

Coming Up

Celebrate Love

A two day seminar for married couples exploring spirituality and sexuality in the Catholic context.

2010

New Maldon, GB	Mar 6/7
Port Maquarie, NSW	May 1/2
Sth Highlands, NSW	May 15/16
Gold Coast, QLD	May 15/16
Griffith, NSW	May 22/23
Perth, WA	TBD
Mount Isa, QLD	TBD

www.CelebrateLove.com.au

Embrace

Preparing to Live in Love

A six session programme for dating or engaged couples preparing to marry in the Catholic Church.

Available Now!

Sydney, Newcastle, Brisbane, Perth, Wagga, London

Four formats:

- individual couple-to-couple mentoring
- small home based groups
- group intensives (see web for dates)
- correspondence (remote areas only)

www.Embrace.org.au

Living Well Media Resources for Catholic Families, Schools & Parishes

Multimedia and print materials featuring | Christopher West | Fr Tony Percy | Teresa Pirola | Byron & Francine Pirola | Anne Maree Higgins |

www.LivingWellMedia.com.au

Renaissance of Marriage Conference 2010

Celebrating the irresistibility of joy-filled couples.

Oct 1-3, Sydney

KeyNote Speakers featuring | Dr Gregory and Lisa Popack | Dr Byron & Francine Pirola | Ron & Kathy Feher PMRC, USA | and many more !!!

www.renaissanceofmarriage.org

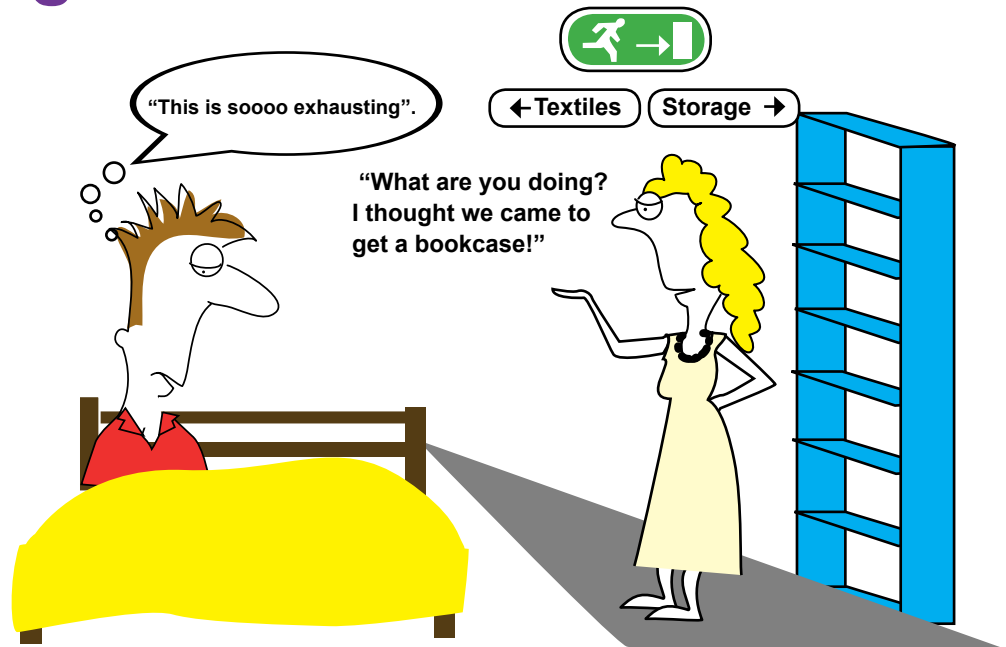
Smart Loving

is a free e-newsletter produced by PMRC Australia. Please forward to friends and family with our compliments. To subscribe or unsubscribe, go to:

smartloving.org

Reproduction of words or illustrations permitted provided that PMRC Australia is acknowledged.

Why Couples Fight in Ikea....



"Why do couples fight in Ikea?" friends asked us. They had made a long-planned store visit on the weekend and almost every couple they encountered, including themselves, were stressed, tense and exchanging angry words. What starts out as a highly anticipated (often romantic) outing soon derails and the 'loving feelings' flee the scene at a rate of knots.

Ikea's value proposition is a quick, cheap, self-service solution: choose your item, bag it, pay for it, and take it home. Presto! New look home in one afternoon. The problem begins with the first step of the process – choosing what you want is a lot easier if there's only one opinion to accommodate. And though its not expensive furniture, it is not usually a trivial purchase either. Warring couples tend to hold on to their point of view a little more enthusiastically when significant sums are at stake. Add to that the pressure of a noisy, overcrowded store and the frustration of an understaffed service desk and it's a recipe for relationship meltdown.

But it's more than just the environment that makes couples so argue-prone... after all, couples can be found in stubborn standoffs in almost any furniture store. Furniture and home decorating have high symbolic status – a simple bookcase to one person might mean longed for order and tidiness, while for another it's an opportunity to show off treasured possessions. One may seek to establish a quiet retreat with books neatly stowed, while the other is thinking about how the bookcase will transform the room into a lively entertainment space. It's still just a bookcase but the solutions that it offers are many. Couples aren't always aware of their own assumptions and agendas when they set out to make a purchase, so communication tends to be fuzzy and defensive as couples try to discover their deeper feelings about how the purchase.

Of course, if the couple survives the store experience with relationship still intact, they have yet to face the real challenge: how to get all the stuff they bought into the car AND assembled without triggering a nuclear holocaust!

***No criticism intended – many of the comments apply equally to other stores of similar goods**

© 2009 PMRC Australia. Authors: Francine & Byron Pirola.