

### **Is this the Real Thing?**

--Rosalie Brennan in *Should We Marry*, by Rev. Joseph Champlin, Ave Maria Press, 2001

- Is this other person your best friend?
- Do you attempt to meet the other's needs before you take care of yourself?
- Do you have similar or complementary values on issues such as family, fidelity, money, lifestyle, children, ambitions, work ethic?
- If you were deserted on an island, would this person be the one you would want to be with?
- Are you intimidated by the other person?
- Do you feel safe when you are together?
- Do you walk together, not in front or behind each other?
- Do you have similar or opposing views about your extended families?
- Do you both realize that the wedding and marriage is only the beginning of the task of making a happy relationship?
- What does the other person do to make you happy?
- Do you really communicate and listened to each other?
- Does your partner know what makes you happy, sad or angry?
- Are your problem solving styles similar or complementary?
- How do you resolve conflicts - by avoidance, confrontation, or compromise?
- Would you consider yourselves on the same intellectual level?
- Have you common feelings about children and how to raise them?
- Is your life assuming a new dimension in which you speak more about "our" time and "our" weekend, instead of "my" time and "my" weekend?
- When you look at each other, can you guess (fairly accurately) how each other is feeling?

- Does time go faster when you are together and slower when you are apart?
- Do you share common interests?
- Can you say "I am sorry" when you have made a mistake or hurt the other person?
- Are the other's parents still married?
- What kind of marriage do the other's parents have?
- How do the other's parents treat each other?
- Does your partner have a deep faith and practice that faith?
- How committed is each one to making the marriage work?
- Does she/he have a sense of humor?
- Can your partner laugh at himself/herself?
- Whose needs does the other think of first in the relationship or about life in general?
- Are you comfortable holding hands in public?