

## Introduction

FACET is a self-discovery tool for engaged couples designed to help them learn more about each other and their relationship. Like most tools it is useful while at the same time neither predictive nor a test.

## Some Points to consider in administering FACET Premarital Inventory:

- **FACET IS NOT A TEST.**  
Rather, it is an educational learning tool for couples preparing for marriage to help them gain insight into one another and their relationship. *It is not a predictor or guarantee of marital success.* What it can do, if entered into with an open mind and a willingness to explore, is to provide engaged couples with a better understanding of themselves and their relationship. It can also point the way for a future of ongoing discovery and marital growth. As the facilitator, your task is to assure the couple that this experience will be both useful and enriching, and that they are not entering into a “Pass or Fail” situation, but an opportunity to learn more about each other.
- **WHEN TO ADMINISTER FACET**  
If it is possible to meet with the couple once without any business, then it is best to administer FACET at the second meeting with the couple. It should be explained at the first meeting when the preparation for marriage is explained. FACET should be introduced as part of the process the couple is being asked to participate in with a pep talk about how being as honest as they can be will benefit them and help them zero in on the least explored aspects of their relationship. By giving the couple time away from the facilitator between the first and second meeting, they will have a chance to talk to each other about FACET and check in with each other. This allows the couple to come back and be more confident that each will enter into the process with a relaxed and open attitude, thus providing more honest responses than if they'd been rushed right into filling out the answers.
- **WHAT TO EMPHASIZE IN EXPLAINING FACET**  
The couple may well be anxious at first hearing about the tool. Again, it is important to emphasize that the FACET tool is NOT A TEST. Emphasize that the results will be confidential. Emphasize that it is a HELP TO THEM in examining the unique strengths of their relationship, as well as areas for them to concentrate on in the remaining time of preparing for marriage.
- **HOW TO ADMINISTER FACET**  
At the second meeting, explain again the purpose of FACET. Point out the instructions and ask them to read the instructions from the FACET booklet. Give them a copy of the FACET questions and a response sheet. It is best if they are separated, perhaps in different rooms. It will take approximately half an hour to fill out the response sheet.
- **THE RESPONSE SHEET**  
Please verify that all the questions are completed. The Catholic Section may not pertain to all couples

- **SOME ALTERNATE SUGGESTIONS**

Some have found it convenient to fill out the Pre-Marital Investigation (PMI) with one while the other is filling out FACET. Others, in large parishes, have a number of couples fill out FACET at the same time. If you do this, explain that it will happen at the first meeting with the couple. The first meeting should always be with each individual couple, as should the meeting to discuss the FACET results. If you do use the large gathering approach to administer FACET, you may wish to also provide some marital enrichment, such as a married couple presentation, an introduction about Catholic Engaged Encounter, or simply a soda and pizza social for the engaged couples to meet each other and form community.

- With couples who have difficulty reading, or who are uncomfortable with English, some have found it helpful to dictate the question and have the couple respond on the response sheet, take care that the numbers correspond. FACET is also available in Spanish.

- **Processing the FACET Results**

At this time, the FACET response sheets need to be submitted to S&K Publishers for processing. In the future a program will be available for purchase from S&K so that those who are using the instrument may process the results themselves.

### **Some Points to Consider in Discussing FACET:**

- **SETTING THE MOOD:**

At the third meeting, when you have the computer printout, the couple may still be anxious. Emphasize again that FACET is not a test, and is confidential. The results reflect only what they were thinking the day they filled it out, and some questions, where either one answered with *unsure*, they may have discussed by now. You can ask them if they have talked about their responses since they filled out FACET. Most likely they have. In fact, many couples report that they spent time immediately following the completion of FACET discussing their answers. This means that FACET has already begun being successful in its purpose; namely, to get the couple to discuss those areas where they may not have previously discussed. It is common for a couple to report that they became aware that they hadn't yet figured out how they are going to handle their finances, for example. So, after they completed the FACET tool, they started to have that conversation. They are now sitting in front of you, the facilitator, that much more prepared as a result of discussing FACET. Be sure to compliment them for this great gain they have already achieved, if this is the case.

