



What No One Ever Tells You About Marriage – Part II

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Marriage is Under Attack!



“Father, a time will come when the decisive battle between the kingdom of Christ and satan will be over marriage and the family. And those who will for the good of the family will experience persecution and tribulation. But do not be afraid, because Our Lady has already crushed his head.”



Marriage is Under Attack!



Cardinal Carlo Caffara (+ 2017)

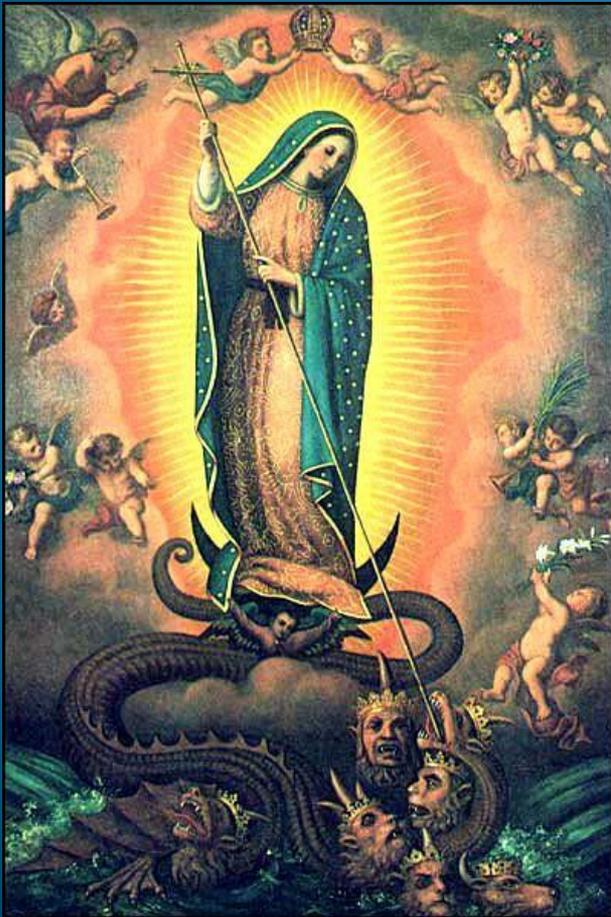
“Sr. Lucia’s prophecy is being fulfilled today... satan is attempting to destroy the two pillars of creation, so as to fashion his own ‘anti-creation’, and in this battle woman is the human being who must be defended the most.”

Marriage is Under Attack!

“As for the Sacrament of Matrimony, which symbolizes the union of Christ with His Church, it will be attacked and profaned in the fullest sense of the word. Iniquitous laws will be enacted with the aim of doing away with the Sacrament, making it easy for everyone to live in sin and encouraging the procreation of illegitimate children born without the blessing of the Church. The Catholic spirit will rapidly decay...



A defense of Holy Matrimony is essential!



- (1) Satan is attacking it.
- (2) Society is attacking it.
- (3) The Church is not defending it sufficiently.
- (4) Many of you will most likely get married.

**YOU WILL BE THE ONES WHO
MUST DEFEND MARRIAGE!**



To live a good Catholic Marriage

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



To live a good Catholic Marriage

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



To live a good Catholic Marriage

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(3) Check Your Expectations!



