

## PARISH FAMILY ABLAZE: MATRIMONY—PRAXIS (3-3-19)

### 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: CELEBRATION AND EFFECTS

- I. Celebration (The Order of Celebrating Matrimony, Numbers 59-74)
  - A. Priest Addresses the Couple

Dearly beloved, you have come together into the house of the Church,  
so that in the presence of the Church's minister and the community  
your intention to enter into Marriage  
may be strengthened by the Lord with a sacred seal.  
Christ abundantly blesses the love that binds you.  
Through a special Sacrament, He enriches and strengthens  
those He has already consecrated by Holy Baptism,  
that they may be faithful to each other for ever  
and assume all the responsibilities of married life.  
And so, in the presence of the Church, I ask you to state your intentions.
  - B. The Questions before the Consent
    1. Have you come here to enter into Marriage without coercion, freely  
and wholeheartedly? (I have.)
    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? (I am.)
    3. Are you prepared to accept children lovingly from God  
and to bring them up according to the law of Christ and His  
Church? (I am.)
  - C. The Consent (by intention—free, total, faithful, and fruitful)
    1. Priest: Since it is your intention to enter the covenant of Holy  
Matrimony, join your right hands and declare your consent before  
God and His Church.
    2. Bridegroom, then Bride:  
I, \_\_\_\_, take you, \_\_\_\_, to be my wife/husband.  
I promise to be faithful to you,  
in good times and in bad,  
in sickness and in health,  
to love you and to honor you  
all the days of my life.

- D. The Reception of the Consent
    - 1. Priest: May the Lord in His kindness strengthen the consent you have declared before the Church, and graciously bring to fulfillment His blessing within you. What God joins together, let no one put asunder. Let us bless the Lord.
    - 2. All reply: Thanks be to God.
  - E. The Blessing and Giving of Rings
    - 1. Priest: May the Lord bless + these rings, which you will give each other as a sign of love and fidelity. (Amen)
    - 2. Bridegroom first, then Bride:
      - \_\_\_\_, receive this ring as a sign of my love and fidelity.
      - In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
  - F. Nuptial Blessing (Epiclesis): Includes the words "Send down on them the grace of the Holy Spirit and pour Your love into their hearts, that they may remain faithful in the Marriage covenant."
- II. The Effects of the Sacrament (Catechism of the Catholic Church, Numbers 1638-1642)
- A. God seals this perpetual and exclusive marriage bond with a covenant guarantee.
    - 1. The couple's love is drawn up into God's love.
    - 2. A ratified and consummated marriage = an indissoluble/irrevocable bond
  - B. Sacramental Graces (Christ, the Bridegroom, as the Source)
    - 1. Perfect the couple's love
    - 2. Strengthen their indissoluble unity
    - 3. Give the couple the ability to help one another attain holiness
    - 4. Help them welcome and educate children

## QUESTIONS (T/F)

1. The Sacrament of Matrimony is conferred on the couple by the priest.
2. On their wedding day, a couple may actually become sacramentally married without receiving any of the graces of the Sacrament of Matrimony.
3. At a sacramental wedding, the exchange of consent between the couple is the essential element that makes them married.
4. For a Catholic to get permission to marry a non-Catholic Christian, he or she must promise to continue to practice the faith and to ensure the baptism and education of the children in the Catholic Church.
5. Priests normally receive the Sacrament of Holy Orders within a Holy Mass, whereas Catholic couples normally do not receive the Sacrament of Matrimony within a Holy Mass.
6. It is never possible for a Catholic to marry a Muslim or a Jew.
7. A Jewish couple that was divorced in Christ's lifetime were in the same situation as a Catholic couple divorced in our time.

8. At a Catholic home (which is a “domestic church”), parents are to be the primary educators of their children, but at school, teachers replace the parents as the primary educators.
9. If a non-Catholic is divorced, he is free to marry a Catholic who has never been married before.
10. For the marital act to be holy (true and loving), neither the husband nor the wife should have the intention of not having a child from this act.

## **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.