Others will show some anxiety or concern regarding their corresponding answers to FACET. In most cases, you'll be able to reassure them that they have lots of similar responses, and that it is *healthy and normal* to have some differences. The key is to be aware of these differences. Some will require compromise and some will need adjustments by one or both parties.

- **HOW TO START:**

You may want to have an introductory time, discussing how long they have known each other, how they met, when they decided to marry, etc. Some facilitators have found it helpful to ask the couples what they thought of filling out FACET, and asking if they have discussed some of the questions or areas after they completed it, and what areas they thought they were strong in, and what areas they thought they may need to discuss more.

- **THE RESULTS:**

Show them the results and indicate how many areas they already have agreement in. At present there is a legend at the end of the scoring sheet that indicates the amount of agreement in each area. That is for the facilitator's benefit, to know where to concentrate the thrust of the conversation. Use your own judgment about the importance of the items raised for discussion. Whether people know who their grandparents are is not as important as whether one or the other has a problem with substance abuse or physical abuse.

- **GOING OVER THE CATEGORIES:**

You, not they, should have the computer printout in your hand. The couple ought to be seated facing each other. The key for the discussion is for you to facilitate, and for them to spend most of the time TALKING WITH EACH OTHER RATHER THAN WITH YOU. It is certainly not for them to spend most of the time listening to you. Some have found it helpful for everyone to have a copy of the question booklet to look up specific questions; others have found this to be more of a distraction or hindrance. Feel free to do what is most comfortable for you.

- **THE SEPARATE CATEGORIES:**

Go over the categories one at a time, perhaps using the *I Will* portion of each as the summary for each section. Read the areas that they had some disagreement on in the section, and then review them one at a time. It's preferable not to tell them, "You marked 'yes', and you marked 'unsure', and the author wants you to say 'yes' or 'no.'" Rather, you can mention the question and ask if they remember what they were thinking when they filled out the instrument. They perhaps will remember how they marked it, and start talking about why. A different, but valid approach is to say who responded with what answer. You can tell them, "He said 'yes' and she said 'no'." Or, "You both said 'yes', but the preferred response is 'no'." With either approach your goal is to get them to talk. Give them as little input as you can get away with, depending on the personalities and temperaments of the couple. Perhaps they don't remember any reason why there was disagreement...then either they misunderstood the question, filled in the wrong box, it was entered incorrectly, it was a momentary difference because they had an argument on the way to the session, or they don't feel comfortable discussing it here and now. Don't push them; rather, encourage them to talk. If one starts to talk to you, gently ask him or her to speak to their partner. Then, see if they are able to go further in a conversation regarding this particular topic or question.

**FACET is divided into 13 Topics. Each topic has three parts: *I know/understand, I believe, and I will.***

- ***I know (understand)*** - *I know* or *I understand* is designed to help each person to realize what information their partner may or may not have. The basic building block of relationships is knowledge so the intent here is to figure out what knowledge each person is coming to the marriage with. Therefore, this is an educational aspect of the FACET tool that allows both persons to discover or reveal some fundamental information important for their relationship.
- ***I believe*** - *I believe* goes beyond information and adds to the foundation of a marital relationship by having each person express what is his/her truth, or what it is that he or she holds as important. This includes opinions, values, beliefs, and convictions that may be or may not be consistent with their partner. Again, the purpose of FACET is to expose both parties to their similar and, most likely, dissimilar beliefs. It is intended to root out unspoken assumptions, to allow the couple to talk about differences. Because these are not factual issues, this area can provide a rich conversational field where couples can express the things they build their life on. The facilitating couple (if it is a couple) can share their own early experiences of unspoken assumptions at this point if they choose.
- ***I will*** - *I will* is designed to take the conversation that has proceeded from the *I know* and *I believe* portions of FACET and move the couple into action. It is to help the couple draw upon whatever insights they have just gained and take them into some useful action steps. Healthy marriage is about mature and responsible compromise and a commitment to continual growth. Therefore, this portion of FACET assists the couple to name those things they each are willing to take on as *a life plan for creating a great marriage*. This portion, if entered into correctly, can be an exciting and positive dimension of their experience of the FACET tool. It might be helpful for the couple to write down some of the things they come up with regarding their future. What they are doing is setting a future course of actions that are designed to assist them in building a lasting and powerful intentional relationship of ongoing growth and development. It springs from, and represents for these couples, the Christian understanding that marriage is a lifelong journey toward each other and toward God. That doesn't happen without conscious, deliberate actions.

