

# The Sacrament of Matrimony

## A Helpful Reminder for our Faithful

*From the Catechism issued by His Holiness Pope Pius X*

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### I. NATURE OF THE SACRAMENT OF MATRIMONY

#### **Q1: What is the sacrament of Matrimony?**

Matrimony is a sacrament, instituted by Our Lord Jesus Christ, which creates a holy and indissoluble union between a man and woman, and gives them grace to love one another holily and to bring up their children as Christians.

#### **Q2: By whom was Matrimony instituted?**

Matrimony was instituted by God Himself in the Garden of Paradise, and was raised to the dignity of a sacrament by Jesus Christ in the New Law.

#### **Q3: Has the sacrament of Matrimony any special signification?**

The sacrament of Matrimony signifies the indissoluble union of Jesus Christ with the Church, His Spouse, and our holy Mother.

#### **Q4: Why do we say that the bond of marriage is indissoluble?**

We say that the bond of marriage is indissoluble or that it cannot be dissolved except by the death of either husband or wife, because God so ordained from the beginning and so Jesus Christ our Lord solemnly proclaimed.

#### **Q5: Can the contract be separated from the sacrament in Christian marriage?**

No, in marriage among Christians the contract cannot be separated from the sacrament, because, for Christians, marriage is nothing else than the natural contract itself, raised by Jesus Christ to the dignity of a sacrament.

#### **Q6: Among Christians, then, there can be no true marriage that is not a sacrament?**

Among Christians there can be no true marriage that is not a sacrament.

**Q7: What effects does the sacrament of Matrimony produce?**

The sacrament of matrimony:

(1) Gives an increase of sanctifying grace;

(2) Gives a special grace for the faithful discharge of all the duties of the married state.

**II. MINISTER – RITE – DISPOSITION**

**Q8: Who are the Ministers of this sacrament?**

The Ministers of this sacrament are the couple themselves, who together confer and receive the sacrament.

**Q9: How is this sacrament administered?**

This sacrament, preserving as it does the nature of a contract, is administered by the contracting parties themselves, who declare, in the presence of the parish priest or another priest delegated by him, and of two witnesses, that they take each other in marriage.

**Q10: What use, then, is the blessing which the parish priest gives to the married couple?**

The blessing which the parish priest gives to the married couple is not necessary to constitute the sacrament, but it is given to sanction their union in the name of the Church and to invoke on them more abundantly the blessing of God.

**Q11: What intention should those have who contract marriage?**

Those who contract marriage should have the intention:

(1) Of doing the will of God, who calls them to that state;

(2) Of working out in that state the salvation of their souls;

(3) Of bringing up their children as Christians, if God should bless them with any.

**Q12: How should those about to be married prepare themselves to receive this sacrament with fruit?**

In order to receive this sacrament with fruit, those about to be married should:

(1) Earnestly recommend themselves to God, so as to know His will and obtain the graces necessary for that state;



**In front of the Catholic-confiscated church now being used as the Lutheran cathedral. From here, Father Lindström led us all in a Rosary walk of Reparation through sites which were once Catholic but now destroyed or taken over by the Lutherans.**

(2) Consult their parents before making any promise, because obedience and the respect due to them demand this;

(3) Prepare themselves by a good confession, or, if necessary, a general confession of their whole life;

(4) Avoid all dangerous familiarity in word or act while in each other's company.

**Q13: Which are the principal obligations of married persons?**

Married persons should:

(1) Guard inviolably their conjugal fidelity and behave always and in all things as Christians;

2) Love one another, bear patiently with one another, and live in peace and concord;

(3) Think seriously of providing for their children, if they have any, according to their needs; bring them up as Christians, and leave them free to choose the state of life to which they are called by God. [FC](#)