



## **MAY I, THANK YOU, PARDON ME**

### **Rog: And they lived happily ever after**

This end, typical of any self-respecting fairy tale, too often contrasts with the daily experience of couples. Marriage can, of course, be a place of love and joy: but only if it is the result of a choice, of a voluntary, conscious, daily commitment.

### **Ly: An artisanal work**

Indeed, each couple must devote their best energy to working with passion, the clay of their conjugal and family life; who undertakes to flatten the corners, smooth the rough surfaces and thus create this masterpiece, the fruit of so much know-how, which the Lord has dreamed of and called to live.

### **Rog: The habit virus**

However, over time, it can happen that a gray patina covers married life; it happens when one settles into a certain “seductive laziness” that makes the relationship obvious, devoid of expectations; This is the time when our marital love is infected with the insidious virus of habit, distraction, neglect. Rediscovering the dazzling freshness of the first days will be difficult but possible: it will take patience, attention and dedication.

### **Ly: The combination of the heart**

Pope Francis, who knows human fragilities very well, never misses an opportunity to underline the centrality of the concrete. And when it reminds us to use the famous three key words: MAY I, THANK YOU, PARDON ME, to enter people's hearts, it helps us to find gestures and words of great value and meaning, which have too often disappeared from our relational vocabularies. Meaningful words that help build positive and rich relationships.

### **Rog: “May I?”**

A "detail" intertwined with humble cunning and confident delicacy, with a sacred and warm welcome from the world of the other. A detail that shows the desire not to be intrusive in a gesture, in an impulse, in a simple step.

To enter the world of the loved one, it is essential to ask permission because my presence interrupts the rhythm of the music that resonates in the heart of the other.

A relationship is nurtured and grows if it respects the diversity of rhythms that vibrate in bodies.

### **Ly: “Thank you”**

Thanking, for some, is an essential instrument to enter into a relationship with others; for others a really difficult achievement, also due to the frenzy of which we are sometimes victims. After all, saying thank you is a true emotional conquest, which consists of entering into a dialogue with oneself and then getting in tune with what is happening outside of us. It is to recognize the value of the other; a value that gives us the possibility to restore and regenerate the energy, the vitality, the warmth in the reciprocity that we experience in giving and receiving.

**Rog: “Pardon me”**

Of the three, it's the least used word and, arguably, the hardest to pronounce. It costs us dearly. A more complicated path than thanks, a little more tortuous than permission, apologizing is a human acceptance of one's limits.

It is forgiving and accepting oneself by discovering one's weaknesses; it is a deep humility in welcoming the conscience of the other.

The excuse is not an indigestible interior defeat, but a progressive maturation to manage to recognize a fault; it is to retrace one's steps to right a wrong done. There is relational richness only in the logic of the excuse.

**Ly:** Thank you, may I, Pardon me: fundamental steps to learn the grammar of the relationship that nurtures reciprocity.

**Rog:** Thank you, Pope Francis, to remind us.