

Chapter 29 – Sacrament of Matrimony

- Tonight we'll look at the second Sacrament of Service → Sacrament of Matrimony or Marriage.
 - Recall the other two:
 - ✓ Sacraments of Initiation
 - ✓ Sacraments of Healing
- Marriage is the oldest form of community given to us by God.
- Recall that after God created Adam He created a partner for Adam → Eve, who was the first woman.
- God joined Adam and Eve together as husband and Wife.
- God then told them to “be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it” (Gen 1:28).
- We see that they are no longer two, but that they are one flesh. (Gen. 2:24). "Therefore a man leaves his father and his mother and cleaves to his wife, and they become one flesh ".

The Purpose of Marriage

- We can see from Genesis and from the teachings of Christ and His Church that there are two special purposes for marriage.
- First Purpose: God gave the man and wife to each other as partners.
 - This partnership is founded on Love for each other. → We call this mutual love.
 - Through this love the husband and wife support one another, they help each other to know, love, and serve God so that they can be in Heaven with God one day.
- Second Purpose: is bearing and bringing up children. → We call this Procreation
 - The husband and wife love protect their children. They provide shelter, food, and a loving family home to grow up in.
 - They also teach their children to Love and to know about God.

- Through marriage the husband and the wife are made holy through each other. They sanctify each other!
 - This means that the merits of one pass onto the other. → One Flesh!!
 - **Saint Paul** → (1 Cor 7:14) *“For the unbelieving husband is consecrated through his wife, and the unbelieving wife is consecrated through her husband”*.

Question: What is the Role of the Husband in Marriage?

- To love his wife as Christ loves His Church. We see this in Ephesians 5:24-25 *“As the church is subject to Christ, so let wives also be subject in everything to their husbands. Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her”*.
- Pray for his wife and children
- To be virtuous and charitable putting his family’s needs before his own needs.
- To raise our children in the fear of God and to correct them. To educate them in the Faith.
- To provide for his wife and family
- A husband’s goal should be to make sure his wife and children get to Heaven!
- It’s not about making sure his wife and kids have the very best of this world, but that they are prepared to enter into the next world! → Heaven!

The Sacrament of Matrimony

- Even before Jesus made marriage a sacrament it was seen as a lifelong union between a husband and a wife in which they promised to love each other until death.
- Marriage is an unbreakable bond or union that cannot be broken.
- **Just as Christ created One Church in marriage we have one spouse!**
- In our weakness sometimes man has failed in God’s plan.
- Things like divorce and adultery have crept into marriages, but this was not God’s plan and it does not change what marriage is supposed to be.

- "For I hate divorce, says the Lord the God of Israel" (Mal. 2:16).
- We see divorce occurring in the Old Testament with the Israelites and we see that God tolerated this, but did not approve of it.
- We see God's plan for marriage clearly in the teachings of Jesus:
- *"Is it lawful to divorce one's wife for any cause?" He answered, "Have you not read that he who made them from the beginning made them male and female, and said, 'For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh'? So they are no longer two but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let not man put asunder." They said to him, "Why then did Moses command one to give a certificate of divorce, and to put her away?" He said to them, "For your hardness of heart Moses allowed you to divorce your wives, but from the beginning it was not so." (Matt. 19:3–8; cf. Mark 10:2–9; Luke 16:18)*
- We see that Jesus attended a wedding (at Cana). He did this to bless the marriage with His presence.
- Jesus made marriage a sacrament and a symbol of His love for His Body which is the Church!
- We see that Jesus loves His Church and will never leave it. It is the same with marriage. The husband and wife love each other and will never leave each other.
- Jesus is united to His Church and cannot be separated. Jesus is one with His Church just as the Husband and Wife are made one through the Sacrament of Marriage → They cannot be separated.
- Now we see that most if not all other protestant churches and governments allow divorce and remarriage. Keep in mind that just because they allow it this doesn't make it OK in the eyes of God. God's rules don't change no matter what church you belong to!

What Makes a Sacramental Christian Marriage?

- In order for a couple to be married they must both have been baptized. → Baptism makes a person part of the Catholic Church!