## **FACET Topics:**

### **FAMILY OF ORIGIN**

When one marries, he/she is marrying into the other person's family system. The task of each person upon entering marriage is to separate from one's own family of origin, while still remaining connected. Family of origin is an important starting point for each couple. To not separate is to make it impossible to create the marital union. To cut off from one's family of origin is to threaten the marital relationship with too much pressure and intensity.

Family of origin is the family into which one is born. Sometimes a person does not live in this family or lives in an adoptive family. Nevertheless, we inherit many things from our family of origin, besides the obvious ones such as racial, cultural, and even physical similarities and possibly propensities toward certain illness, etc. We now know that we "inherit" a multi-generational, emotional family process, such as whether we are very anxious, or how we handle stress. We are each shaped, in many ways, by the family we got to grow up in. No one gets perfect parents. We get the ones we get. It is our task to love them for who they were and who they were not. From our family of origin we may have received either too much or too little regarding limits, supports, stories, protection and nurturance. The resulting combination of what we did or did not receive in these areas play out in our unique development. In marriage we have the opportunity to heal those childhood hurts or areas of unfinished business. In order for this kind of healing and growth to occur there is a need for a mature level of understanding and ability so that the couple can form a safe and nonjudgmental communication system within the marriage relationship. The family of origin section is the start of addressing the various differences within each person's background.

It is important for both parties to go into marriage with an understanding of their own family background, as well as insight regarding their perspective marriage partner's family of origin.

#### **Additional Questions to assist the conversation:**

- + How does my family feel about you? How does your family feel about me? How do our families feel about the marriage?
- + Where are the areas within my family of origin or yours that we must address?
- + How will we handle family gatherings and family holidays, such as Thanksgiving, Christmas and Easter?
- + How will we handle tensions that come up in each of our families?
- + What have we tried that worked? Didn't work?
- + How can we possibly be pro-active regarding identified family of origin hot spots?
- + Do we have a strategy for dealing with interference from family around our child rearing?

## **FACET Topics, cont'd:**

### **ROLES IN MARRIAGE**

In this 21st Century it is easy to dismiss the idea that there are set roles within a marriage. But this is not necessarily true, nor does it need to be true. What is critical is how the couple sees it. If they both agree on who will cut the grass, who will handle the checking account, who will address the various tasks of their home, then all is good. This section is partially about the mutual giving and receiving within the relationship. There must be a sense of equity for both the husband and wife. They can form a more traditional style or they can adopt a style that appeals to them. But, it cannot be assumed. And hopefully they will learn, as they discuss this area, that they need to be flexible. Things may change over the course of the marriage and roles may have to change too. The one who does the cooking now may get a job that does not allow them to be home at meal times. Illness could change the ability of one partner to do the tasks they originally agreed to be in charge of. In this section, the couple gets to investigate where they each stand on the various roles within the marriage.

#### **Additional Questions to assist the conversation:**

- + What can you do to keep a sense of fairness and balance within your role as husband and wife?
- + What does your culture say about the roles of men and women?
- + How would you describe the roles your parents assumed in their marriage?
- + Talk about how you would negotiate changes in your roles if something came up that required a change.

