

Fatima  
for the Next  
Generation

Cleveland, OH

# YOUTH CONFERENCE 2019

September 20th—22nd

*What No One Ever Tells  
You About Marriage*

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## Prayer:

*V. Jesus, Mary, Joseph,*

*R.* Bless us and grant us the grace of loving Holy Mother Church as we are bound to do, above every earthly thing, and of ever showing forth our love by the witness of our deeds.

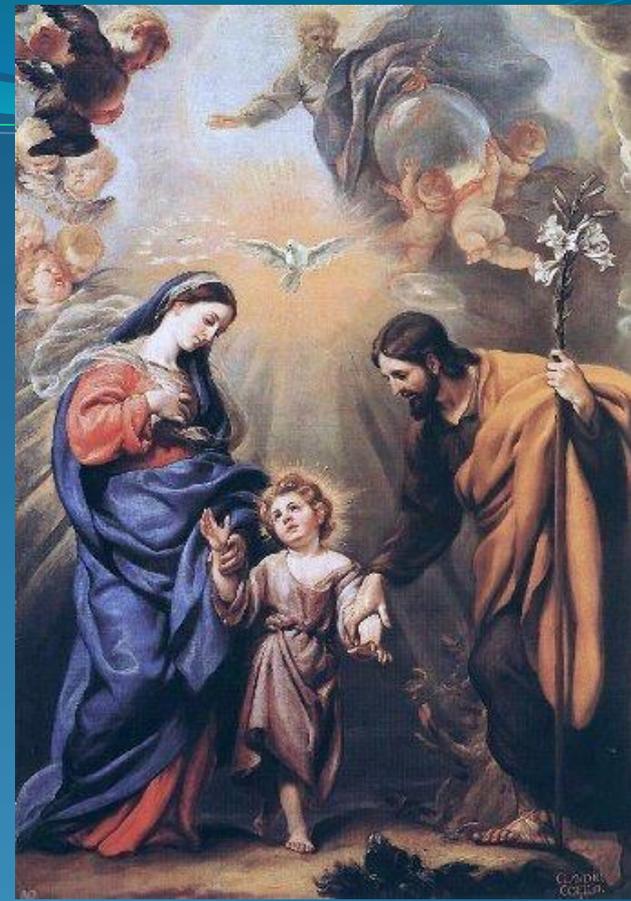
*V. Jesus, Mary, Joseph,*

*R.* Bless us and grant us the grace of conforming our lives fully, as we are bound to do, to the commandments of God's law and that of His Holy Church So as to live always in that charity which they set forth.

*V. Lord Jesus Christ, who being made subject to Mary and Joseph,*

*R.* Didst consecrate domestic life by Thine ineffable virtues; grant that we, with the assistance of both, may be taught by the example of Thy holy Family and may attain to its everlasting fellowship.

*V. Glory be...*



# To live a good Catholic Marriage

**(1) You will have to be counter-cultural!**

Divorce

Unnatural  
Vice

Contraception

Abortion

“free”  
Unions



# **(1) You will have to be counter-cultural!**

Christ is the true light, which enlighteneth every man that cometh into this world. He was in the world, and the world was made by Him, and the world knew Him not. He came unto His own, and His own received Him not. But as many as received Him, He gave them power to be made sons of God, to them that believe in His Name.

- John 1:9-12

# To live a good Catholic Marriage

**(2) Believe “Divorce is NOT an option.”**



# To live a good Catholic Marriage

## **(3) Check Your Expectations!**

- No “fairy-tale” happily ever after...
- No Mr./Mrs. “Perfect”
- There is a Mr./Mrs. “Right”

# To live a good Catholic Marriage

## **(3) Check Your Expectations!**

- ✝ When you have a sacramental marriage, you know this is God's will for you, and that your spouse is "right" for you.
  - ⇒ Never doubt this!
  - ⇒ Never doubt the Sacrament!

# To live a good Catholic Marriage

## **(3) Check Your Expectations!**

- Anger, frustration, disillusionment...  
despair stem from *expectations*.
- When you find yourself getting  
angry - *stop* and  
evaluate your expectations.

# To live a good Catholic Marriage

## **(3) Check Your Expectations!**

- Do not expect to change your spouse.  
You can change yourself.
- Keep your eyes wide open before marriage, half shut afterwards.

