

Session 5



MATRIMONY AND HOLY ORDERS

THE SACRAMENTS
OF SERVICE & COMMUNION



SYMBOLON
THE CATHOLIC FAITH EXPLAINED

Nihil obstat: Ben Akers, S.T.L.

Imprimatur: Most Reverend Samuel J. Aquila, S.T.L., Archbishop of Denver

June 1, 2014

Copyright © 2014/2016 Augustine Institute. All rights reserved.

With the exception of short excerpts used in articles and critical reviews, no part of this work may be reproduced, transmitted, or stored in any form whatsoever, printed or electronic, without the prior permission of the publisher.

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass for Use in the Dioceses of the United States of America, second typical edition © 2001, 1998, 1997, 1986, 1970 Confraternity of Christian Doctrine, Inc., Washington, D.C. Used with permission. All rights reserved. No portion of this text may be reproduced by any means without permission in writing from the copyright owner.

Some Scripture verses contained herein are from the Catholic Edition of the Revised Standard Version of the Bible, copyright ©1965, 1966 by the Division of Christian Educators of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

English translation of the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* for the United States of America, copyright ©1994, United States Catholic Conference, Inc.—Libreria Editrice Vaticana. English translation of the *Catechism of the Catholic Church: Modification from the Editio Typica* copyright ©1997, United States Catholic Conference, Inc.—Libreria Editrice Vaticana.

Writers: Woodeene Koenig-Bricker, Lucas Pollice, Edward Sri, Sean Dalton

Media/Print Production: Brenda Kraft, Justin Leddick, Kevin Mallory, John Schmidt

Graphic Design: Stacy Innerst, Jane Myers

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

We would like to acknowledge with heartfelt gratitude the many catechists, teachers, and diocesan leaders from across the country that have given invaluable advice and guidance in the development of *Symbolon*:

Michael Andrews, Keith Borchers, Steve Bozza, Dr. Chris Burgwald, James Cavanagh, Chris Chapman, Fr. Dennis Gill, Jim Gontis, Dr. Tim Gray, Lisa Gulino, Mary Hanbury, Deacon Ray Helgeson, Dr. Sean Innerst, Ann Lankford, Deacon Kurt Lucas, Sean Martin, Martha Tonn, Kyle Neilson, Michelle Nilsson, Ken Ogorek, Dr. Claude Sasso, Scott Sollom, Deacon Jim Tighe, Mary Ann Wiesinger, and Gloria Zapiain.

Augustine Institute

6160 South Syracuse Way, Suite 310

Greenwood Village, CO 80111

Information: 303-937-4420

Formed.org

MATRIMONY AND HOLY ORDERS

The Sacraments of Service & Communion

INTRODUCTION

All marriages begin with hopes and dreams, but according to Professor Scott Stanley at the University of Denver, a young couple marrying for the first time today has a lifetime divorce risk of forty percent. And of those married couples who do stay together, how many truly reflect the loving union of man and woman that God intended marriage to be?

Perhaps part of the reason so many marriages struggle is that we forget marriage is a sacrament. The wedding ceremony is a wonderful event, but the Sacrament of Matrimony doesn't end with the vows on the wedding day; it just begins then. Through the sacrament, God gives married couples the grace they need to live their call to service, sacrifice, mutual sanctification, openness to new life, and lifelong faithfulness to each other.

A strong marriage is formed day by day, over a lifetime, as a husband and wife grow in love, trust, and mutual self-giving.

None of these things are easy. But through the graces of the sacrament, those who are called to the married state are given strength to love as Christ loved—and to make their marriage a witness to God's own love for the world.

THIS SESSION WILL COVER:

- **Why marriage is a sacrament**
- **The concrete ways the sacrament helps couples every day**
- **How Christ's love for his Church is the model for marriage**
- **The importance of the lifelong commitment of marriage**
- **What an annulment is...and isn't**
- **The second sacrament of service—Holy Orders—and how this sacrament comes in an unbroken line from the Apostles**

OPENING PRAYER

God our Father, we give you thanks
for the gift of marriage: the bond of life and love,
and the font of the family.

The love of husband and wife enriches your Church with children,
fills the world with a multitude of spiritual fruitfulness and service,
and is the sign of the love of your Son, Jesus Christ, for his Church.

May your Holy Spirit enlighten our society
to treasure the heroic love of husband and wife,
and guide our leaders to sustain and protect
the singular place of mothers and fathers
in the lives of their children.

We ask all these things through Christ our Lord,
Amen.