### **BUDGET/FINANCES**

Finances are often the last talked about topic within a serious relationship. It can even be a topic with a lot of emotional tension that one or both parties bring into the relationship for various reasons. One may be a saver while the other is a spender. They might have accumulated some financial assets before they are married or they may have accumulated debt they are bringing into the marriage. All this needs to get addressed. This section helps the couple speak openly and honestly about their finances. Budgets can be very formal or informal. Regardless of how they choose to deal with their finances they need to be responsible. Honesty and respect for one another are key elements of a discussion regarding finance. Because one partner is more fiscally responsible does not mean that they get to boss the other person. It may mean that they offer their strength to the relationship to help the new family reach to goals they set for themselves. Being good at handling money is a gift to be offered, not handcuffs to put on your partner.

#### **Additional Questions:**

- + What am I possibly anxious about regarding our finances?
- + What would make a huge difference regarding our finances if this was taken into account and acted upon?
- + Do we have a way to continue the conversation about finances throughout our marriage?
- + Do we anticipate interference from family around finances?

## FACET Topics, cont'd:

### VALUES

Making their relationship primary is a value that will be essential for a healthy and strong marriage. Hopefully the couple holds many similar values. Even where they have some dissimilar values, there will need to be some deepening appreciation for how the other party holds a particular value. The ideal is that they attempt to make such values into “our value” - meaning, the one who may value doing some charity or outreach, would be joined by their partner in such an endeavor. At the least, the other partner would support him or her, even if they do not see it as such a high value. In return the partner who is now getting support can express true appreciation for their partner's willingness to extend a hand. In addition, the assisted partner can look for ways to reciprocate and possibly try to enter into their partner's important valued-area.

#### **Additional Questions to assist the conversation:**

- + Do you believe that you have similar values?
- + What do you admire about your future spouse's values?
- + Can you think of an instance where your values were tested?

### HABITS

Habits cover a wide range of items. It might mean an occasional burp, or it could mean road rage. Some habits are destructive and will cause a marriage to crumble. This section has to do with having both parties go into the marriage with their eyes wide open. Too often a person will reason that a destructive habit, such as drug or alcohol abuse will go away once the couple marries. Love will conquer all. This is faulty thinking – magical thinking. In all probability it will only get worse. Counseling and other treatment programs are available and need to be considered if habits that are currently exhibited by one or both of the partners. You can bring up with them that some couples make an agreement to seek help if either one thinks it is necessary – a different kind of prenuptial agreement. Making that agreement when there is no presenting problem takes some of the sting out of it.

#### **Additional Questions to assist the conversation:**

- + Is there any habit(s) that must be confronted and dealt with before you marry?
- + Is there anything that needs to be watched and assessed as potentially a problem?
- + What will you do if something arises in the future?
- + Is there any concern around physical abuse? *\*\*If you as facilitator see signs of controlling behaviors, do you have a place to take your concerns? It is very important to have a way to share your observations with a person or agency that can help you assess them.*

## FACET Topics, cont'd:

### WORK/FAMILY ISSUES

The world will not stop for anyone. Most of us are swamped with many things – most of them even good things. But, we need to take responsibility for setting a healthy balance and making sure we keep the marriage as our top priority. Eventually there will be two children and three jobs or three children and two jobs – in other words, lots that can come between the couple – and it is up to the couple to take responsibility for how they will handle the various life obligations that will be an ongoing part of their relationship.

Many engaged and newly married couples report that even *before* marriage they have trouble balancing “together time” with the many other time consuming activities in their lives. Some believe that after the wedding things will “settle down” and they will have more time to spend with each other.

#### **Additional Questions to assist the conversation:**

- + Do you feel you have challenges now with managing time?
- + Do you have different styles when it comes to together time (e.g., one of you likes to go out while the other is a couch potato)?
- + How will you achieve balance?
- + What are you going to do to keep your marriage alive and vibrant?

### LEISURE TIME/FRIENDS

Engaged couples do not suddenly end the friendships they had prior to marriage. They eventually find that they begin to develop mutual friends hopefully including some married friend couples. Ideally, they are to become each other's best friend. All those other friendships prior to marriage and even during marriage, have their place but the marital relationship needs to take priority. This does not mean that they are not to have any other friends. In fact, friendships can and often do support the marital relationship. In order for this to be a positive benefit to the marriage, they will need to make some clear rules to govern themselves by, and some boundaries will need to be installed so that friendships remain supportive without becoming a distraction or even temptation for the marital relationship. This section looks into the healthy nature of friendships and interests. Balancing time apart and time together will be an important dimension of marriage. One is going to want more togetherness than the other. The other will want more time apart than the other does. This does not mean there is something wrong. It is a matter of adjusting and compromising: one can give more space in order to get some closeness, while the other can give more closeness in order to get more space.