**But before all things have a constant mutual charity among yourselves: for charity covereth a multitude of sins.**

**- St. Peter (1 Pt 4:8)**

Charity is patient, is kind: charity envieth not, dealeth not perversely; is not puffed up; is not ambitious, seeketh not her own, is not provoked to anger, thinketh no evil; Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth with the truth; beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things.

Charity never falleth away.

– St. Paul (1 Cor 13:4-8)

# To live a good Catholic Marriage

## **(4) Follow God's right order!**

✝ God is the Author of Marriage.

✝ God has made it holy.

⇒ Only in this right order  
is found true beauty:

⇒ Joy and Peace

# To live a good Catholic Marriage

## (4) Follow God's right order!

“In Christian marriage the **contract** is inseparable from the **sacrament**, and that, for this reason, the contract cannot be true and legitimate without being a sacrament as well.”

- Pope Leo XIII

*Arcanum Divinæ*

10 Feb 1880

# To live a good Catholic Marriage

**Man and Woman have different roles.**

“Let women be subject to their husbands, as to the Lord: Because the husband is the head of the wife, as Christ is the head of the Church... Husbands, love your wives, as Christ also loved the Church, and delivered Himself up for it.”

- Ephesians 5:22-33

## **(4) Follow God's right order!**

✦ Understand authentic **love**

**To desire, and act for, the [ultimate] good of  
the other, no matter the sacrifice to oneself.**

## (4) Follow God's right order!

- Seek **JOY** not happiness
- Life is not about “being happy.”
  - ⇒ **Happiness**: What I like, what I want, feeling good, looking good – *my will*
  - ⇒ **JOY**: Being Good. Doing the good for another. Not my will but thine. Accepting the will of God.

## **(4) Follow God's right order!**

- **JOY** brings peace
  - ✦ “Secret of Peace”

“Son, I will teach thee now the way of peace and true liberty.

[1] Endeavor rather to do the will of another than thy own.

[2] Ever choose rather to have less than more.

[3] Always seek the lowest place and to be inferior to everyone.

[4] Always wish & pray that the will of God may be entirely fulfilled in thee.

Behold, such a man as this enters upon the coasts of peace and rest.”

- Thomas à Kempis  
*Imitation of Christ*, Book 3, Chp 23

# To live a good Catholic Marriage

## **(5) Reject Selfishness, the poison that destroys marriage!**

- In this context, selfishness, not hate, is the opposite of love.
- People mask selfishness with the façade of “I just want to be happy.”
- Consider the good of *others*: children, community, society, state

## **(5) Reject Selfishness, the poison that destroys marriage!**

- Marriage is a **Social Institution**
  - ⇒ The family is the basic building block of society
  - ⇒ It exists for the common good
  - ⇒ By living my marriage well, I strengthen society, help my country, honor the Church, and glorify God
- Raising children helps us overcome our selfishness.

# To live a good Catholic Marriage

## (6) Embrace its Primary End:

### Procreation and Formation of Children

- Natural End – to propagate the human race
- Supernatural End – to populate Heaven
- Children are a great blessing!

## **(6) Embrace its Primary End: Procreation and Formation of Children**

- Children should serve as “glue” in a marriage.
- “If you are not ready to have children, then you are not ready for marriage.”
- Every child has the right to be born to a married father and mother, who love each other, and strive for a healthy family and stable home.

## **(6) Embrace its Primary End: Procreation and Formation of Children**

- There are serious problems with “Natural Family Planning.”
  - **See Pius XII’s**  
*Address to Midwives* (1951)
  - **St. John Mary Vianney:**  
“Many women go to hell for not having the number of children they should have had.”
- Strongly exhort you to stay far away from “Theology of Body”

# To live a good Catholic Marriage

## (7) Accept “Marriage is Your Cross!”

- ✝ If married, this is your privileged means of sanctification.
  - ⇒ Live a daily “death-to-self”
- ✝ Your spouse is your cross.
  - ⇒ And a ‘ladder’ to Heaven
  - ⇒ Meant to go up Calvary together
  - ⇒ Your children also form your cross.

# To live a good Catholic Marriage

## (7) Accept “Marriage is Your Cross!”

✝ Pray every day to *love your cross*.

⇒ How sweet the cross,  
how light the burden

⇒ Embrace your cross.

⇒ **Choose daily to love  
your spouse.**

# To live a good Catholic Marriage

## (7) Accept “Marriage is Your Cross!”

- ✝ Pray every day to *love your cross*.
- ✝ Realize, everyone MUST be crucified.
  - ⇒ Only path to Heaven.
  - ⇒ If not in this life, then in the next (Purgatory, or worse, Hell)

“And Jesus said to all: If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me.”