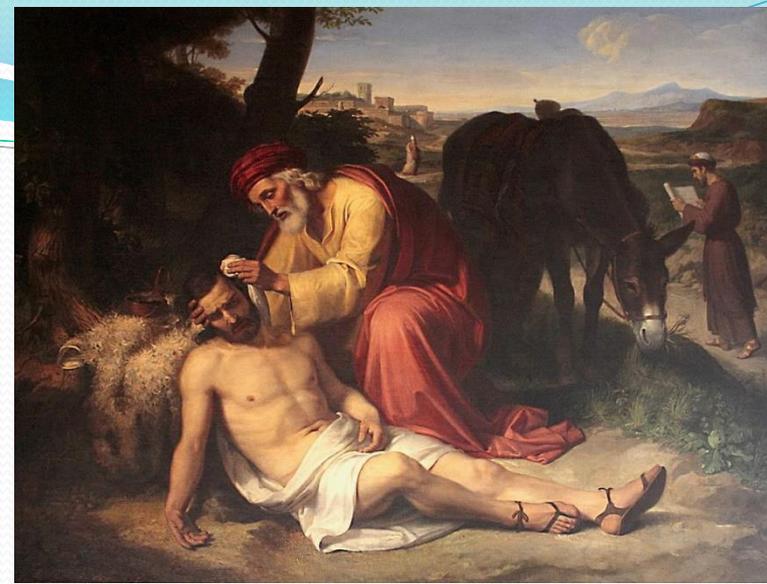
To live a good Catholic Marriage

- (1) You will have to be counter-cultural!**
- (2) Believe “Divorce is NOT an option.”**
- (3) Check Your Expectations!**
- (4) Follow God’s right order.**



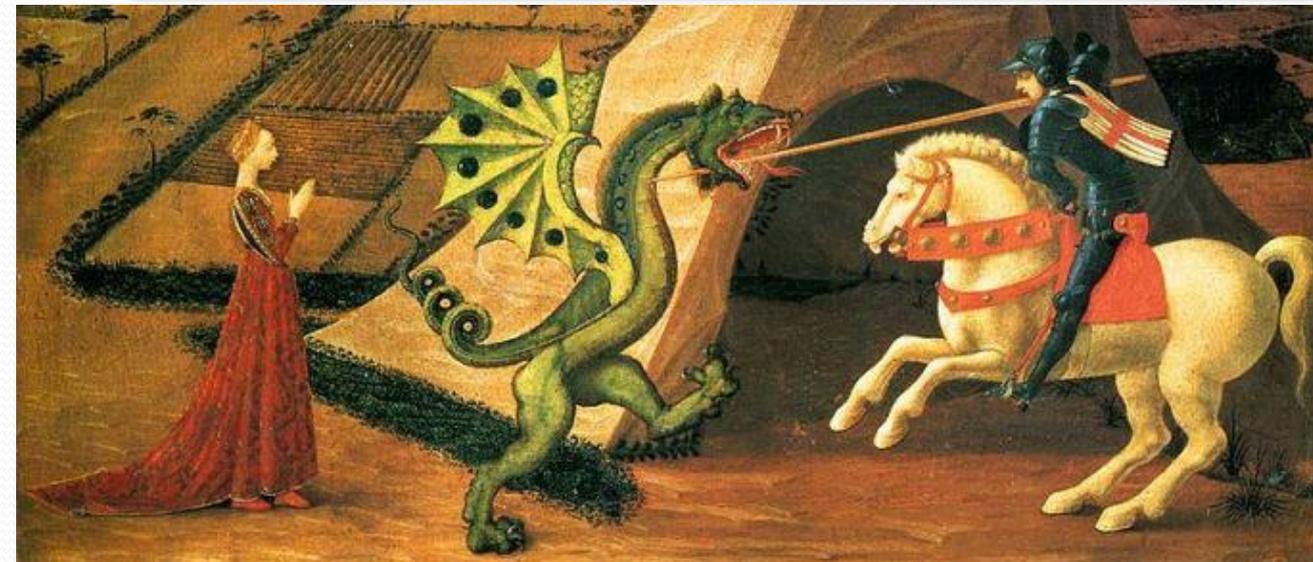
(4) Follow God's right order.