Generally speaking problems within marriage should be resolved by the couple, and privacy should always be respected. Complaining to a friend about your spouse's behavior can potentially undermine marital unity. It also does little to resolve the issue especially if complaining to someone else is a substitute for discussing the issue directly with your spouse.

#### **Additional Questions to assist the conversation:**

- + Which one of you prefers more closeness, relatively speaking, than the other?
- + Which one of you prefers more space?
- + How can you accommodate these differing styles through your friends and interests?
- + Are there friends that your partner likes who you don't like? How do you deal with that issue as a couple?
- + Are there areas of your relationship that you do not wish to be shared with others?

## **FACET Topics, cont'd:**

### **SEXUALITY/INTIMACY**

Marriage is a call to ongoing intimacy – not only sexual intimacy, but also the intentional development of emotional, intellectual, and spiritual intimacy. Each dimension of a couple's intimacy connects with the others. So, if they neglect emotional bonding or don't pay attention to each other, all parts of the relationship suffer, including the physical expression of love. Although sexual intimacy is pleasurable, its importance in marriage is not just to have fun; it also strengthens the couple's bond, helping them to face the many challenges of their life together. Studies report that couples that are passionate about each other can more easily solve problems, including such things as dealing with children, extended family, and financial issues.

Sexual intimacy may have come easily in earlier stages of marriage. That period was likely laced with kissing and holding, loving words and deeds, romantic dinners, walks, and sharing of thoughts and feelings. Later, couples may find that part of the relationship may suffer given the rigors of a growing family. In time, they may settle for security and certainty at the cost of playfulness and passion in marriage. These marriages, based more on companionship rather than romance, tend to be less satisfying. Sustaining physical attraction often takes a conscious decision to put time and effort into a dimension of your relationship that used to come effortlessly. It requires setting one's spouse as the priority – before work, before cleaning, and even before kids. This means planning to find babysitters, having occasional dinners alone (without children), going on dates, and bringing to the relationship new ways of connecting.

This section addresses the bonding power of sexual love and how the engaged couple will enter into a life long commitment to build their relationship into a deepening and lasting one through intimacy and the gift of their sexuality. By doing so they embody marriage's mystical meaning, as a source of life, liveliness, and a pathway to salvation.

#### **Additional Questions to assist the conversation:**

- + What have you gained from this section that will help in your sexuality and intimacy?
- + Did your families give you different messages about sexuality?
- + Do you have a similar need for romance in your relationship?
- + Have you talked about how to maintain intimacy if you have to be apart?

## **FACET Topics, cont'd:**

### **COMMITMENT**

Too many movies, love songs, and TV shows reflect the notion that love is a feeling rather than a decision. This section has to do with choosing to love even when it might be difficult. Commitment is an agreement or a pledge to do something in the future, even when we may or may not feel like doing so. We act according to our agreement. Marriage represents such a commitment. We decide to love, with or without the loving feelings. What we also know about such a pledge is that when we do act based upon one's commitment we can create an atmosphere where the positive and loving feelings can more likely flourish. Scott Stanley speaks about ship captains who nailed the ship's flag to the mast so that when they were attacked they could not put up the white flag of surrender. He likens that to commitment in marriage. The commitment made on the day of the wedding is a permanent bond between husband and wife, that they will be faithful to each other and work on differences between them. The pro-active couple takes their commitment seriously and chooses to love the other daily. Couples need to look at how to be faithful in all possible ways. There are of course the obvious failures: a third party or affair. But there are also the more subtle ways, such as when one is drawn away from the relationship by the children, or one's golf game, sports team, or one's career. Choosing to be committed requires an ongoing and regular examining of how one chooses to put the relationship first. It requires faithfulness; and it may also require forgiveness when one has fallen short of this ideal.

