

Catholic Couples

Spring 2008

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From the Editor

The unselfish wife

Something unusual happened the other day. Even though I have flown quite a few times over the years, I had an experience that I'd never had before—I sat in the window seat.

So that's what the ground looks like from the plane! And that's what the window looks like without Pat's head blocking it!

I was traveling alone since my husband couldn't get away. When I travel alone, I usually get an aisle seat. When I travel with Pat, I sit smashed into the middle seat, leaning in towards him trying to take up some of his share of seat space. When the airline offered me the window seat, I decided to check it out.

What is it about men and airplanes? That's where it is easy to see how close to the surface the little boy lurks in them. Are you all like Pat, excitedly looking out the window? Do you imagine you are flying the plane or playing with the cars and trucks you see on the ground? Do you find these comments as condescending as they sound to me?

Pat's first plane ride was on our honeymoon. I, the older, more sophisticated woman, had already flown twice, which made me the expert air traveler. On that first trip I graciously let him sit next to the window. Once on the plane, Pat was hooked. We have been on many planes since then but he still enjoys the magical experience of flying. Being more jaded, I work a Sudoku as we take off, but Pat's head blocks the window at take off and landing. I know he loves the window seat, but he does kindly offer me the seat all the same, knowing I will always refuse and let him sit there, giving us both points in our good spouse columns.

I like to picture myself as a loving wife, sacrificing my pleasure for Pat. He doesn't need to know that I am really kind of afraid to sit by the window because I am claustrophobic and feel trapped there. Also, a bird might hit and break the window and I could be sucked out and land in water, my other big fear besides claustrophobia. There are a lot of things husbands don't need to know. I'm pretty sure Pat only reads the beginning of my columns and won't see this. Let's keep him thinking I am just a perfect unselfish wife.

New in this issue

In this issue, we welcome new columnist Crystal Sullivan. She and her husband Kevin have worked in marriage ministry in Libertyville, Illinois, for years and she brings an interesting perspective on marriage. The article "What Shamu Taught Me about a Happy Marriage" originally appeared in the New York Times, but since I think it is one of the funniest and most insightful articles about marriage that I have ever read, I had to get reprint permission to bring it to you. Dr. Popcak is back with his entertaining and inspiring "Thomas Aquinas meets Dr. Ruth" column. Hope you enjoy this issue. Let me know, at cceditor@archchicago.org.

Kim



Kimberly Boyce Hagerty is the editor of *Catholic Couples* and has worked for the Family Ministries Office of the Archdiocese of Chicago for eight years. A lifelong Chicagoan, she graduated from St. Juliana grammar school, St. Scholastica High School, has a BA in History of Art from the University of Illinois in Chicago and a Masters in Counseling from Northeastern Illinois University. She is a licensed professional counselor in Illinois.

Kim and her husband, Pat, a contractor, have been married twenty-nine years and have two "adult" children, Kelly and Patrick V. They lost their oldest daughter, Beth, to Tay-Sachs disease when she was six years old.

Kim has written for *Redbook* magazine, a chapter in *From a Mother's Heart: Stories of God's Faithfulness* (The Word Among Us Press, 2002), and has put together four collections of Jubilarian wisdom, *True Soul Mates: Couples married 50 years share their advice for successful marriage*. She was recently certified PCSG: Professional Certificate in Spiritual Gerontology and Lifelong Faith Formation for Senior Adult Ministry.

She has (actually, her kids have) a dachshund/beagle mix and a cockatiel. Kim likes to read, go to Florida, and fret over the band Aiden. She and Pat are members of St. Celestine parish, Morton Arboretum, and the Bird Sanctuary of Punta Gorda, Florida.