APRIL

Because our children may be called to become spouses and parents, we want to help them understand the type of love that is necessary in marriage and family life.

All of us are called to self-giving love. Understanding that we are called to such love in each of our relationships can be difficult, especially for teenagers and young adults. They often define a relationship's worth by the feelings or emotions they experience.

Immature romantic love — such as a teen's first crush — shows love in an emotional stage. It can be fleeting and fickle, but it may also lead to the important element of loving friendship. In this latter stage, each person wants the best for the other and for themselves. The move from "I" to "we" in a romantic relationship becomes an integral step toward the self-surrender and personal commitment required for a successful marriage and start of a family.

Helping others to navigate and come to understand such deep emotions of friendship and love can be one of the greatest challenges and rewards a family can face.

FAMILY PROJECT

Speak with your children about your first date.

- Tell them about what first made you notice each other.
- Describe where you went on your first date.
- Talk about how this initial attraction grew into a deeper friendship and then into authentic love.

Finally, tell your children about your marriage and all of the transitions it involved. Share with them what it was like when you were first married, and when you became parents. Explain how you dealt with hard times and celebrated happier moments. Afterward, look through old photos, tracing your relationship from when you first met to today.

MEDITATIONS

From an address of Pope Francis given on July 28, 2013.

God calls you to make definitive choices, and he has a plan for each of you: to discover that plan and to respond to your vocation is to move toward personal fulfillment. God calls each of us to be holy, to live his life, but he has a particular path for each one of us. Some are called to holiness through family life in the sacrament of marriage. Today, there are those
who say that marriage is out of fashion. Is it out of fashion? In a culture of relativism and the ephemeral, many preach the importance of "enjoying" the moment. They say that it is not worth making a life-long commitment, making a definitive decision "forever," because we do not know what tomorrow will bring. I ask you, instead, to be revolutionaries … to rebel against this culture that sees everything as temporary and that ultimately believes you are incapable of responsibility, that believes you are incapable of true love.

1. Do I share Pope Francis' confidence in me, that I am capable of true love and responsibility? Can I recognize the virtues that I need to develop in order to nurture my relationships with my spouse and my family?

2. What is an "ephemeral love," and how is it different from a lasting and life-long committed love? How does lasting love affect other members of a family?

3. How does our family complete its "mission" to guard love, reveal love or communicate love?

Scripture Reading of the Month
Psalm 16: 1-2, 8-11

*God will make clear the path for his faithful*

Keep me safe, O God;
in you I take refuge.
I say to the LORD,
you are my LORD,
you are my only good.
I keep the LORD always before me;
with him at my right hand, I shall never be shaken.
Therefore my heart is glad, my soul rejoices;
my body also dwells secure,
For you will not abandon my soul to Sheol,
nor let your devout one see the pit.
You will show me the path to life,
abounding joy in your presence,
the delights at your right hand forever.

*Provided by your local Knights of Columbus Council*