#### **Additional Questions to assist the conversation:**

- + Do you have ideas for guarding your marital commitment?
- + Is jealousy likely to be a problem in your marriage? How will you handle it?
- + What are some ways to strengthen your commitment to your spouse?
- + Who are your models of a strong committed marriage?

## FACET Topics, cont'd:

# COMMUNICATION

*"I know you believe you understand what you think I said,  
but I'm not sure you realize that what you heard is not what I meant."*

- SOURCE UNKNOWN

At this point in the FACET tool it has to be quite obvious that in order for all that has be discussed and all that may have been agreed upon regarding actions for the couple's future, that communication is the essential component for making all this possible. It is a given, but in reality a never ending task, an important skill that the couple must continually work on throughout their marriage. This section addresses the basic starting point of this couple's level of communication. It then takes them to a deeper level, but this is only the beginning; they must desire to increase in their capacity to communicate masterfully. Active listening, speaking "I" messages, and all the ways that they have available to them are more than simple skills. They are taught for a greater purpose. In marriage the couple has the possibility of helping each other heal their own childhood wounds, and in doing so become intimate and more in love than they can ever imagine. This possibility means that their marriage is actually a spiritual pathway – one through which they can open up to each other, but only if they each learn how to enter into each other's world. This requires setting aside judgment, criticism, or any harshness that will send the other back to a defensive position. Communication is a skill, but it is also an attitude. Each partner must come from a place of caring and appreciation of the other – something more difficult to do when there may be hurt or anger. The mastery comes when each can suspend self and join the other as "other" and treat the other with respect even when he or she is seemingly unlovable. Then the couple has achieved a level of empathy (the ability to feel "with" another) that is the sign of a mature and solid love.

### **Additional Questions to assist the conversation:**

- + What structures will we place within our daily/weekly lives to ensure we keep our communication open and growing?
- + What helps me to communicate better?
- + What makes it more difficult for me to communicate?
- + How can we assist each other in our on-going commitment to communicate well?
- + How does our communication pattern differ from the one each of us learned as children?

## **FACET Topics, cont'd:**

### **PARENTING**

While most couples enter into marriage without children, not all do. Sometimes they are their joint children. Sometimes they are from a previous relationship. In any case, children are the largest adjustment within a marriage. In some sense it makes the marital adjustment pale in comparison. The adjustment to time, money, household tasks, and to the couple's time together shifts in dramatic ways.

This section has the couple discussing the realities of their own relationship and what it entails or will entail. When to have children is often a major decision they must make. Their own family of origin can often factor into this decision. As an example, a couple where one was an only child married to someone who was the seventh child will be a couple that can have very different expectations regarding children in a marriage. Waiting to have children until the couple has a second house, a swimming pool and two cars may seem on the selfish end of the spectrum, while not reflecting at all on their parental responsibilities and having as many children as they possibly can may appear irresponsible. Couples would do well to consider when to have their first child. Natural Family Planning is both a natural and effective means for both spacing and postponing the birth of a child. It is also much more than a simple birth control method. It is one that requires good communication and where both get to learn and understand the fertility cycle of the woman, which will lead the couple to a greater appreciation of each other and God's beautiful act of creation – the creation that each married couple is called to enter into and be co-creators with God.

#### **Additional Questions to assist the conversation:**

- + Have you talked about having children?
- + Would you like information on NFP?
- + Do you worry about interference on the part of extended family around parenting issues?
- + Do you differ in your approach to child rearing? Discipline? Faith formation?

### **FAITH/RELIGION/SPIRITUALITY**

Just as one's physical self opens up to the other in marriage, so too does one's spirituality open up to the other. In this section the engaged couple looks at where they are presently regarding their own spirituality and religious faith, as well as practice. Each couple is a mixed marriage of sorts, regardless of what their circumstances may be. In other words, each has a unique relationship with God – even two practicing Catholics. This section takes them wherever they are and asks them to investigate how they might move into a spiritual intimacy, via prayer, rituals and practices – formal and informal. They are also asked to consider the benefit of a faith community; one that will nourish their marriage and their relationship with their God.