✝ Understand authentic **love**



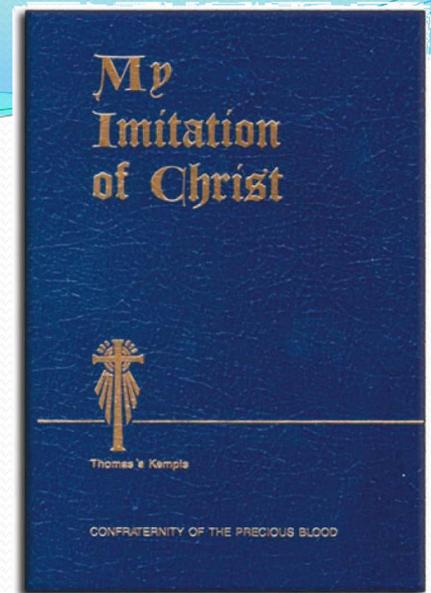
To desire, and act for, the [ultimate] good of the other, no matter the sacrifice to oneself.

- Seek **JOY** not happiness



(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!

- People mask selfishness with the façade of “I just want to be happy.”
- Consider the good of *others*: children, community, society, state
- Marriage is a **Social Institution**
 - ⇒ The family is the basic building block of society
 - ⇒ It exists for the common good
- 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.



To live a good Catholic Marriage

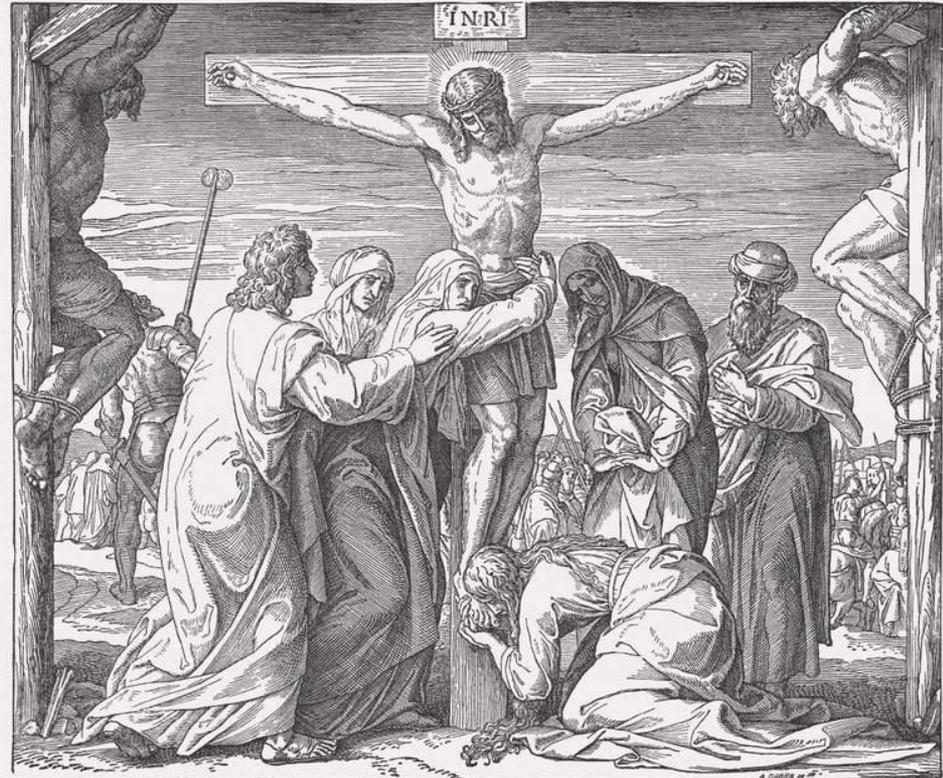
(7) Accept “Marriage is Your Cross!”

✝ 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.

“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



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)



(7) Accept “Marriage is Your Cross!”

- ✝ Be prepared to *suffer*.
- ⇒ Lowest of lows...
- ⇒ Moments of great CRISIS



(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.

