

## Matrimony Catechist Preparation

### Consider the following statement:

God created us, male and female to reflect his own image and likeness. He intended man and woman to be united to each other in love. This union of love constitutes and sustains family life which itself mirrors the life of the Trinity.

*Keeping the above statement in mind, read and meditate on the following passages:*

### Scripture:

Gen. 1:27-28 “God created man in his image...male and female he created them.”

Gen. 2:18-25 “ a man leaves his father and mother and cleaves to his wife..”

Ps. 128:3-4 “ your children like olive plants..”

Ez 16:8 “..I swore an oath with you and entered into a covenant with you.”

Mtt. 19:4-6 On Marriage & Divorce

Jn. 2:1-11 The Wedding at Cana

Eph 5:25-27 Nuptial Mystery: “Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the Church...”

Rev 19:7 “...The wedding feast of the Lamb has come..”

### Catechism:

CCC 1602-1620 Marriage in God’s Plan

CCC 1621-1624 The Celebration of Marriage

CCC 1625-1637 Matrimonial Consent

CCC 1638-1642 The Effects of the Sacrament of Matrimony

CCC 1643-1654 The Goods and Requirements of Conjugal Love

CCC 1655-1658 The Domestic Church

### Key Words:

Sacrament: A sacred sign, instituted by Christ, by which a person receives God’s Divine Life within their soul. (See CCC, p.898)

Matrimony: A covenant between a man and a woman, ordered to the well-being of the spouses and to the procreation and upbringing of children.

Covenant: A solemn agreement between human beings or between God and humanity. A covenant is a mutual permanent commitment to the *other* involving the giving of oneself (even at a personal cost to self), for the good of the other. (See CCC, p.873)

*“ ..How wonderful the bond between two believers, now one in hope, one in desire, one in discipline, one in the same service! They are both children of one Father and servants of the same Master, undivided in spirit and flesh, truly two in one flesh. Where the flesh is one, one also is the spirit.”*

(Tertullian – CCC, 1642)

# Matrimony

## Catechetical Session

### Preparation:

Hymn (Vs 1-2) *Love Divine All Love Excelling*

First Reading: Gen. 2:18-25

Response: Psalm 28

Gospel: Matt. 19:1-6

**Proclamation:** God created us, male and female to reflect his own image and likeness. He intended man and woman to be united to each other in love. This union of love constitutes and sustains family life which itself mirrors the life of the Trinity.

### Explanation:

#### **I) Marriage in God's Plan**

##### **a) God Himself is the author of marriage:**

- Marriage is a reflection of Who God is: Man & Woman created in the image and likeness of God – marriage is a reflection of the Blessed Trinity – reflection of the image of God –
  
- Marriage is a reflection of What God is like He created man & woman to also reflect His nature. What is the nature of God. The nature of God is unconditional absolute complete love for each one of us. God created man and woman called them to have an unfailing absolute mutual love for each other. This reflects the unfailing and absolute love God has for man.

Husband & Wife are called to have that same complete, total love for each other, and are called to directly reflect the Blessed Trinity as a communion of love.

##### **b) Characteristics of Divine Love:**

- Husband & Wife are not called to reflect merely human/worldly love but God's Love – Divine Love – different from just emotional love.

(For those who are preparing for marriage – if you are afraid that perhaps something may happen to you down the unknown road of marriage– what I am about to tell you if you take to heart will put your mind to rest). I am going to outline the difference between entering marriage based on a human/worldly understanding of love, and entering marriage based on God's understanding of love. We are called to God's way of love, because God is Love, and it is only in understanding and following Divine Love that one can enter marriage with complete peace and joy.

## Human/Worldly Understanding of Love

I) Love is having deep feelings for someone

II) I will be faithful if you meet my needs.

If I'm not getting my emotional/physical needs met,  
I have the right to look around.

III) I have to do what is best for me. If I don't

want to have children/prefer a career –  
I have the right to live my life the way I want to.

III) You owe me !(unusual)-

e.g. High School teenagers - party get drunk, girl is  
pregnant, father is enraged forces the teens  
to get married – marriage under duress.

IV) If marriage works for me, I'll stick with it. If it isn't

what I thought it would be like I can always just  
leave, or get a divorce.  
(relationship open to manipulation)

Marriage is about what I get from you.

## Divine Love

Love is more than a feeling.

It is completely seeking the  
good of the other person.  
(sometimes attractive feelings  
may be there, and other times  
they may not be there). To  
love is to want what is best  
for the other person.(want  
them to go to heaven) –  
nature of God

Love is faithful. No matter how

different we are, how we  
struggle to understand each  
other. How difficult life is to  
us – I will never leave you. I  
love you – I will always be  
by your side. – nature of God

Love is fruitful. Children are

a gift that shows our  
total love for each other.  
(For serious reason can  
abstain). – nature of God.

Love is free. Love can never

be forced. In marriage it is  
the free choice to give  
oneself to another – nature of  
God.

Love is life-long. I love you -

I promised you that I would  
never leave you – in sickness  
or in health, for richer, for  
poorer, in good times and bad  
I will never leave you – I am  
committed to you for life.  
(relationship based on trust)  
- nature of God.

Marriage is about what I give

to you – I give my very self  
to you that I may love you  
faithfully, freely, fruitfully &  
for life.



### **Application**

1. How is marriage a reflection of the Blessed Trinity?
2. What is meant by – it takes three to get married?
3. What are the principles of true love – (Divine Love) for marriage?
4. Why is marriage (matrimony) a sacrament?
5. What conditions need to be present for the marriage to be authentic (i.e. valid)?
6. In what way is the family “the domestic church”?
7. Name 2-3 false beliefs that pertain to marriage – why are they false?
8. What do you think makes authentic love between husband & wife grow in marriage?
9. How is your understanding of marriage different/same as a result of this teaching?

### **Celebration/Conclusion:**

Hymn (Vs. 3-4) *Love Divine All Love Excelling*

Closing Prayer

**Human/Worldly Understanding of Love**

I) Love is having deep feelings for someone

II) I will be faithful if you meet my needs.

III) I have to do what is best for me.

III) You owe me !(unusual)-

IV) If marriage works for me, I'll stick with it.

Marriage is about what I get from you.

**Divine Love**

Love is more than a feeling.

Love is faithful.

Love is fruitful.

Love is free.

Love is life-long.

Marriage is about what I give to you.