#### **Additional Questions to assist the conversation:**

- + What do we take away from this section that will assist us in our spiritual marital journey?
- + Have we discussed how we will live out the beliefs?
- + Where do we feel closest to God, in church, praying, through Scripture, serving others, in nature?
- + Is this an area of conflict for us? Do we have a plan to address our differences?

## **FACET Topics, cont'd:**

### **CATHOLIC SECTION**

As acknowledged in the previous section, two practicing Catholics are not necessarily at the same place in their spiritual journey. This section asks the couple to look at their marriage, given that at least one is Catholic, and therefore having their marriage in the Catholic Church. It is important that they look at this as something each is freely choosing and that it requires from each one a basic understanding about what Catholics really believe, and what they especially believe regarding Catholic/Christian marriage.

This section is an opportunity to catechize the couple and help them understand the power of the Catholic theology of marriage that regards marriage as a covenant or sacrament. It is more than a contract. Instead, they need to understand that at their wedding they will become the sacramental minister to each other – thus promising that they each will become responsible to provide the other with an experience of being loved by God. This will become a reality based upon how each chooses to love the other in all sorts of unselfish and generous ways. They are saying, “yes” to a future without knowing how it will unfold, but believing that by God’s grace each partner promises to live it out. In our culture this is a radical stance, because we live in a world that wants to know up front and that may not subscribe to a vow that involves what has yet to be seen. This is a promise to live a life of extraordinary love. In doing so, the couple expresses to the world a mirroring how God loves us all. The Catholic section is about how we bring all the previous sections together into a vision for the future of a couple married and living out their lives in sacramental love. We invite them into this vocational calling from God and to witness a God who never stops loving us.

#### **Additional Questions to assist the conversation:**

- + What does being married in the Catholic Church mean to you?
- + Is there anything that surprised you about the Catholic understanding of marriage? Anything you’d like to know more about?
- + Will we want to participate in a faith community?
- + How can we help each other grow in our faith?

## FOLLOW-UP QUESTIONS:

One of the benefits of FACET tool is the on-going nature of the tool. It presents the engaged couple a vehicle to discuss many areas, and provides them with practical actions that flow out of the discussions. In addition, the couple has open-ended questions that can be addressed following the initial conversations, or later on as homework. This can even flow into their early months of marriage. The FACET tool is also designed to be a great companion with Foundations Newsletter for Newly Married Couples. Through their subscription, the now married couple will be provided with series of topics much like those from FACET that they can continue to address within their married life.

### **Foundations Newsletter for Newly Married Couples**

By utilizing The FACET Tool the engaged couple you are working with is to receive also Foundations Newsletter for Newly Married Couples, six times in the first year of their marriage. They will receive the first newsletter in the first of second month following their wedding. The newsletter is designed especially for newly married couples. It contains short articles, inspirational stories, practical tips and suggestions, short exercises and such things as book and movie reviews related to marriage. Also, there are open-ended questions much like those they have already utilized through the FACET tool. This unique feature of FACET and Foundations Newsletter offers the engaged couple periodic follow-up opportunities that will help them in the early stages of their new marital life.

### **Summarizing and Concluding with the Engaged Couple**

After you have completed each of the sections, and following the follow-up questions, you can have a time to debrief with the couple as to what they think was beneficial for them. Have them talk about what they each feel they learned and what was most helpful to them.

After this, you may wish to offer them some practical suggestions. You may have a formal engaged couples group ministry or program they are to attend. You may have Catholic Engaged Encounter weekends for them to participate. You may wish to ask them to create something more informal such as having them select a married couple they admire (an aunt or uncle, older married sibling, or a married couple from the parish) and having them ask that veteran married couple to go out to a simple dinner so they can interview them and find out what this particular couple has learned about married love.

Conclude by offering the engaged couple what the parish community may already offer for marriage support and enrichment.