

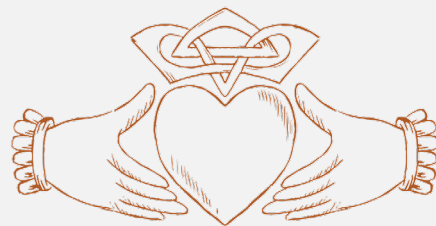
My dear Little Flower,

“Three to Get Married” is a book by Bishop Fulton Sheen that I skimmed-read when I was a teenager. It changed the way I saw marriage and family life. One of the most famous quotes in this book says: *“It takes three to make love; not two: you, your spouse, and God. Without God, people only succeed in bringing out the worst in one another. Lovers who have nothing else to do but love each other soon find there is nothing else. Without a central loyalty life is unfinished”*.

On Thursday, our couples, who finished their journey “Endure: A Marriage Enrichment Course” at St Bart’s in Scotch Plains, had a dinner date here at Little Flower; it was an enchanting evening with sharing, dining, and music. As a Roman Catholic priest, I believe that the loving journey of our married spouses is the foundation of my own vocation to the priesthood, and an inspiration to future vocations because I see reflected in them the faithful and selfless love of Christ for His Church.

On this Second Week of our Lenten journey, we pray for the marriages of our parishioners - and I bless them in thanksgiving to God. May they continue to walk together, side by side, even if at times the road may be rough and uncertain; conflicts and obstacles are opportunities to grow together and love deeper. And in their joy and their hope in their self-sacrificing love that comes from God, may they inspire others in our parish family and community to love forever like they do.

Your parish priest,
Fr JC Merino



ENDURE