

RCIA: MARRIAGE

By: Mother Maria Aeiparthenos & Sister Mary Model of Virtue



SAINT LOUIS AND SAINT ZELIE MARTIN



WHAT IS A SACRAMENT?

*An outward sign instituted
by Christ that gives grace*

WHAT IS MARRIAGE?

Unity and Openness to Life

Marriage is a union and gift that was intended by God from the moment of creation:

“The Lord God said “It is not good for man to be alone. I will make a helper suited to him”- Gen 2:18



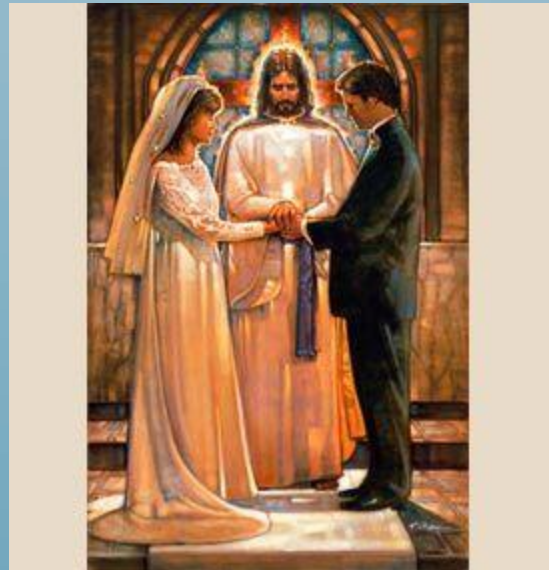
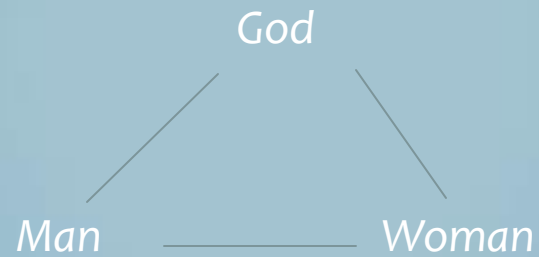
PURPOSE OF MARRIAGE

*Marriage at it's core is geared towards **procreation**.*



WHAT IS MARRIAGE

The love that is found in marriage is rooted in the agape love of the Father:



DOES MARRIAGE LAST IN HEAVEN?

“At the resurrection they neither marry nor are given in marriage but are like angels in heaven.” - Matthew 22:30



IMAGERY OF MARRIAGE: REFLECTION OF THE TRINITY

God <-----> Jesus



Holy Spirit

Husband <-----> Wife



Children

“The real ‘wedding gift’ is this: Your marriage is a reflection of the Holy Trinity, and with the grace of Christ, you are a living and credible icon of God and His love.” - Pope Francis 2014 Audience: Marriage, the heart of God’s loving plan for humanity

WHY IS MARRIAGE IMPORTANT:

Domestic Church

Marriage is the fundamental structure of society:

“As the family goes, so goes the nation and so goes the whole world in which we live.” St. Pope John Paul the Great



IMAGERY OF MARRIAGE:

LOVE BETWEEN GOD AND HIS PEOPLE

“Since God created him man and women, their mutual love becomes an image of the absolute and unfailing love with which God Loves man.” CCC 1604



IMAGERY OF MARRIAGE: JESUS THE BRIDEGROOM AND THE CHURCH THE BRIDE

“Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ loved the Church and handed himself over for her to sanctify her, cleansing her by the bath of water with the word”- Ephesians 5:25



EFFECTS OF THE SACRAMENT: **THE GRACE**

*Marriage is one of the foundations of the Church and contributes to the building up of the Church militant. "It is in the bosom of the family that parents are "by word and example . . . the first heralds of the faith with regard to their children."
CCC 1656*



QUESTIONS!!

Catechism of the Catholic Church #1601-1666

Ephesians 5:21-33

COMMON QUESTIONS: WHAT IS NATURAL FAMILY PLANNING

Natural Family Planning (NFP) is the general title for the scientific, natural and moral methods of family planning that can help married couples either achieve or postpone pregnancies.

NFP methods are based on the observation of the naturally occurring signs and symptoms of the fertile and infertile phases of a woman's menstrual cycle. No drugs, devices, or surgical procedures are used to avoid pregnancy.

Since the methods of NFP respect the love-giving (unitive) and life-giving (procreative) nature of the conjugal act, they support God's design for married love!- USCCB

pro-woman

pro-man

pro-child

natural family planning

COMMON QUESTIONS: WHY CAN'T A HOMOSEXUAL RELATIONSHIP LEAD TO A CATHOLIC MARRIAGE?

“the proper use of sexuality is between a male and a female who are married and are open to having children; sexual intercourse is meant to be an expression of love by those who are married to each other.” –Catholic Controversies pg 501

Although the Church teaches that the homosexual condition is unnatural or disordered, the condition itself is not sinful, it is the act that is sinful. Those that have homosexual orientations are called to live a moral and celibate life.

COMMON QUESTIONS: WHAT IF A COUPLE CANNOT HAVE A CHILD, IS THEIR MARRIAGE STILL VALID?

Marriage to be sure is not instituted solely for procreation; rather, its very nature as an unbreakable compact between persons, and the welfare of the children, both demand that the mutual love of the spouses be embodied in a rightly ordered manner, that it grow and ripen. Therefore, marriage persists as a whole manner and communion of life, and maintains its value and indissolubility, even when despite the often intense desire of the couple, offspring are lacking.”- Gaudium et Spes 50



Lord God, from you every family in heaven and on earth takes its name. Father, you are Love and Life. Through your Son, Jesus Christ, born of woman, and through the Holy Spirit, fountain of divine charity, grant that every family on earth may become for each successive generation a true shrine of life and love. Grant that your grace may guide the thoughts and actions of husbands and wives for the good of their families and of all the families in the world. Grant that the young may find in the family solid support for their human dignity and for their growth in truth and love. Grant that love, strengthened by the grace of the sacrament of marriage, may prove mightier than all the weakness and trials through which our families sometimes pass. Through the intercession of the Holy Family of Nazareth, grant that the Church may fruitfully carry out her worldwide mission in the family and through the family. Through Christ our Lord, who is the Way, the Truth and the Life for ever and ever.

Amen.

-St Pope John Paul the Great's prayer for the family

