

Sacrament of Marriage

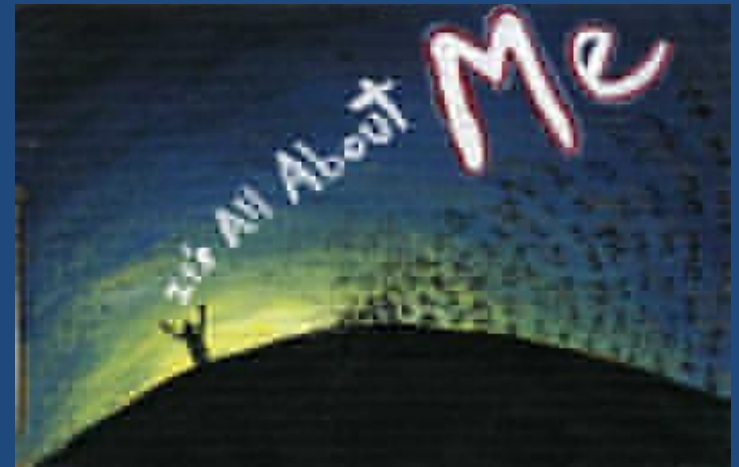
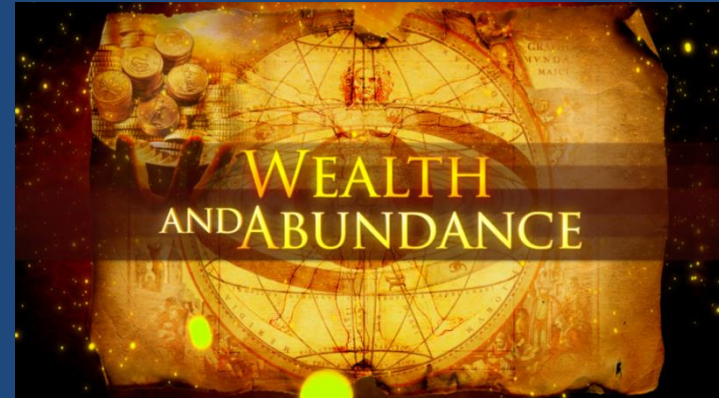


“No, no, no!” or “YES!”?

- Confusion in our culture, families, even parishes regarding marriage and sexuality
- What does the Church really teach?
- These topics affect us profoundly – wounds, fears, joy, daily life and community
- Good news! Not just a bunch of “no”s. A huge “yes” to life and love and meaning. Linked to our wellbeing now and in eternity.

Our Culture

- Narcissistic
- Hedonistic
- Materialistic
- Immature love / using another
- Looking for happiness in the wrong places



Creation

- The human person is created in the image and likeness of God
- Complementarity
- Male and female have equal dignity and worth



Wedding at Cana



- Jesus' public ministry begins at a wedding
- OT covenants with Israel
- Now a new covenant is revealed
- Perfect time and place to get across the message that the Bridegroom has arrived and He brings abundant wine – foreshadowing of the Eucharist

Our vocation



- All Christians are called to holiness (a personal, profound union with God; get ready for heaven; die to self; emptying of self; learn to serve God and others)
- All are called to help others grow in holiness
- Many are called to marriage – their path to sanctity, and heaven

What is marriage?

- Marriage is the intimate, exclusive, indissoluble communion of life and love entered by man and woman at the design of the Creator for the purpose of their own good and the procreation and education of children; this covenant between baptized persons has been raised by Christ the Lord to the dignity of a sacrament.



