



A FAMILY PRAYER

Heavenly Father, thank you for the gift of our family. Enlighten our hearts and minds that we may live more fully this vocation to love.

In our daily life and work,
may we reflect the self-giving love which you,
O Father, eternally show with your Son
and the Holy Spirit.

Let your love be evident in the peace that reigns
in our home and in the faith we profess and live.
May our family always be a place of generosity,
understanding, forgiveness and joy.

Kindly give us the wisdom and courage
to be witnesses to your eternal design for
the family; and grant that the Holy Family
of Nazareth may always guide our path
to holiness as a family.

We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ,
your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the
unity of the Holy Spirit, one God forever and ever.
Amen.



Prayer composed by Archbishop William E. Lori of Baltimore, Supreme Chaplain.
The cover image of the Holy Family is a drawing by Giovanni Balestra, based on a
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MARRIAGE & FAMILY

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US Adult Catechism for Adults - Ch 21, p. 277

New Catholic Answer Bible - K3, K4.

Pope Francis, The Joy of Love, 2016.

Working through seven ecclesial (Church) Sacraments:

Baptism

Reconciliation

Marriage

Eucharist

Anointing of Sick

Holy Orders

Confirmation

Grace: God is always reaching out to us for relationship of love.

Sacrament: An event whereby we actually interact with God through the Holy Spirit.

According to the definition of vocation, marriage is a way of seeking a life of holiness. It is a covenant which involves relationship, rather than a contract.

Genesis 1: 26-28 (OT p.12) Made in God's image, male and female.

Genesis 2: 18, 21-24 (OT p.14) Two of them become one body.

So sacred is this bond that it is compared to the love of Christ for his bride, the Church. (Ephesians)

From this vision of creation and teaching of Jesus comes the Catholic Church definition of marriage:

The matrimonial covenant, by which a man and a woman establish between themselves a partnership of the whole of life and which is ordered by its nature to the good of the spouses and the procreation and education of offspring, has been raised by Christ the Lord to the dignity of a sacrament between the baptized. Canon law 1055 §1.

So having presented the goal,

DISCUSS

1. Marriage is a relationship of mutual self-giving. What does that look like? Do you know of an example of such a marriage? Consider today's cultural view of self-giving.
2. Fill in the blank with the words that follow and discuss.
What does _____ look like in a marriage/family?
gratitude forgiveness perseverance kindness
humility respect patience fidelity
3. How does the example of marriage in #2 impact the children?
Would there be also an impact on society?

Pre-marriage counseling - Time to have conversations about

- spirituality/faith
- conflict resolution (may be the difference between success & failure)
- careers
- finances/money* Lack thereof
 - Budget
 - Expenditures
 - His money, her money, our money
- children (procreative)
- commitment (factor given for long-term success in marriage)
- sex/fidelity* (6th commandment-You shall not commit adultery, Ch 30)
- time management* (job commitments/household duties/computers)

How has the internet impacted the Sacrament of Marriage in the last 15 years??

* high stress factors in marriage

Pre-Cana instruction that will lead to informed consent. In marriage, the matrimonial consent, the exchange of promises, is the essential element of the sacrament.

A wedding does not make a marriage.

Rite: A ceremony of intent.

The full sacramentality of marriage is realized only over the life of the marriage.

Declaration of Nullity (Annulment)

When a marriage is declared null - The goal, the sacrament as defined by the Catholic Church, the target you were aiming for...it never truly happened because of an impediment or lack of form - the children of this union are not considered illegitimate. "Illegitimate" is a term of civil union, not Church.

Remarried persons without the process of annulment should not receive communion though until their marriage status can be considered valid according to the Church.

WHAT HELPS A MARRIAGE WORK (3 C's)

Communication, Commitment, Common Values

From USCCB: <http://foryourmarriage.org/>