—Prayer for the Defense of Marriage from the U.S. Catholic Bishops

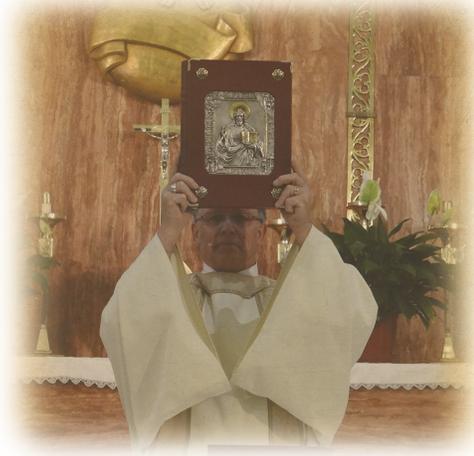
“If two pieces of wood are carefully glued together, their union will be so close that it is easier to break them in some fresh place than where they were joined; and God so united man and wife, that it is easier to sever soul and body than those two.”
—St. Francis de Sales

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What are the four aspects of Catholic marriage as reflected in the Sacrament of Matrimony, and what does each entail?
2. After his second divorce, a popular American entertainer had this to say about marriage in an interview on television: “Well if you have to work at it then maybe it’s not worth having... I have to work at everything else in my life. I have to work at my work. I just think a marriage should be easy, not hard.” How would you respond to that comment?
3. A priest said: “While it is true that no one will ever call me ‘daddy,’ thousands call me ‘Father.’” Why do we call priests “Father”?

CALL TO CONVERSION

After spending a few moments in prayer, write down your thoughts and reflections on the following questions:



#1 If you are married, how does your union signify the union of Christ and the Church? In what areas do you fall short? Where can you improve? Are you asking God for the daily grace of the Sacrament?

#2 If you aren't married, how can you use your single state to reflect Christ's sacrificial love and service to others more?

#3 Reflect on the following quote from Pope St. John Paul II:

“Marriage is an act of will that signifies and involves a mutual gift, which unites the spouses and binds them to their eventual souls, with whom they make up a sole family—a domestic church.”

How is the marriage relationship not just a feeling but an “act of the will”? How does this differ from what the world thinks about marriage?



CLOSING PRAYER

O God, Father of all mercies,
Provider of a bountiful harvest,
send your graces upon those
you have called to gather the
fruits of your labor;
preserve and strengthen them
in their lifelong service of you.

Open the hearts of your children
that they may discern your holy will;
inspire in them a love and desire to
surrender themselves to serving others
in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ.



Teach all your faithful to follow their respective paths in life
guided by your divine Word and truth.

Through the intercession of the Most Blessed Virgin Mary,
all the angels, and saints, humbly hear our prayers
and grant your Church's needs, through Christ, our Lord.
Amen.

—U.S. Catholic Bishops' Prayer for the Discernment of Vocations

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THE WEEK

**Here is a verse from the Bible that you can memorize and reflect
on this week to help you apply today's session to your daily life:**



*Therefore a man leaves his father and his mother and cleaves to his wife,
and they become one flesh.*

—Genesis 2:24

DO YOU WANT TO LEARN MORE ABOUT MARRIAGE AND HOLY ORDERS?

TO ENRICH YOUR CATHOLIC FAITH, VISIT formed.org

Where you'll find helpful videos, audio presentations, ebooks, and feature films from the most trustworthy presenters in the Catholic world.

For Further Reading:

For more in-depth reading about Matrimony and Holy Orders, see the following *Catechism* passages:

- *Marriage in God's Plan: CCC 1602–1605*
- *Marriage in the Lord: CCC 1612*
- *Marriage as a Model of Christ's Union with the Church: CCC 1616*
- *The Rites of Marriage: CCC 1621–1624*
- *Matrimonial Consent: CCC 1625–1629*
- *Mixed Marriage and Disparity of Cult: CCC 1633–1636*
- *Permanence of Marriage: CCC 1638–1640*
- *Grace of the Sacrament: CCC 1641–1642*
- *The Indissolubility of Marriage: CCC 1644*
- *Fidelity of Conjugal Love: CCC 1646*
- *Openness to Fertility: CCC 1652–1654*
- *Holy Orders: CCC 1536–1538*

Other Resources:

- *The United States Catechism for Adults, Chapters 20–21*
- *Life-Giving Love: Embracing God's Beautiful Design for Marriage* by Scott Hahn and Kimberly Hahn
- *Men, Women and the Mystery of Love: Practical Insights from John Paul II's Love and Responsibility* by Edward Sri
- *Three to Get Married* by Venerable Fulton J. Sheen
- *Marriage: The Mystery of Faithful Love* by Dietrich Von Hildebrand
- *Marriage: Love and Life in the Divine Plan* from USCCB United States Conference of Catholic Bishops
- *Apostolic Exhortation Familiaris Consortio* by Pope St. John Paul II