



A FAMILY OF
Faith

April Adult Meeting

Opening Prayer

Oh Sacred Heart of Jesus I consecrate to You, my mind, my words, my body, my heart, & my soul, in order that Your will be done through me this day. Oh Sacred Heart of Jesus filled with infinite love, broken by my ingratitude, pierced by my sins, yet loving me still, please accept the consecration I make to You, and use me as You wish to accomplish Your designs upon the world, take every faculty of my soul and body and draw me day by day nearer and nearer to Your most Sacred Heart, there as I can best learn to teach me Your blessed ways.



What is a vocation? A specific way of life God called you to lead as a single person, married person, ordained priest or a vowed religious.

What is to Consecrate? To dedicate to a sacred purpose, dedicate to God.

What is life's purpose? To be love (to be Christ) to the world, so as to lead others to salvation. *

What is love? God is love. Love is unconditional & a desire for the good of the other. "We love because he first loved us" (1 John 4:19). God is with you in a marriage.



Consecrate yourselves to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, Mary & Joseph

Contact your parish priest to consecrate to the Sacred Heart

"33 Days to Morning Glory" by Fr. Michael E. Gaitley, MIC

"Consecration to St. Joseph" by Fr. Don Calloway, MIC



Opening Questions

Think about your parish priest. In what ways do you see him serving others, i.e. living his vocation?

Has he served your family in any particular way?



Opening Questions

How did you know that you were called to marriage?

How do you serve your spouse?

How do you serve your children?

What place does God hold in your marriage? *

How do you foster or nurture your children's vocations?



Holy Orders and Matrimony: Sacraments at the Service of Communion



Sacraments at the Service of Communion are:

- Sacraments that place us in the service of others to help them attain holiness and salvation
- Unique ways God calls us to live out our baptismal calling more profoundly *
- A particular vocation (or calling) that helps those who answer it achieve the universal call to holiness, and die to self so as to live for others.



We love as Christ does by giving our lives
unconditionally for the good of others.



Holy Orders

What was the purpose of Jewish priest?

Did Jesus intend for there to be priests?

How do our priests serve God?



1. To offer sacrifice as worship to God. To lead the people to right worship & right life. To bless the people. Numbers 6:22

The center of religion is worship, the center of worship is sacrifice.

2. Yes! Jesus gave Peter his name and the keys to the Kingdom, and called him the rock upon which Jesus would build His Church. Jesus breathed on the apostles to give them the Holy Spirit and sent the Holy Spirit to them again at Pentecost, told them to baptize and to forgive sins, told them to cast out demons, to heal every affliction, and taught them how to “Do this in memory of Me” or offer the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, & how to make Chrism. “Some are incapable of marriage ... because they have renounced marriage for the sake of the kingdom of heaven. Whoever can accept this ought to accept it.” Matthew 19:12

3. They lead us in worship offering the Holy Sacrifice of Jesus, himself, & all of us, at Mass. They give blessings [call on the name of God with a sign(s)]. Administer the sacraments, counsel people, pray, serve God as we do. *



Christ promised that He would never
leave us or forsake us.

The Sacrament of Holy Orders is one way
that He fulfills this promise.



In the person of Christ

- When a priest administers the Sacraments, he is *not* the one acting.
- Jesus Christ gives us His grace through the Sacraments.
- The priest is acting *in the person of Christ*.



A call to Holy Orders is a call to serve

- Christ calls certain men to act in His person by teaching, strengthening, and guiding His Church as ordained priests.
- The first men to receive this call were Christ's Apostles, and those who are consecrated in His name through Holy Orders continue their mission.
- No man has a "right" to receive the Sacrament of Holy Orders. It is a call to serve, not a position to be earned.
- A priest would be able to look back to the apostle of succession.



Video

Fishers of Men Trailer



What if a priest is guilty of grave sin or has tremendous weakness

- Holy Orders does not make men immune from weakness and sin. Priests are still human, capable of grave sin, and they have many weaknesses.
- Christ is the one acting through the priest! The priest acts in persona Christi.
- Therefore, Holy Orders guarantees that the grace of the Sacraments is valid and effective even when they are performed by a sinful minister. Jesus in Matthew 23:1-12 said “Do & observe all things whatsoever they (Scribes & Pharisees) tell you.” For they are “on the chair of Moses.” Similarly the Church has right teaching authority but also has some sinful priests.
- The hands of the candidate are anointed with Chrism to signal Christ’s connection to the hands of the one who will stand at the altar of sacrifice, to make an offering on behalf of the people.



