

Catechism of Marriage



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Marriage

- **Covenant between a baptized man and woman**
- **Raised by Christ to the dignity of a sacrament**
 - Strength (grace) to live out vows of fidelity
- **Created for:**
 - The good of the spouses
 - Procreation and education of offspring

A Contract or a Covenant?

- **Contract**

- Spells out all possible conditions that might arise in a situation
- Purpose is to get a job done

- **Covenant**

- Open-ended
- Can't know all possible conditions - it is unconditional.
 - There are no exceptions
 - This is the essence of marriage
 - Much like the early church

Three essentials of the marriage covenant

- **Mutual Commitment and Growth**
- **Personal Freedom**
 - To grow and to change
- **Directed towards fruitfulness**
 - Children
 - All others as well
 - The couple enters the “Jesus business”

Sacred Scripture

- **Genesis**
 - Creation of man and woman in God's image and likeness
- **Revelation**
 - “The Wedding Feast of the Lamb”

God as its author

- **Not a purely human institution**
 - Cultural variations
 - Spiritual variations
 - Social variations
- **The well being of society is closely bound with the healthy state of marriage and family life**

An image of God's Love

- **Marriage reflects the relationship of Christ and His Church**
- **Image of the unfailing love God has for man**
- **This love is to be fruitful**
 - **“Be fruitful and multiply”**

Genesis 2:18-24

Jesus and Marriage

- The wedding feast of Cana
 - First sign/miracle
- Jesus speaks of the indissolubility of marriage
 - Matthew 19:6
- Paul
 - Ephesians 5:25-32

The Celebration of Matrimony

- Normally takes place during the Holy Mass
 - Eucharist
 - Sacrifice of Christ for His people
 - Sacrifice of the spouses for each other
 - The liturgical celebration must be:
 - Valid
 - Worthy
 - Fruitful

The Celebration of Matrimony

- Spouses mutually confer upon each other the sacrament of Matrimony
- Clergy
 - Validity of sacrament
 - Blessing

Consent

- This covenant is made between a baptized man and woman who *freely* express their consent
- Free:
 - No constraint
 - No impedance by natural or ecclesiastical law
 - If not present, the marriage is invalid

The Wedding

- 12th century
 - Marriage became a sacrament
- 16th Century
 - The wedding ceremony that we know today
 - Gathering
 - Storytelling
 - Sacramental Action
 - Commissioning

Why do Catholics have to get married in a Church?

- Public liturgy
- This is now the couple's vocation within the Church
- Requires witnesses
- Being public helps the spouses remain faithful

What do I get out of this?

- **Marriage bond**
 - Once a marriage is concluded and consummated between baptized persons, it can never be dissolved
 - Covenant guaranteed by God's fidelity
- **Grace**
 - Each has own gifts that allow the spouse to attain holiness and to welcome and educate children
 - Given to perfect the couple's love and strengthen indissoluble unity

Unity and Indissolubility

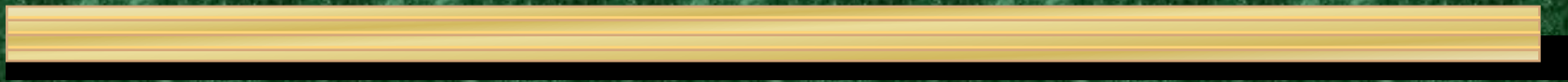
- Day to day fidelity to vows of total self-giving
- Deepened by the Eucharist

And then the kids come along...

- Marriage is ordered to the procreation and education of offspring
 - In them, marriage finds its crowning glory
 - Christian family is at the service of life



Ruth



Questions?
Thank You!



