

AN EXAMINATION OF CONSCIENCE FOR MARRIED PERSONS

RESPONSIBILITIES TO GOD

Have I gone to Mass every Sunday? Have I participated at Mass or have I daydreamed or been present with a blank mind?

Have I prayed every day (15-20 minutes)?

Have I read the Bible?

Have I studied the truths of our faith and allowed them to become more part of the way I think and act?

Have I read any spiritual books or religious literature? Have I told God that I want to love him with my whole heart, mind and strength?

Do I hold any resentments toward God?

Have I recognized my need for Jesus and his salvation?

Have I asked the Holy Spirit to empower me to live the Christian life, to be a proper husband/wife and parent?

Have I been financially generous to the Church? Have I participated in parish or religious activities?

Have I held resentments toward the Church or Church authorities? Have I forgiven them?

RESPONSIBILITIES TO MY SPOUSE

Have I cared for my spouse?

Have I been generous with my time? Have I helped to maintain an orderly home? Have

I undermined my spouse's work and contribution?

Have I been affectionate and loving? Have I told my spouse that I love him or her?

Have I been concerned for the spiritual well-being of my spouse? Have I made time to pray daily with my spouse? Have I prayed for my spouse?

Have I listened to my spouse? Have I undermined my spouse's advice?

Have I paid attention to his or her concerns, worries, and problems? Have I sought these out?

Have I allowed resentment and bitterness toward my spouse to take root in my mind? Have I nurtured these?

Have I forgiven my spouse for the wrongs he or she has committed against me?

Have I allowed misunderstanding, miscommunication or accidents to cause anger and mistrust?

Have I nurtured critical and negative thoughts about my spouse?

Have I manipulated my spouse in order to get my own way?

Have I kept secrets or hidden important information from my spouse?

Have I tried to bully or overpower my spouse? Have I harmed her physically?

Have I spoken sharply or sarcastically to my spouse? Have I spoken in a demeaning or negative way? Have I blessed my

spouse? Have I thanked God for the gift of my spouse?

Have I injured my spouse through taunting and negative teasing?

Have I called my spouse harsh names or used language that is not respectful?

Have I physically abused my spouse?

Have I gossiped about my spouse?

Have I undermined the authority and dignity of my spouse through disrespect and rebelliousness?

Have I been moody and sullen (aka bad-tempered)?

Have I bickered with my spouse out of stubbornness and selfishness?

Have I lied or been deceitful to my spouse?

Have I taken care of the physical and mental well-being of my spouse?

Have I misused sexuality?

Have I used sexual relations solely for my own selfish pleasure?

Have I been too demanding in my desire for sexual fulfillment?

Have I been loving and physically affectionate in my sexual relations or have I used sexual relations in a way that would be demeaning or disrespectful to my spouse?

Have I refused sexual relations out of laziness, revenge or manipulation?

Have I refused to conceive children out of selfishness or material greed?

Have I used artificial means of contraception?

Have I had an abortion or encouraged others to have one?

Have I masturbated?

Have I flirted or fostered improper relationships with someone else, either in my mind or through words and actions?

Have I used pornography: books, magazines or movies?

Have I committed adultery?

Have I misused alcohol or drugs? Have I ignored my spouse's request to tame alcohol consumption?

Have I been financially responsible?

RESPONSIBILITIES TO CHILDREN

Have I cared for the spiritual needs of my children?

Have I been a shepherd and guardian as God has appointed me?

Have I tried to foster a Christian family where Jesus is Lord?

Have I taught my children the Gospel and the commandments of God?

Have I prayed with them? Have I led my children to pray before a meal?

Have I been persistent and courageous in my training and teaching?

Have I disciplined them when necessary?

Have I been lazy and apathetic?

Have I talked with them to find out their problems, concerns and fears?

Have I been affectionate towards them?

Have I hugged them and told them that I love them?

Have I taken time to spend with them?

Have I been impatient and frustrated with them?

Have I corrected them out of love in order to teach them what is right and good?

Have I treated them with respect?

Have I spoken to them in a sarcastic or demeaning way?

Have I held resentments against them?

Have I forgiven them?

Have I been of one heart and mind with my spouse in the upbringing of the children? Or have I allowed disagreements and dissension to disrupt the training, educating and disciplining of our children?

Have I undermined the role of authority in the eyes of my children by speaking negatively against God, the Church, my spouse or others who hold legitimate authority over them?

Have I been a good Christian witness to my children in what I say and do? Or do I demand one standard for them and another for myself?

Have I been properly generous with my children regarding money and physical and material well-being?

Have I been miserly?

Have I been extravagant, thus spoiling them?

RESPONSIBILITIES TO SOCIETY

Have I been a Christian witness to those with whom I work or associate?

Have I spoken to anyone about the Gospel and how important it is to believe in Jesus?

Have I held resentments and anger against those with whom I work, relatives or friends?

Have I forgiven them?

Have I been unethical in my business dealings?

Have I stolen or lied?

Have I allowed the Gospel to influence my political and social opinions?

Have I had a proper Christian concern for the poor and needy?

Have I paid my taxes?

Have I fostered or nurtured hatred toward my "political" enemies, either local, national or international?

Have I been prejudiced against others because of race, color, religion or social status?

By Fr. Thomas Weinandy