

RCIA: Marriage

What is marriage?

Resources	Explanation
<i>"The Lord God said "It is not good for man to be alone. I will make a helper suited to him"- Gen 2:18</i>	- Men and women were created for one another. From the beginning the marital union was intended by God.
<i>"A man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh. Therefore, what God has joined together, no human being must separate" – Mt 19:5-6</i>	- Marriage is a sacrament that is intended to last for
<i>"You made Adam and you made his wife Eve to be his helper and support, and from these two the human race has come...Now not with lust but with fidelity I take this kinswoman as my wife. Send down your mercy on me and on her, and grant that we may grow old together. Bless us with children"- Tobit 8:6-7</i>	- The Love of marriage is pure and a unique kind of love. "it takes the love that comes from God (agape) to fulfill the love that comes from man (eros)"- Peter Kreeft - Marriage has ancient roots.
<i>"Outstanding courage is required for the constant fulfillment of the duties of this Christian calling; spouses, therefore, will need grace for leading a holy life; they will eagerly practice a love that is firm, generous, prompt to sacrifice and will ask for it in their prayers"- Gaudium et Spes 49</i>	
<i>"The intimate partnership of life and the love which constitutes the married state has been established by the creator and endowed by him with its own proper law"- Gaudium et Spes 48</i>	- Marriage was created and sanctified by God and is a sacrament. "The sacraments are efficacious signs of grace, instituted by Christ and entrusted to the Church, by which divine life is dispensed to us. "- CCC 1131
<i>"The marriage covenant, by which a man and a woman establish between themselves a partnership of their whole life, and which of its own very nature is ordered to the well-being of the spouses and to the procreation and upbringing of children, has, between the baptized, been raised by Christ the Lord to the dignity of a sacrament."- Canon Law 1055</i>	
<i>When they become parents, spouses receive from God the gift of a new responsibility. Their parental love is called to become for the children the visible sign of the very love of God, "from whom every family in heaven and on earth is."- Familiaris Consortio 14</i>	- One of the purposes of Marriage is procreation and the education and love of children.
<i>"By its very nature the institution of marriage and married love is ordered to the procreation and education of the offspring and it is in them that it finds its crowning glory" Gaudium et Spes 48</i>	

Marriage as a vocation:

Resource	Explanation
<i>"Spouses are penetrated with the spirit of Christ and their whole life is suffused by faith, hope, and charity; thus they increasingly further their own perfection and their mutual sanctification and together they render glory to God" Gaudium et Spes 48</i>	- Marriage is a vocation that is ordered to the Glory of God and salvation of souls, yours and your spouses.

Marriage as an image of Christ and the Church:

Resources	Explanation
<i>"Since God created him man and women, their mutual</i>	- Marriage is a symbol of the love of God

<i>love becomes an image of the absolute and unfailing love with which God Loves man." CCC 1604</i>	towards his people
<i>Central word of Revelation, "God loves His people," is likewise proclaimed through the living and concrete word whereby a man and a woman express their conjugal love. Their bond of love becomes the image and the symbol of the covenant which unites God and His people.- Familiaris Consortio 12</i>	
<i>"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</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Marriage mirrors the perfect relationship of Jesus Christ, the bridegroom, and the Church, he bride. - Through marriage the two spouses are sanctified.
<i>"A committed, permanent, faithful relationship of husband and wife is the root of a family. It strengthens all the members, provides best for the needs of children, and causes the church of the home to be an effective sign of Christ in the world" (USCCB, Follow the Way of Love: A Pastoral Message to Families, 1994).</i>	
<i>"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 God and His love."- Pope Francis 2014 Audience: Marriage, the heart of God's loving plan for humanity</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Marriage mirrors the trinity: The love between the two spouses mirrors the perfect love of the Father and the Son. The perfect love of the Father and the Son begets the Holy Spirit as children are the outwards sign of the love between a husband and wife.

Why is Marriage important?

Resources	Explanation
<i>"Christian marriage and the Christian family build up the Church: for in the family the human person is not only brought into being and progressively introduced by means of education into the human community, but by means of the rebirth of baptism and education in the faith the child is also introduced into God's family, which is the Church."- Familiaris Consortio 15</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Marriage is one of the foundations of the Church and contributes to the building up of the Church militant. The family is where children receive their first faith formation.
<i>"The family is the fundamental cell of Society" - Pope Francis Joy of the Gospel</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The family is the structure in which ever society has been built upon and continues to be built on.
<i>"As the family goes, so goes the nation and so goes the whole world in which we live." - St. Pope John Paul the Great</i>	

"I wish to invoke the protection of the Holy Family of Nazareth...it is therefore the prototype and example for all Christian families...St. Joseph was a "just man"...may he always guard, protect and enlighten families. May the Virgin Mary, who is the Mother of the Church, also be the Mother of "the Church of the home" ...May Christ the Lord, the Universal King, the King of Families, be present in every Christian home as He was at Cana, bestowing light, joy, serenity, and strength"

St. Pope John Paul the Great (Familiaris Consortio 86).

Other Resources:

Catechism of Catholic Church (CCC1601-1666, 2201-2213, 2357-2359, 2360-2379)

USCCB- Marriage and Family

Lumen Fidei- Pope Francis Light of Faith (no 52-53)

Sacramentum Caritatis- Pope Emeritus Benedict (no 27-29)

Familiaris Consortio- St. Pope John Paul II Exhortation on the Christian family in the modern world

Gaudium et Spes- Vatican II Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World (47-52)

Matrimonii Sacramentum- Vatican II document on the instruction on Mixed Marriages

Family, Marriage, and De Facto Union- Document from 2000 Pontifical Council for the Family