- Luke 9:23

## (7) Accept “Marriage is Your Cross!”

- ✚ Be prepared to *suffer*.
  - ⇒ Lowest of lows...
  - ⇒ Moments of great CRISIS
- ✚ Croatian Catholic custom of a “wedding crucifix”
  - ⇒ Široki-Brijeg,  
population 26,000
  - ⇒ Zero-divorce rate!

# To live a good Catholic Marriage

## (8) Place God First

- Enthrone Christ as King.
- Stay close to the sacraments.
- Pray together.
- Actively pray for matrimonial graces.
- Thank God.
- Trust God.

**“I would rather see you dead at my feet than have you commit a mortal sin.”**

**“I will always choose God over you, So don't make me choose.”**

**“The Lord gave, and the Lord taketh away; blessed be the Name of the Lord.**

# To live a good Catholic Marriage

## **(9) Place Your Spouse Next**

- Your spouse must have the highest priority.
- Always be united.
- Establish routines.
- The secondary end of marriage is the unity and perfection of spouses.

# To live a good Catholic Marriage

## (9) Place Your Spouse Next

- Use secular wisdom as grace builds on nature; though not uncritically.
  - ⇒ Temperament
    - ⇒ Choleric, Sanguine, Melancholic, Phlegmatic
  - ⇒ “Love Language”
    - ⇒ Words of Affirmation, Acts of Service, Receiving Gifts, Quality Time, Physical Contact
  - ⇒ Tendencies
    - ⇒ Upholder, Questioner, Obliger, Rebel

# A Suggested Bibliography:

## Papal Teaching on Marriage (www.papalencyclicals.net)

- 🌀 Leo XIII's encyclical on marriage, *Arcanum Divinæ* (1880)
- 🌀 Pius XI's encyclical on marriage, *Casti Connubii* (1930)
- 🌀 Pius XII's *Address to Midwives* (1951)

## Helpful Catholic Material:

- 🌀 Pius XII. *Dear Newlyweds*. Sarto House, 1961.
- 🌀 Fr. Alan Delagneau. *Advice for Successful Families*. Angelus Press, 2013.
- 🌀 Abp. Fulton Sheen. *Three to Get Married*. Scepter Pub, 1951.
- 🌀 Fr. Paul Wickens. *Husband and Wife*. TAN, 1992.
- 🌀 Fr. Conrad Hock. *The Four Temperaments*. 1934. revised by Fr. Nicholas Wilwers. The Pallottine Fathers Inc. 1962.
- 🌀 Charles Hugo Doyle. *Sins of Parents*. Nugent Press, 1951.

## Some Lighter Reading:

- 🌀 Ferdinand Holbock. *Married Saints and Blesseds Through the Centuries*. Ignatius Press, 2001.
- 🌀 Joan Carroll Cruz. *Lay Saints Models of Family Life*. TAN, 2015.
- 🌀 Marry Reed Newland. *How to Raise Good Catholic Children*. Sophia Press, 2004.
- 🌀 Art and Lorraine Bennett. *The Temperament God Gave You*. Sophia, 2005.
- 🌀 Art and Lorraine Bennett. *The Temperament God Gave Your Spouse*. Sophia, 2008.

## “Marriage and Family”

Audio course and sermons through the St. Vincent Ferrer Foundation.

## For the More Philosophically Inclined:

- 🌀 Don Pietro Leone. *The Family Under Attack*. Lepanto Pub, 2015.

## Non-Catholic material:

May be helpful for practical advice and ease of readability, but should still be read with a critical eye.

- 🌀 Gary Chapman's *The Five Love Languages*.
- 🌀 Jeff & Shaunti Feldhahn's *For Men Only*
- 🌀 Shaunti Feldhahn's *For Women Only*.
- 🌀 John Gottman's *Seven Principles for Making Marriage Work*.
- 🌀 Gretchen Rubin's *The Four Tendencies*.

# To live a good Catholic Marriage

## (10) MAKE YOUR MARRIAGE YOUR

# LIFE'S WORK

- † What brings the most joy in this life?
- † What will really matter unto eternity?
  - ⇒ The salvation of souls...
  - ⇒ Consider having a family motto to help stay focused on the prize

**Zusammen im Himmel - “Together in Heaven”**

**Excercere Debemus Caelum - “Let us Practice for Heaven”**