The three goods of marriage

- Procreation/fruitfulness
- Faithfulness/exclusiveness
- Unbreakable bond/sacramental unity

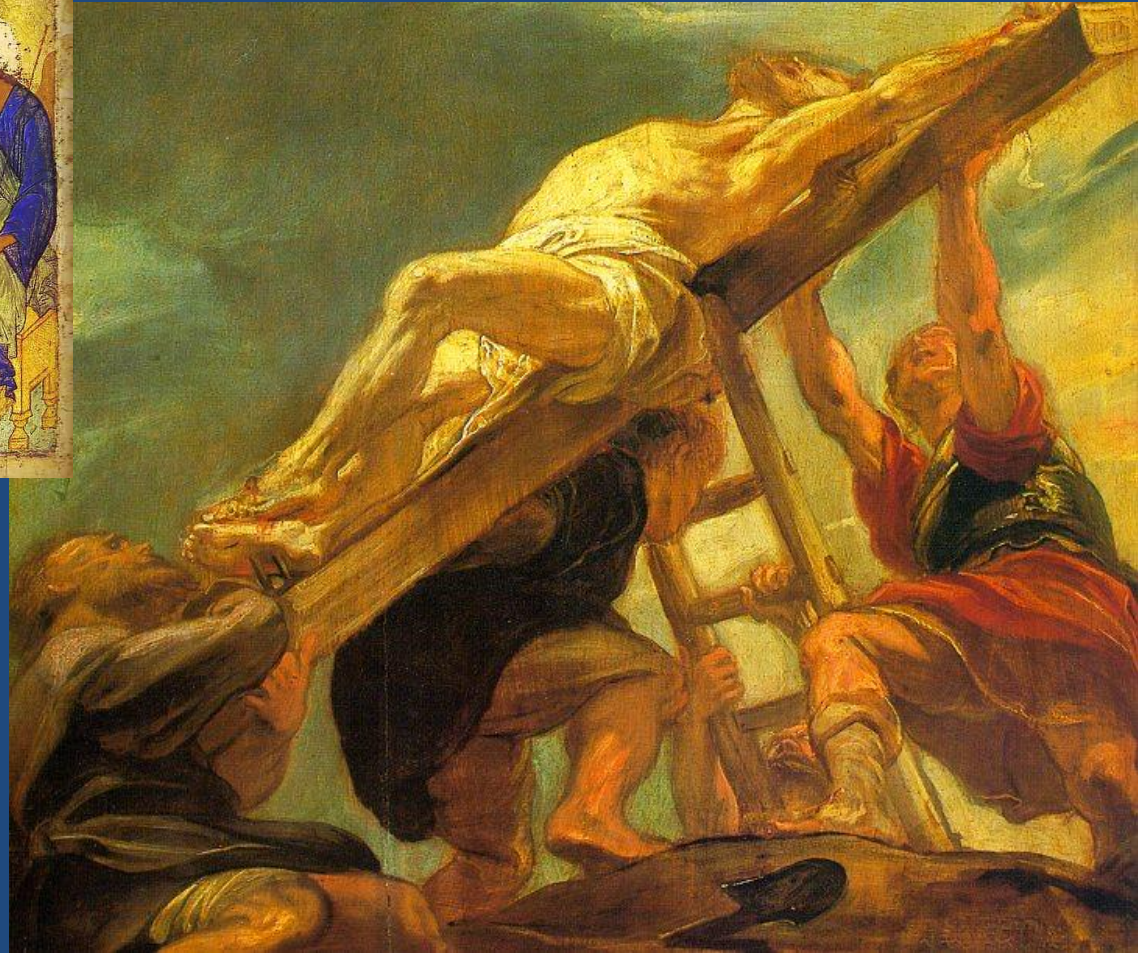


Two purposes of marriage

- Procreative (having and educating children, passing on your faith to them)
- Unitive (companionship, desire, gift)



Communion and sacrifice



Love

- Ti voglio bene “I wish the good for you”
- Not primarily an emotion
- An act of the will
- I am committed to you and your well being
- Link to responsibility



Lust vs. Love

Lust

- Directed toward self-gratification
- Treats others as objects
- Sees the body as something
- Body is merely biological
- Sacrifices others for oneself
- Grasps at fleeting pleasure
- Enslaves us
- Jealously possesses
- Manipulates and controls
- Aimed at any pleasing outlet
- Rejects suffering
- Sees fertility as a burden/obstacle

Love

- Directed toward self donation
- Affirms others as subjects
- Respects the body as someone
- Body is also theological
- Sacrifices oneself for others
- Yearns for eternal joy
- Liberates us
- Confidently trusts
- Respects peoples' freedom
- Reserved for only one
- Embraces suffering
- Rejoices in the mystery of fertility