Three degrees of Holy Orders

- **Bishop**
 - A bishop serves in the place of Christ the teacher, shepherd, and priest in the fullest sense.
- **Priest**
 - Priests are charged with *sanctifying* the people; they assist bishops in their ministerial duties.
- **Deacon**
 - Deacons are ordained by their local bishop, who assigns them a special ministry.



While not a Sacrament, we all share in the common priesthood of believers.

Originally all men served as priests, as at the first passover when each family sacrificed its own lamb.

How do the lay faithful participate in the priestly office of Christ?

They participate in it especially in the Eucharist by offering as a spiritual sacrifice "acceptable to God through Jesus Christ" (1 Peter 2:5) their own lives with all of their works, their prayers, their apostolic undertakings, their family life, their daily work, relaxation and hardships borne with patience and even their consolations of spirit and body. In this way, even the laity, dedicated to Christ and consecrated by the Holy Spirit, offer to God the world itself. CCC 901-903

Pray, brothers and sisters that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.





Who are the people in this painting? What do you think is happening?
How are the apostles (and their successors) “fishers of men?”



The Sacrament of Holy Matrimony

It is thought that in the Heavenly Kingdom, Mary sits at the right hand of Jesus & St. Joseph at His left.

Their vocation was as a married couple and parents.

How does this influence your view regarding the vocation of married life?

Fetal microchimerism or fetal maternal microchimerism=the process in which living cells of a child remain in the body of the mother after her pregnancy has ended, even to the end of her life. It also occurs in the other direction.



The Challenge of Discussing Matrimony

- The saving grace of God precedes, and makes possible agape love, joins souls more than bodies to protect each others interior lives. Pope Pius XI
- Many of us probably know cohabiting couples who are not married.
- Many of us probably know someone who has left the Church over a difficult marriage.
- Many of us probably know someone who doesn't understand or fully embrace what the Church teaches about this beautiful Sacrament.
- Someone may have been divorced and gone through the annulment process, or are currently going through it now.



God's love for us has four components.

1. Free
2. Total and self-giving
3. Faithful
4. Fruitful

The love between a husband and wife should be like the love of God.

1. freely given,

2. given totally of self to the other for their good and happiness

3. Faithful-dedicated to each other

4. Fruitful-have children



Marriage is a sacrament between one man and one woman.

The Latin word for oath is “sacramentum”.

Marriage is described as a covenant.

What is a covenant?

It is an **exchange of persons** in which people swear an oath that is permanent and in the presence of God.



In a Catholic marriage a man gives himself to a woman & receives her gift of self to him, a woman gives herself to a man and receives his gift of self to her. With their vows (sworn oath) before God a permanent family relationship bond is made.

Who forms the marriage covenant?

A man and a woman form the marriage covenant through the sacrament of matrimony when they pronounce their vows.

What are the two purposes of marriage?

The good of the couple and the generation and education of children.

What did Jesus do with marriage between a baptized man and woman?

He raised it to the dignity of a sacrament, an efficacious sign of God's grace.



We tend to mistakenly think love is just a “feeling” we can fall in and out of, rather than a free choice we make every day.

A choice to will the good of the other without attached conditions.

A dedicated commitment to remaining faithful to one’s wedding vow is critical to a lasting marriage.

Video: What's With Catholic Weddings?



Women were given by God to men, to teach men about the love of God. Women are the heart of the family. They are perfectly made to have a child grow and develop within them, and nourish them after birth.

Kids are your ticket to heaven.

Who else would you give drink, feed, cloth, shelter, care for when sick, visit in detention, bury when they die, admonish, instruct, counsel, comfort in sorrow, bear wrongs patiently, forgive injuries, pray for alive or dead?
Corporal and Spiritual works of mercy.



The Church has a serious view of this Sacrament as seen in 3 questions asked of those to be married:

1. Have you come here to enter into Marriage without coercion, freely and wholeheartedly?"
- 2."Are you prepared, as you follow the path of Marriage, to love and honor each other for as long as you both shall live?"
- 3."Are you prepared to accept children lovingly from God and to bring them up according to the law of Christ and his Church?"



The Church has a serious view of this Sacrament as seen in the vows:

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.

