

Household Church ... Say What?

The Church wants every family and household to be a *little church*, “a community of grace and prayer, a school of human virtues and of Christian charity.” (CCC 1666)



Home Is Where the Heart Is

The Catechism explains that our home is the first school of Christianity for our families. We are enriched by learning from each other. We learn to do holy work, like making beds and taking out the trash. We learn to love and to be generous. Forgiveness is something we learn to give and to receive, often many times! And we learn to pray and give thanks to God for everything!



“...This is my beloved and this is my friend...” (Song of Solomon 5: 16)



Mr. and Mrs. Right?

Whether married 5 months, 5 years or 50 years, we all come to a time when we question our choice of spouse. Have I married the wrong person? The Sacrament of Holy Matrimony gives us the grace to take this question to Our Lord and to seek the answer in love and humility.



The Working Parents Guide Sacraments on the Run



Holy Matrimony

Many little girls dream of their wedding day. They dream of their dress, where they will say, “I do,” and what their husband may look like. They even may dream of the reception colors and what they absolutely *have* to have! Little boys, on the other hand, usually don’t think much about their wedding until they start planning for it with their fiancé. But as we know, a beautiful wedding doesn’t make a great marriage. Like any other sacrament, Matrimony takes preparation and an understanding of how God is calling the couple to live. Our children may not understand that spending intimate time together is vital for the good of our marriage as a sacrament. Unlike most other sacraments, this sacrament of vocation is lived each day, with the husband and wife recommitting themselves to each other and their marriage. Children may learn a great deal from watching us relate with our spouse. After all, everyone wants their children to be happy in marriage and the Church wants that too!

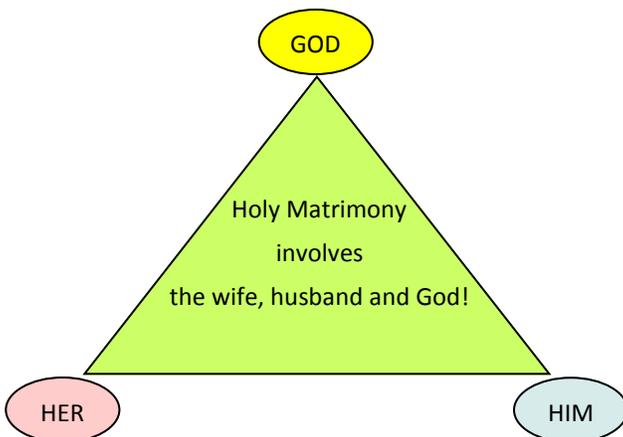


Why is Holy Matrimony so Important?

The Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC 1601-1666) speaks of God’s plan for a husband and a wife. Marriage is:

- +a covenant, based on God’s loving relationship with His people, not merely a contract
- +a source of grace where both the husband and wife are strengthened in their love
- +the example that builds the family in faith and forms the next generation

Who’s Involved?



*When we place God in our marriage, we are more able to be loving to our spouse, children and community.

*When our children experience our love, they may want to put God in their lives too!

Try This!

*Help your child to invite God into his or her life by modeling this exercise: Open your arms as wide as you can and tell your child you love her or him “this much!” Point to the crucifix and say that Jesus is saying the same thing! Now hug your child and say that God loves us and is with us in our home.



Love and Marriage

“Husbands love your wives just as Christ loved the Church ...” (Ephesians 5: 25)

Jesus loves us unselfishly, dying for the Church, “the Bride of Christ.”

Children want to know how to love their families. They learn as we show hospitality and charity, and make sacrifices modeling Jesus’ love.



Marriage is very similar to the love that Jesus shared since we give ourselves completely to our spouse. It is not always an easy path, but with God’s grace we can take joy in our married life!

We increase our marriage joy when we are open to life. Whether through childbirth or adoption, God calls many people to be parents.



Stepping Stones...

We can help our children become loving adults ready for the Sacrament of Holy Matrimony by teaching them about:

HOSPITALITY: Modeling for our children how to welcome guests at home is a step towards spiritual maturity. Our children learn to see Christ in others and show kindness as they offer a cool drink and a warm handshake!

CHARITY: Children can learn a lot about how to treat people by loving their pets. They can practice charitable (loving) actions by caring for them making your child more able to love people.



SACRIFICES: It is sometimes hard to put *our* hard earned money in the collection at church, but children learn to make a little sacrifice and support the church when *they* share a few coins at Mass.