Freedom

License

- Do what feels good
- Freedom to indulge compulsions
- Freedom to sin
- Sees law as the tyrant
- Law feels imposed
- Breaks the law
- Do whatever I want
- Any choice is a good choice

Freedom

- Do what is good
- Freedom from compulsion to indulge
- Freedom from sin
- Sees sin as the tyrant
- Law is written on heart
- Fulfills the law
- Do whatever God wants
- Choice is between good and evil, choose rightly

Sacrament

- Marriage is one of the seven sacraments
- We receive grace to live out our marriage (strength to give and to forgive, to love, to sacrifice)
- Consent: this is when the marriage happens – exchange of vows
- Marriage is brought about by the free exchange of consent properly witnessed by the Church
- The marriage is not consummated (sealed, brought to completion) until the spouses have sexual intercourse
- Marriage does not happen automatically (impediments)

Familiaris Consortio



- In their marriage, a Christian man and woman, placed within the spousal covenant of Christ and the Church, love each other with the love of Christ, and their communion of love becomes a sacramental sign of Christ's union with the Church.
- Marriage and marital love are ordered to the procreation and education of children, and find their crowning in them, though the communion of life still has meaning and value when it is not possible to have children.
- The family's mission correspond to its nature: it is called to become ever more a community of life and love

F.C. continued



- The Eucharist is the source of Christian marriage.
- The sacrament of penance offers grace and opportunity for renewal and forgiveness within the family.
- From the inner circle of the family, love is to be extended to the whole church community, and indeed all human beings.

Life-giving love

- The Church reaffirms her teaching on the transmission of life, particularly that marital love must be open to new life.
- The union of the conjugal act, loving self-giving, and procreation is founded in an integral vision of the human person in God's plan.
- God's plan for the transmission of life in the family is included in their call to holiness.



The moral difference between:

natural family planning

- No action is taken against a child nor against co-creating with God (every marital act is open to a child and to God)
- There is no possibility of abortion
- There is no possibility of harm to the woman's body
- Strengthens the 3 goods of marriage
- Does not split the procreative from the unitive
- Build on solid understanding of who a human person is

the pill

- Involves an action against a child and against co-creating with God (thereby diminishing the welcome to child and to God)
- There is a possibility of abortion
- There is a possibility of harm to the woman's body
- Weakens the 3 goods of marriage
- Splits the procreative from the unitive
- Diminishes one's understanding of who a human person is



“If we’re ever to discover true love, true joy, true happiness we must discover the ‘nuptial meaning of the body’ and live according to it.” GN p. 85

Family



- Parents have the first right and duty to educate their children.
- The family is the first and vital cell of society.
- It is, firstly, the place of experiencing and transmitting the fundamental human values of acceptance, service, solidarity, service, and thus contributes to human formation for community
- The family is educated and formed by the Church; in turn, it is a sign of Christ's love and communicates this love.
- Having accepted the Gospel itself, the family becomes an evangelizing community

God's Love is...

- Free
- Total
- Faithful
- Fruitful

Marriage
should
REFLECT this!



Different Words for **LOVE**

- 1. STORGE** – affection
- 2. PHILIA** – brotherly, friendship (think of Philadelphia – the city of ‘brotherly love’)
- 3. EROS** – erotic, sensual desire, passion, romance; an ‘ascending’ love that ‘lifts us’ to God
- 4. AGAPE** – sacrifice & service; a ‘descending’ or a ‘reaching down to serve’ form of love.

*“In the evening of our lives we will be judged on our **LOVE**.”* St. John of the Cross

Levels of FRIENDSHIP

(outlined by Aristotle & referred to in book “Love & Responsibility” by St. Pope John Paul II

- 1. UTILITY** – relationship based on **USE** (eg: Banker)
- 2. PLEASURE** – sharing in common interest (eg: love of hockey)
- 3. TRUE, VIRTUOUS & NOBLE** – not what I can get out of the relationship, but rather helping each other *transcend* earthly things to seek God & ultimately Heaven! A “heroic love”