

X WORLD ASSEMBLY OF FAMILIES  
XIV ICCFM GENERAL ASSEMBLY

July 25 – 29 2007

Panel C (Europe): Marriage as total Self-giving:

- Finding self-fulfillment in Marriage as opposed to egoism
- Total self-giving between husband and wife
- Total self-giving in the Family in Post-modern society.

Points for discussion during the Workshop:

- Modern culture, with its emphasis on comfort and the immediate satisfaction of needs and desires, leads to self-centeredness and egoism. How are today's young couples embracing Christian marriage: is it in Christ's spirit, or are they giving in to the pressures exerted by the current culture?
- Self-giving is not opposed to self-fulfillment. How can the total self-giving of Christian couples to each other in the sacrament of marriage, help them to fulfill themselves individually as complete human persons?
- In marriage the I-identity is meant to gradually develop and grow into the We-identity. What are the factors that can inhibit this growth? And how can we, as members of ICCFM, help young married couples to successfully make the passage to the We-identity?
- Self-giving may sometimes hurt. Unforeseen circumstances may require married couples to make heroic sacrifices to safeguard their marriage. Are we, as parents and/or as contributors in marriage preparation courses, giving enough attention and weight to the value of sacrifice?
- Post-modernism may ridicule our faith in Christ crucified as 'foolishness', 'madness' (1 Cor. 1:24). However, believing as we do that "God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom" (1 Cor. 1:25), we are called to model our self-giving in Christian marriage on the example of Christ crucified. What are the implications of this vocation?