisting, “want it my way”, attitude has its roots in the mud of selfishness (one of the seven deadly sins) which can quickly mortify a marriage with rigor mortis. In contrast, unselfish, self-giving attitudes solidify and sustain marriages in the midst of whatever the storms of life may bring.

### **BE A MARITAL STEWARD**

Spouses should be stewards of each other. The word, steward, means “caretaker”. Unselfish care giving makes a marriage worth living. Former President John F. Kennedy once stated: “Ask not what your country can do for you, but what you can do for your country.” To put a marital twist to those words . . .”Ask not what your spouse can do for you, but what you can do for your spouse.”

### **FIFTY YEARS OF BLISS**

I once sat next to a happy wife at the banquet table of her 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary. I asked her what the secret was for her successful marriage. She quickly responded with a smile: “Whatever my husband wanted me to do, I did it. Whatever I wanted him to do, he did it.” They spent 50 years as Christian stewards, managing their marriage by being caring, careful, caretakers of each other. Life for them was marital bliss, not blitz.

## **A TIP FOR SPOUSES**

When you get up in the morning ask yourself: “What can I do for my spouse today?” Lutheran marriages include the traditional words in the marital vow: “I promise you my faithfulness till death us do part.” The word, faithful, means “trustworthy in the performance of duty”. The stewardship duty of spouses is to make each other happy by life-long loving and doing for each other. Go for it! You'll never be sorry. After all, when your spouse is happy, you're happy.

### **GOD SAYS**

“Wives submit to your husbands as to the Lord.” (Eph. 5:21)

“Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her.” (Eph. 5:25)

Christian Marital Stewardship could be summed up in the words of Ephesians 5:21: “Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.”

### **CHRISTIAN SPOUSES**

- \* Are faithful unto death;
- \* Live in holy marriage according to the Word of God;
- \* Love, comfort and honor each other;
- \* Care for each other in sickness and in health;
- \* Live chaste and decent lives;
- \* Unselfishly submit to one another.

