

PARISH FAMILY ABLAZE: MATRIMONY—KEYNOTE (2-24-19)

THE MEMORARE

Remember, O most gracious Virgin Mary, that never was it known
that anyone who fled to thy protection, implored thy help,
or sought thy intercession, was left unaided.

Inspired by this confidence I fly unto thee, O Virgin of virgins, my Mother.

To thee do I come, before thee I stand, sinful and sorrowful.

O Mother of the Word Incarnate, despise not my petitions,
but in thy mercy hear and answer me. Amen.

MATRIMONY: SACRAMENT AT THE SERVICE OF COMMUNION AND MISSION (Catechism of the Catholic Church, Numbers 1601-1617)

- I. “God Who created man out of love also calls him to love—the fundamental and innate vocation of every human being.” (1604)
 - A. God is an eternal holy communion of love in Three Divine Persons.
 1. The Father loves the Son in eternity.
 2. The Son loves the Father in response.
 3. The exchange of Love is the Holy Spirit.
 - B. By God’s creation, a natural, valid marriage reflects Trinitarian eternal love.
 1. “It is not good that man should be alone.” (Genesis 2:18)
 2. In God’s image and likeness man was made male and female.
 - a. Sexual complementarity for fruitful dominion over creation
 - b. Marriage: An intimate community of life and love
 3. Exclusive, indissoluble unity: “They are no longer two, but one flesh.” (Matthew 19:6)
 4. Sacredness of the Marital Act: Fruitful Holy Communion
 - a. Renewing of the covenant bond of the couple with God
 - b. Responsible love: Procreation and formation of children
 5. Personal life is to be generated through sacred cooperation by a man and woman living in a covenant relationship.
 - a. The husband loves the wife by God’s initiative.
 - b. The wife accepts and returns this love.
 - c. God, Who is Love, creates an immortal soul to continue His creation of human persons through procreation.
- II. “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 persons has been raised by Christ the Lord to the dignity of a Sacrament.” (1601)
 - A. Recognition of Marriage
 1. By civil authorities—legal/civil unions
 2. By God in the order of creation and nature—valid marriages
 3. By God in the order of grace and life in Christ—sacramental marriages
 - B. Covenant—Solemn/sacred agreement between the couple and God
 1. Ratification (Sacred Vows)/Consummation (Marital Act): The Word Made Flesh
 2. Consent: Free/Total/Faithful/Fruitful
 3. God’s grace supplies what lies beyond the capacity of the couple.

- a. Cana—Wine of Love's Joy
 - b. Cross—Blood of Love's Sorrow and Sacrifice
 - c. Wedding Feast of the Lamb—Goal that Marriage signifies: Christ is the Bridegroom and the Church is His Bride.
4. Family
- a. Basic cell of human societies
 - b. The domestic church

QUESTIONS (T/F)

1. Marriage is a purely human institution without common or permanent characteristics.
2. A valid marriage is always a sacramental marriage.
3. Just as sin has wounded individual persons, so has sin wounded marriages.
4. Strictly speaking, sin and disorder in persons and marriages is natural for humans.
5. According to the original design of marriage, the husband is called to dominate his wife as leader of the family.
6. Clearly, in Christian marriage, the man is no longer to be leader of the family.
7. The Church is concerned about sexual morality because sexuality is meant to be a holy expression of love manifesting God's love to us and for us.
8. At the Wedding Feast of Cana, Christ reveals that the ultimate fulfillment in human life comes through sacramental marital love.
9. Marriage on earth is a reality of this present age which is passing away.
10. Virginity and marriage are radically separate ways of life that do not reinforce one another.

MISSION

- I. Morning Prayer: "Act of Faith," "Act of Hope," "Spiritual Communion," "Psalm 23," and "The Memorare"
- II. Mental Prayer During the Day (20-35 minutes)
 - A. The Rosary
 - B. Journal Meditation
 1. 5-10 Minutes of Scriptural or spiritual reading
 2. 5-10 Minutes writing to either the Father, Son, or Holy Spirit
 3. 5-10 Minutes recording what you believe God is saying to you
- III. Examination of Conscience and Act of Contrition
 - A. Did I use my memory and intellect in a way that glorifies God the Father? Ask the Father to heal and purify my memory and intellect.
 - B. Did I unite my heart to the Sacred Heart of Jesus today by making a Spiritual Communion or receiving Him in Holy Communion? Ask Jesus to heal and purify my heart and will.
 - C. Did I place all my emotions and desires under the guidance of the Holy Spirit? Ask the Holy Spirit to heal my emotions and purify my desires.
 - D. Did I embrace Mary today as my Mother in the order of grace by praying with her and behaving like one of her spiritual children? Ask Mary to pray for my healing and purification in body and soul.