

## WORD IN ACTION

# Not falling apart

**Barbara Stewart** from California shares an experience of how arguments were avoided when getting involved in some domestic DIY.

**M**y husband and I have lived in our home for more than fifteen years now, and at this point it's starting to show. Appliances are beginning to fall apart or need to be replaced.

For example, an oven that was in the house when we bought it just stopped working. At first, the solution seemed to be simple: order the replacement part and put it in. Unfortunately, the process of pulling that monster away from the wall revealed a mess of electrical and gas problems. After deciding to get the gas company and electrician in to do their repairs, I noticed the smell of gas. We had a leak!

An emergency service call to the gas company (charging the weekend rate, of course) ended up with only a temporary repair. The whole valve placement had been done incorrectly, so that when the leak occurred, the empty space in the wall behind the oven filled with gas, making it a very dangerous setup.

To cut a long story short, occasions like this might have been a war of words in the past for us. But this time we consciously did our best to love and respect one

another, and, at the same time, honestly contribute our opinions on how to solve the problems. There were moments that got tense between me and my husband, but truly our efforts to love deepened our commitment to keep peace among us.

**Then there was the issue** of the refrigerator, for which replacement parts are very expensive. The first thing that broke was one of the shelves, so we had to pay big money to order it. But when the tabs broke off on the freezer light cover and they wanted \$40 for the part, we decided to fix it ourselves. Usually the two of us never seem to pass up the chance to argue over the best way to proceed on a project like this. But this time, it was actually fun trying one way and then another and see if it would work. And it did!

Apart from the small successes in being reconciled to God and with one another, the money we saved allowed us to share something with people in need, an added benefit from the challenges overcome. 



First published in Living City