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

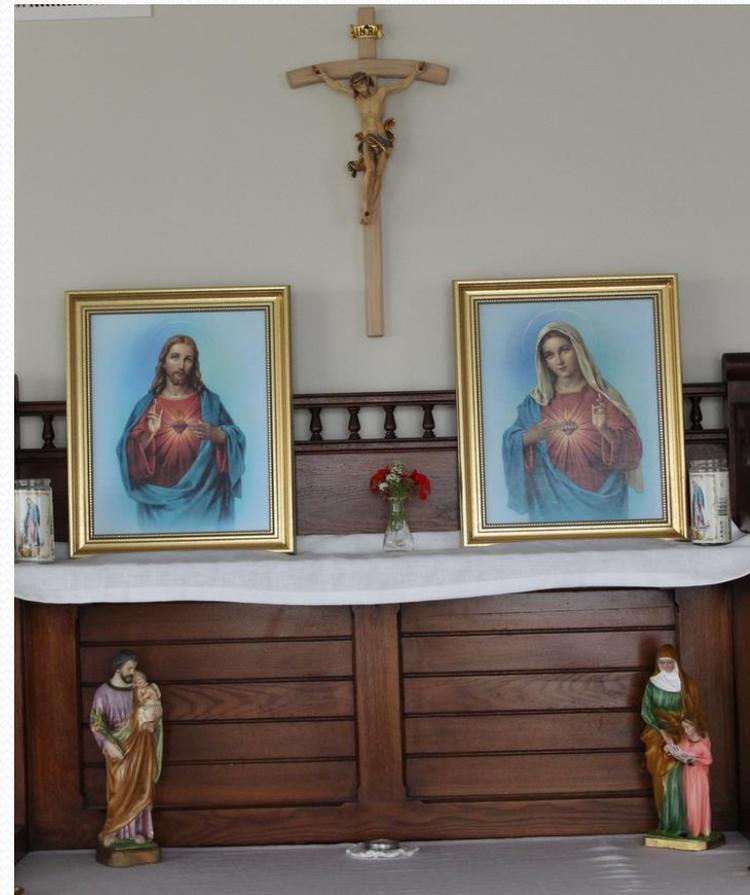
**“I will always choose God over you,
So don't make me choose.”**



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.



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



**Always be
united!**

To live a good Catholic Marriage

(9) Place Your Spouse Next

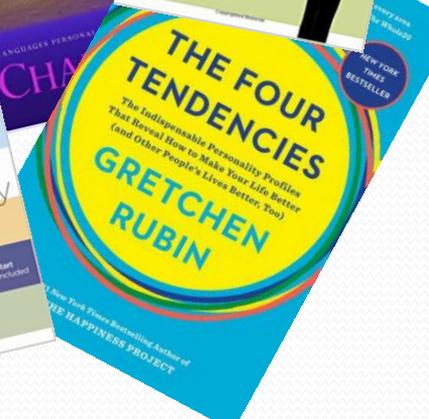
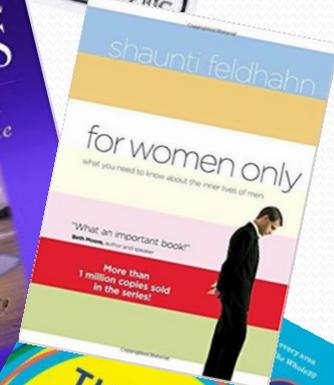
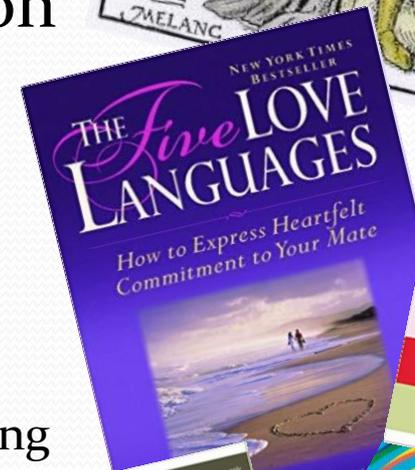
- Your spouse must have the highest priority.
- Always be united.
- Establish routines.
- The secondary end of marriage is the unity and perfection of spouses.



To live a good Catholic Man

(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

“Together in Heaven”

“Let Us Practice For Heaven”

