



St Francis of Assisi Parish



REFLECTION

ON MARRIAGE, THE FAMILY SACRAMENT A Teaching from Vatican 2

By the Covenant of Marriage, husband and wife are no longer two but one flesh. By their intimate union of persons and actions they give mutual help and service to each other, experience the meaning of their unity and gain an ever-deeper understanding of it day by day. This intimate union in the mutual self-giving of two persons as well as the good of the children, demands full fidelity from both and an indissoluble unity between them.

Christ the Lord has abundantly blessed this richly complex love, which springs from the divine source of love and is founded on the model of His union with the Church he has founded. In earlier years God met his people in a Covenant of love and fidelity. Now the Saviour of the mankind meets Christian couples in the Sacrament of Marriage. Further, he remains with them in order that, as he loved the Church and gave himself up for her, so husband and wife may love each other in mutual giving with perpetual fidelity. So, true married love is caught up into God's love. It is guided and enriched by the redeeming power of Christ and the saving action of the Church in order that the partners may be effectively led to God and receive help and strength in the sublime responsibility of parenthood.

Hence, Christian parents are strengthened and consecrated by the special Sacrament for the duties and the dignity of their state. By the power of this Sacrament, they fulfill their obligation to each other and to the family and are filled with the Spirit of Christ. This Spirit pervades their whole lives with faith, hope and love. Thus, they promote their own perfection and each other's sanctification and thus contribute to the greater glory of God.

Hence, parents leading the way by example and family prayer, their children and all within the family circle, will find it easier to make progress in natural virtues, in salvation and in holiness. The husband and wife raised to the dignity and responsibility of parenthood, will be zealous in fulfilling the tasks as educators in the sphere of religious education which is their primary task. Children as active members of the family, contribute in their own way to the holiness of parents and will stand by them as true sons and daughters when their parents meet with hardship and the loneliness of old age.

This is the great mystery of love effected by Jesus Christ in all Christian families. May all Christian families be blessed.

God bless.

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Parish Priest

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