I take you for my lawful wife / husband, to have and to hold, from this day forward, for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, until death do us part.

Venerable Fulton J. Sheen 3 rings of marriage=engagement ring, wedding ring, suffering



Marriage in the book of Genesis

The LORD God said: It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suited to him.

So the LORD God formed out of the ground all the wild animals and all the birds of the air, and he brought them to the man to see what he would call them; whatever the man called each living creature was then its name. The man gave names to all the tame animals, all the birds of the air, and all the wild animals; but none proved to be a helper suited to the man.

So the LORD God cast a deep sleep on the man, and while he was asleep, he took out one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. The LORD God then built the rib that he had taken from the man into a woman.

When he brought her to the man, the man said: "This one, at last, is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; This one shall be called 'woman,' for out of man this one has been taken." That is why a man leaves his father and mother and clings to his wife, and the two of them become one body.

(Genesis 2:18-24)



Marriage in the book of Genesis

After God creates man and woman, He turns to both of them and says, "Be fertile and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it." (Genesis 1:28)

God creates man and woman for each other from the very beginning and joins them together in a covenant of love: marriage.

What makes a marriage a covenant? In the presence of God, there is an exchange of persons in which people swear an oath that is permanent.

Women were given by God to men, to teach men about the love of God, in effect being God to men. Women are the heart of the family. Adam didn't protect Eve from the serpent some men today don't protect, provide, and give of self for wife and children.



God created marriage for the good of the spouses and the procreation and education of children.



Essential Aspects of Marriage

- It is indissoluble: a permanent covenant between one man and one woman. Fidelity aided by God is the source of profound and enduring happiness.
- The spouses have a special calling:
 - To lay down their life for one another.
 - To lead the other person to Heaven.
- The profound love between spouses is expressed in their sexual union.
 - The sexual act should be unitive, procreative, and pleasurable
 - No contraceptives
 - "Men Women and The Mystery of Love" by Edward Sri [From Saint Pope John Paul II "Love and Responsibility"]



Place mercy over and above a demand for justice.

Vows are not conditional, no one should keep score.

We all deserve justice (say I'm sorry), but all desire mercy (say I forgive you).

Mercy is a gift that is given out of choice by one that is entitled to justice.

Young children give little or nothing but receive everything from their parents. Try to give your spouse similar patients and consideration. Discuss this and try to live it.

Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful. Stop judging and you will not be judged.
Stop condemning and you will not be condemned. Forgive and you will be forgiven.

Luke 6:36-37



Man and woman were originally created in complete union

- Marriage is essential to God's plan for humanity, but when sin entered the world, that union was disrupted. The communion between husband and wife would now be beset by sin.
- Marriage is the first Sacrament to be affected by sin, and it is the one most frequently attacked in the world today.
- Man and woman need God's grace to return to His plan for them.
- Jesus raised marriage to a Sacrament in order to provide that grace.



The Consent of Marriage

- The priest or deacon is *not* the minister of the Sacrament of Marriage.
- The *man and woman themselves* are the ministers.
 - The priest or deacon merely serves as a witness.
- The *exchange of consent* between the couples is what confers the Sacrament.



Requirements for a Valid Marriage

- A couple must be free to marry (unmarried, of opposite sexes, not close relatives, etc.).
- They must have the intention of being married for life.
- They must have the intention to be faithful to one another.
- They must be open to children.
- They must give consent:
 - freely and without being under constraint;
 - in the presence of two witnesses and a properly authorized Church minister;
 - in the words of the marriage vows.



Marriage is a vocation to which God calls men and women in order that they might grow in holiness and raise their children up to be saints.





This painting depicts what Gospel story? Which moment in the story has the artist captured here? Does this show marriage is important to Christ?



Key Points in our Reading this Month

In the Sacrament of Marriage, a man and a woman enter into a lifetime commitment of covenanted love.

The exchange of consent between the spouses makes the marriage. The Holy Spirit seals their covenant.



Closing Prayer

Dear God of love, compassion and mercy, bless us with abundant graces for our needs in fulfilling our purpose in life. Provide us with the saints, angels, people and circumstances to keep us on the path You have set before us. We know our needs are great yet we trust in Your generosity, patience and love. Hear us Lord as we call upon You to help us fulfill Your desire for us to produce much good fruit in the name of Jesus our savior and Lord. Amen.

