

CHAPTER 2 – ASSIGNMENTS

Part 1: CREATED IN GOD'S IMAGE

ASSIGNMENTS FOR § 43–44

WHO ARE YOU? WHO AM I?

Assignments to do as a couple

- a. Each of you on your own: make a drawing or a timeline of your life history. Explain these to each other.
- b. How well do you know each other's family, family history and circle of friends? Give each other as much insight as possible into how your families function and how the social interaction with friends happens. Note! The point here is not to compromise your families, family members or friends, such that the information you give can damage your spouse's relationship with them downline. Rather, the point is to highlight aspects (events, etc.) that have been significant in your childhood and for the formation of your personality, and which will prepare you for both the forms and tones of communication.

The information you give each other should not be shared with other participants in the course.

Is there anything you would like to have clarified further? Feel free to consult with a priest or the course leaders, either as a couple or individually (in a separate room).

ASSIGNMENTS FOR § 45

PERSONALITIES AND REACTIONS

Assignments to do as a couple

- a. Each of you on your own: write down 12 aspects of your personality which you think form a good description of you; don't forget to include aspects you think can be difficult. Then write a similar list that would describe your partner (e.g., extroverted, energetic, tends to worry, sensitive, empathetic, unstructured ...).
- b. With your pen, underline the aspects you think are positive in your own personality and in that of your partner. Discuss how you can use all your positive aspects as spouses. Discuss how the two of you will deal with the aspects of your personalities that can be challenging.
- c. Each on your own, fill out the questionnaire 'I become ...'. [You will find them on the Catechesis Centre's resource pages](#). Compare and discuss your answers. If something surprises you, ask for an explanation.

ASSIGNMENTS FOR § 46

GENDER ROLE PATTERNS

Assignments to do as a couple

Talk together about the view of women and the view of men which each of you grew up with in your families. You may already be well acquainted with the customs of your future in-laws; identify the issues that are relevant to your situation.

- a. What is the role of the woman and the role of the man understood to be in both the bride's and bridegroom's family? Can the two of you accept and live with each other's views about women and men?
- b. How were the boys and the girls raised and treated in the respective family contexts? How were important decisions made in the families? In this area, what do the two of you think harmonizes with a Christian perspective of equality?
- c. 'That's how we did it in my family.' How were tasks apportioned in your childhood home? Who took responsibility for the financial situation, income-generating work, maintenance inside and outside the house, childcare, care of elderly, housework, childrearing, help with homework and schooling, free time activities?
- d. Which of these patterns do you want to continue in your married life together? Which patterns do you definitely *not* want to continue? Why?
- e. **Women:** Tell your fiancé about how your father treated your mother. Then tell him how you want to be treated by him.
Men: Tell your fiancée how your mother treated your father. Then tell her how you want to be treated by her.
- f. How will the two of you apportion work and responsibilities after the wedding – income-generating work, indoor and outdoor chores, the care for and rearing of children? Are both of you satisfied with the arrangement you are mutually planning?

ASSIGNMENTS FOR § 47–51

OUR TALENTS

- a. List three areas in which you think the psychological differences between men and women can be valuable for your relationship.
- b. Fill out the questionnaires 'Our Talents'. [You can find them on the Catechetical Centre's resource pages.](#) Compare your answers and discuss what the two of you see as your most important personal resources: How will we use them to strengthen our marriage?

PRACTICAL EXERCISE

Tell each other every day at least one reason why you appreciate each other.

SUGGESTED READING

- J.M. Champlin, *Together for Life*, Ave Maria Press, Notre Dame, Indiana 46556, 1998.
- Karol Wojtyla, *Love and Responsibility*, Ignatius Press, San Francisco, 1993, p. 130-135 (first published in Polish in 1960).