

# Theology of Marriage and Family

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# Prayer to the Holy Family

Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, in you we contemplate the splendor of true love; to you we turn with trust.

Holy Family of Nazareth, grant that our families too may be places of communion and prayer, authentic schools of the Gospel and small domestic churches.

Holy Family of Nazareth, may families never again experience violence, rejection, and division;

may all who have been hurt or scandalized find ready comfort and healing.

Holy Family of Nazareth, make us once more mindful of the sacredness and inviolability of the family, and its beauty in God's plan. Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, graciously hear our prayer.

Amen.

-Pope Francis  
Amoris Laetitia

# Challenges to Marriage and family

- ▶ Fear of relationships/commitment
- ▶ Objectifying a person
- ▶ Marriages doesn't need to involve children
- ▶ Addiction problems - porn, alcohol, money
- ▶ Poor understanding of what marriage is
- ▶ Cohabitation
- ▶ Divorced parents or single parent families
- ▶ Rise in abortion

# God's vision for Marriage

“The matrimonial covenant, by which a man and a woman establish between themselves a partnership of the whole of life, is by its nature ordered toward the *good of the spouses and the procreation and education of offspring*; this covenant between baptized persons has been raised by Christ the Lord to the dignity of a sacrament.” CCC 1601

# Importance of Marriage

GS 47 “The well-being of the individual person and of both human and Christian society is closely bound up with the healthy state of conjugal and family life.”

- ▶ By discovering God’s plan we can begin to heal the culture and society.

# God's Plan - LOVE

- ▶ Love - Choosing the good of the other person just for their own sake
- ▶ Eph 5:25-26, 31-32 - Choose to put the other first like Christ

# Marriage is a unique expression of Love

- ▶ Fulfills/unifies us
- ▶ Helps others

# Fulfilling/Unifying

“From a valid marriage arises a bond between the spouses which by its very nature is perpetual and exclusive; furthermore, in a Christian marriage the spouses are strengthened and consecrated for the duties and the dignity of their state by a special sacrament.” CCC1638



# Fulfilling/Unifying

- ▶ Marriage has unique ability to unify with another
- ▶ It unites our souls in a specific way
- ▶ Sacrament is an outward sign of an inward reality instituted by Christ to give grace

“Authentic married love is caught up into divine love.”

GS 48

# Fulfilling/Unifying

- ▶ Couples give themselves Freely, Totally, Faithfully, and Fruitfully
  - ▶ Comes from the encyclical *Humanae Vitae* written by Pope Paul VI in 1968 speaking about Human life in particular contraception
  - ▶ Deals with how God loves

# Fulfilling/Unifying

- ▶ **FREE**
  - ▶ You promise to give yourself freely to your spouse
- ▶ **TOTAL**
  - ▶ Lay down your life for your spouse
- ▶ **Faithful**
  - ▶ Honoring your vows to be faithful until death
- ▶ **Fruitful**
  - ▶ Children

# Fulfilling/Unifying

- ▶ Marriage brings us into relationship with God
  - ▶ Covenant
    - ▶ Ex. Old Testament Covenants

# Fulfilling/Unifying

Thus the *marriage bond* has been established by God himself in such a way that a marriage concluded and consummated between baptized persons can never be dissolved. This bond, which results from the free human act of the spouses and their consummation of the marriage, is a reality, henceforth irrevocable, and gives rise to a covenant guaranteed by God's fidelity. The Church does not have the power to contravene this disposition of divine wisdom. CCC 1640

# Helps others: Children

- ▶ Procreation and education of offspring

*Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it. -Gen 1:27*

# Helps others: Children

- ▶ Children force us to go outside ourselves
- ▶ Society teaches us to be selfish

*Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. -Mt 5:3*

The more you give the more you receive.

# Helps others: Children

- ▶ Goal is to:
  - ▶ Share your faith with them
  - ▶ Share your life with them
- ▶ All vocations come from the family
  - ▶ Priests, Religious Life and Marriages



# Practical Aspects of Holiness

- ▶ Pray for your spouse and children
- ▶ Fast for them
- ▶ Anticipate what they might need
  - ▶ Words of Affirmation
  - ▶ Quality Time
  - ▶ Gift Giving
  - ▶ Acts of Service
  - ▶ Physical Touch