

# 2020-2021 RCIA #22

3/15/21

# Part III: The Sacraments and Prayer (Chapter 35)

- Matrimony
  - God Made Marriage
  - Matrimony Has Special Graces
  - Foresight Makes Happy Marriages
  - Responsible Parenthood

# Matrimony

- Marriage was elevated to a sacrament by Jesus in:
  - His response to the Pharisee's question in **Mt 19:3-12**
  - The wedding feast at Cana in **John 2:1-11**
- Pope John Paul II devoted a great deal of his pontificate to his "Theology of the Body" which begins with the sacrament of Matrimony

# Matrimony (Cont)

- Church teaching stresses the need for permanence within marriage and sacredness of the marital act and the right use of our procreative powers within the institution of marriage

# Matrimony (Cont)

- Matrimony is the sacrament by which a baptized man and a baptized woman bind themselves for life in a lawful marriage and receive the graces to adjust to the faults of the other, accept responsible parenthood and discharge their duties as a couple

# Matrimony (Cont)

- The outward sign is the exchange of marital consent
- The ministers of the sacrament are the couple and the priest/deacon serves as a witness for the Church
- The couple receives both sanctifying and sacramental graces which elevate the couple to a supernatural love ensuring unity and indissolubility

# Matrimony (Cont)

- The differences between divorce and an annulment
  - Divorce – a civil matter
  - Annulment – a Church matter
- Requirements for marriage in this diocese
  - A 6 month time of preparation with a priest
  - Attendance at a marriage prep weekend
- It is helpful if the couple is living a sacramental life and begins to pray together

# Matrimony (Cont)

- Responsible Parenthood
  - The couple must be open to children
  - Parents must provide for the physical, economic, and spiritual well-being of children
  - The Church supports the teachings of Natural Family Planning (NFP)



# Matrimony (Cont)

- Love is:
  - An act of the will
  - Based on knowledge
  - That is a self-gift
  - Which is permanent
  - And is life-giving

# Part III: The Sacraments and Prayer (Chapter 36)

- The Sacramentals
  - Agents of Grace

# The Sacramentals

- A sacramental is an outward sign instituted by the *Church* and disposes us for grace by arousing in us sentiments of faith and love which make a claim for answering grace
- They are things or actions that the Church blesses and sets aside for religious use

# Sacramentals (Cont)

- Examples of sacramental actions include:
  - Blessings
    - Altar
    - Chalice
    - Vestments
    - Homes
    - Cars
    - Animals
  - Exorcisms
- A home should contain a crucifix, holy water and a sacrament for the sick kit

# Sacramentals (Cont)

- Examples Sacramental things include:
  - Holy water
  - Crucifix
  - Candles
  - Ashes
  - Palms
  - Medals
  - Rosaries
  - Scapulars
  - Images of Our Lord, the Blessed Mother and saints