



The Society of the Sacred Heart

The Society of the Sacred Heart is an international religious Order which dedicates itself to education. In many ways it works to encourage young people and others to grow in personal and community responsibility, to find specific places and circumstances conducive to making an educative response to the questions that arise in our world. It also works in solidarity with and for women who suffer the injustices of society.

If you are called to be on earth the Heart of Jesus, desiring to reach out to others; to commit yourself to working for justice and peace in our world; to be open to the voice of the God of Love, in regular prayer perhaps God is calling you to become a Religious of the Sacred Heart. If you feel called to make a difference, to respond to a sustaining power much greater than any of us can imagine you can learn more.

Please visit www.rscj-anz.org or www.rscjinternational.org

Contact person:

Diana Hayes on (02) 9660 7450 or mobile 0437 402256.

A calling amidst the stuff ... the Vocation of Marriage and Parenting

"The sacred hides in the stuff of our lives, the holy does not inhabit a distant realm beyond us." Immersed in the Sacred, Kathy Coffey

By Janette Davidson
Diocesan Co-ordinator, Family Life Ministries

A calling, a commitment, a state of life or occupation ... all are definitions of vocation. Each and every baptised person is "called" to live a life of vocation to discipleship; some live out this call through priestly and religious life, others through single or married life and parenting.

The vocation of marriage calls us to a bonding commitment. There is no guarantee that life with our spouse will be easy, tranquil, or smooth, only that there will be someone by our side to go through the rough waters with us, someone whose life is inextricably intertwined with our own.

Scott Stanley in his book, *The Heart of Commitment*, outlines 5 traits from Scripture that mark the call to marriage. He identifies choice, priority, permanence, intimacy, and freedom. The **choice** of marriage, and marriage to your particular partner, involves leaving other things behind. By choosing to marry, you "forsake all others." The marriage vocation involves saying "I choose you" over and over again throughout your entire life.

Priority means that you make your marriage a priority over work, entertainment, and your family of origin. When all is said and done, you are called to that person, that marriage. It will take time and attention. It's a priority!

The **permanence** aspect of marriage recognises an intent to commit for life within a dynamic growing reality. Living in this kind of togetherness allows **intimacy** to grow and flourish. By forsaking all others and knowing that your spouse is likewise dedicated to you and your marriage, it is possible to open up in a way that is fuller and **freer** than in other relationships.

Like all vocations marriage has its seasons, some rich and exciting, others long and difficult. Commitment for each other provides the foundation of the



marital relationship because it is based on the unconditional covenant between God and us and is a pathway to salvation.

Leif Kehrwald in an article **Parenting – A Vocational Call* reflects on his journey as a parent:

"As the years passed we saw that each child reshaped us and the other children, and we believed that we needed to be open to that reshaping. We know of other couples who have felt their lives expanded, challenged and enriched through the adoption or birth of children.

There is no more powerful spiritual encounter than participating in God's creative process through our children. The depth of intimacy and spirituality found in raising a child cannot be equalled. As a parent you know this by the pearls of grace you carry in your heart. These are moments and memories with which your children have gifted you. These are the moments when they brought a lump to your throat and tears to your eyes."

Thousands of parents and families from around the world recently gathered in Milan at which Pope Benedict, when speaking of the vocation of Christian family, acknowledged that "... it is not easy to live your vocation, especially today" – but stressed that "... to the extent you will live mutual love and love for all – you will be living the Gospel, a real domestic Church."

**Family Perspectives Journal
Vol 20 Issue 1 Spring 2003*

What do you want to do with your life?



We, the Religious of the Sacred Heart, are joyful women of prayer, adventuring together on the path of life. We share an international mission: discovering and revealing God's love in the heart of the world through the service of education. We believe that together we can transform lives.

SOCIETY OF THE SACRED HEART

Australia and NZ PROVINCE

To find out more contact Diana Hayes
02 9960 7450 or 0437 402 256

www.rscj-anz.org

The Hospitality of Ministry

By Fr David Ranson

Our understanding of God determines the entire framework of our actions from the way we pray to the way we engage in ministry. At the foundation of the Christian vision is an understanding of God as Triune. The Trinitarian Mystery constantly draws us into its truth and beauty and shapes the way we live.

The Hospitality of Ministry by Fr David Ranson, is a reflection based on the sustainable gaze of the classic icon of the Trinity by Andrei Rublev. In it, Fr Ranson suggests how Christian ministry, both in content and style, finds its definition, origin and its orientation within the heart of the extraordinary Trinitarian Mystery of beauty, truth and life.

Available through St Paul's Publications and Pauline Books and Media

