An Interview with Valerie Schultz  
Author of *Closer: Musings on Intimacy, Marriage, and God* 

Why does this book matter?  
The Church tends to focus on the saintliness of celibacy and doesn’t give married folks much sustenance. The married state is also holy.

Isn't sex a taboo topic in the Catholic press?  
It shouldn't be—we are all for it.

Does your family mind being written about?  
On most days, no. I try to tread carefully and get prior blessing on sensitive topics. My husband is incredibly understanding about being dissected in print.

Why does the book include a prayer experience?  
I think we Catholics rely too much on private prayer. We are embarrassed to pray communally or as a couple.

Why use up space on quoting literature?  
I think it is important to see ourselves in a cultural as well as a religious context.

Are your kids practicing Catholics?  
Mostly no, but I pray they will hear the call to come back to Catholic roots.

Does intimacy require a sexual dimension?  
Surely every relationship has a sexual dimension, but sexual activity is not a prerequisite for intimacy.

What can we do about the divorce rate?  
Maybe educate our young people in the sacramental aspects of marriage, and open up our marriages and life experiences to them.