- They must intend to live their out their marriage according to God’s plan.
- What does “God’s Plan” mean?
 - Means that the marriage must be open to life and whatever children God may send them.
 - The couple’s must remain with each in marriage through good times, bad times, in riches, or in poverty, in good health and in bad health.
- The Church has Laws concerning marriage. Laws come from God not men!
- If a couple does not agree to live their marriage according to God’s laws then their marriage is not valid in the eyes of God and His Church.
- Recall that the Catholic Church does not grant couples a divorce.
- Invalid marriages must be declared so through the process of an Annulment. **An annulment is a ruling or statement from the Church that a valid marriage never existed between two people. This is not a Divorce!**
- Reasons for annulments: if a couple were married by a justice of peace instead of priest, psychological impediments, one person being closed to ever having children, marriages that were forced, and ect...
- There are many more reasons and the Annulment process can be complicated.

The Rite of Matrimony

- **The Wedding Rite or ceremony usually takes place during Mass.** On rare occasions and with the approval of the Bishop a marriage may take place outside of a Church.
- The Priest or Deacon does not administer the Sacrament to the couple. He is there to witness it and to bless it in God’s name.
- **The man and wife are the ones who give the sacrament to each other by the word of the wedding vows.**
- After the homily the priest asks the couple if they have come to the wedding freely without pressure to do so.
- The couple is asked if they agree to live out their lives together in God’s plan.
- The Bride and Groom then join hands → Sign of Matrimony!

- Next the wedding vows (promise) are made. To break these vows would be a mortal sin!
- *"I, _____, take you, _____, to be my wife/husband. I promise to be true to you in good times and in bad, in sickness and in health. I will love you and honor you all the days of my life."*
- After this the couple gives their rings to each other so that these may be signs of their love for each other.
- The Mass continues as normal until Holy Communion when the Wedding or Nuptial Blessing is given (Nuptial comes from the Latin meaning "pertaining to marriage").
- This blessing is only given to those who marry and it asks God to make their lives holy, to keep them faithful to each other, to send them the gift of children, and to bring them to heaven when they die.
- Through this sacrament God makes the two "one flesh". → They cannot be separated in God's eyes.
- God calls the married couple to be witnesses for Christ and to spread the Good News to their kids, relatives and in the world around them.

Modern Day Attacks on Marriage

- So we have seen how Marriage is a sacrament and a special gift from God.
- Many people today do not think of marriage according to God's plan. Society for the most part dismisses the value of sacredness of marriage.
- The world around us promotes the worshipping of money and material things over the values the family.
- Careers sometimes become the most important things in the marriage.
- The world around us attacks the sacrament of marriage in many ways including divorce, adultery, the promotion of so called "same sex marriage", and again the worshipping of money.
- The world around us heavily promotes sex before marriage. Sex becomes a "fun" thing to do anytime you want to with whomever you want to.
 - Almost every movie or TV show promotes sexual immorality and sex before marriage.
 - Even the music today promotes immorality!

- The world around us has very negative views on large families. It's rare to see large families in movies or TV shows. Even commercials attack the family! Sometimes we see couples with a dog instead of a kid!
- The world around us promotes contraception and abortion.
 - Doctors often push couples to use contraceptives. Many of these things are not healthy to take! They contain harmful hormones and other chemicals.....
- Most protestant churches allow and permit contraception. It wasn't until 1930 that this happened. Before all considered it a sin.
- Schools and Colleges promote the idea that it's OK to experiment sexually. They reduce sex to just a pleasurable act that can be done with anyone. They remove all the sacredness that goes with it. Morality is left out! God is left out!
- Schools often teach these things without informing your parents! → Tell your parents what you are being taught!
- Colleges even some Catholic Colleges promote homosexuality and contraception.

What do we do to combat this?

- Do not become of this world.
- Keep to the teachings of Jesus and His Church. Study them! Read catholic books about these issues.
- Pray for your spouse, your kids and yourself, and for the world! Pray the Rosary!
- Pray with your spouse and with your family.
- Speak up when you have the opportunity. Be aware you will be attacked when you do this.
- Teach your children to live according to God and not the world.
- Remember that Satan is behind all this. Satan hates the Sacrament of Marriage because through it families are created. He is attacking it through demonic things like abortion!

Review Questions:

1. Through marriage a husband and wife become _____ flesh! → **One Flesh**
2. Does the Catholic Church permit divorce? → **No!**
3. During Marriage who gives the sacrament the couple being married? **The man and wife through their wedding vows.**
4. In an annulment the same thing as a divorce? → **No!**
5. Where does a wedding take place? **During Mass!**
6. Who was the first Christian to allow divorce? **Martin Luther during the reformation.**
7. What should be the Goal of a Husband in Marriage? **To make sure his wife and children get to Heaven!**

Class Questions Cont.....