

2023-2024 RCIA #22

3/11/24

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