

MARRIAGE & FAMILY
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US Adult Catechism for Adults - Ch 21, p. 277 and Ch 30, p. 404.

New Catholic Answer Bible - K3

Pope Francis, The Joy of Love, 2016.

USCCB (US Conference of Catholic Bishops) www.foryourmarriage.org

<http://bustedhalo.com/video/sacraments-201-matrimony-more-questions-answered>

formed.org Faith formation → Symbol → Catholic Faith Explained →
Living the Faith (vs Know the Faith) → Session 5 Matrimony

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 intentional event of the Church whereby we interact with God through the Holy Spirit. (Official encounter with God.)

Vocation: Text p. 531. Each of us is called to a life of seeking holiness.

In the Catechism §1603 and Text 279: The vocation to marriage is written in the very nature of man and woman as they came from the hand of the Creator. Man and woman were created for each other.

“It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a suitable partner for him” (Genesis 2: 18;21-24)

Text p. 404 “It is a gift of God by which men and women participate in his saving plan and respond to his call to grow in holiness.”

Marriage is another example of covenant. Covenant - see text p. 508.

(text p. 279) Concept of marriage as “unbreakable bond” developed over time. In the New Testament, we read where Jesus taught that marriage was to be exclusive and permanent. (See Mt 19:4-6, NT 47)

The goal of permanence is high, but it is the way the loving Father plans to minimize the potential for pain of separation. It is the goal. A desirable goal.

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.

Challenges in contemporary life, text p. 280.

CHASTITY CCC 2337-2359

CCC 2348 All the baptized are called to chastity.

More on chastity in text p. 405-407.

Before a couple plans to marry...

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

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

When a person has a civil divorce, they are still considered married in the eyes of the Church.

A declaration of nullity obtained through the annulment process of the Catholic Church would determine that the conditions for a sacramental marriage were not met. Annulment is not a “Catholic divorce.” An annulment, or decree of nullity, declares that the Sacrament of Matrimony never happened.

Just because a person is divorced, or divorced and remarried, they are not excommunicated from the Church. The Church wishes to hold them close and continue to nurture them in their journey to holiness. Remarried persons without the process of annulment should not receive communion though until their marriage status can be considered in order according to the Church.

For each one of us, our journey, our path to holiness is rarely straight.

WHAT HELPS A MARRIAGE WORK (3 C's)

Communication

Good news is that effective communication skills can be learned/improved. Not always modeled well by parents.

Commitment and Common Values

Commitment bonds you when you are tired, or angry. Forgiveness must be an aspect of marriage.

Common values include oneness about children, honesty, priorities about time/money, all those challenges listed earlier. It includes Spirituality/faith.

CHALLENGE QUESTIONS

1. 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

2. How does the example of marriage in #2 impact the children?