

Topic: The Sacrament of Marriage / Marital Fidelity

Family Small Group for Confirmation Week 2.14 (January 8th, 2023)

Parent Resources

These resources are used in the lesson in some way. Parents, consider reading them before doing the lesson with your student. Otherwise, read them within the lesson with your student when directed to do so.

Catechism Readings: *Catechism for Adults*, Chapter 21 and Chapter 30

- The Purposes of Marriage pg. 283-285
- The Love of Husband and Wife pg. 408-410

Confirmed in the Spirit pg. 100
Video:
[Three Minute Catechism: Marriage](#)

1. Opening Prayer (read together)

Blessing of Families

Almighty and eternal God,
your fatherly tenderness never ceases to provide for our needs.

We ask you to bestow on this daily and this home
the riches of your blessing.

With the gift of grace, sanctify those who live here,
so that, faithful to your commandments,
they will care for each other, ennoble this world by their lives,
and reach the home you have prepared for them in heaven.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

2. Personal Connection

Parents- Reflect on then discuss the following:

What couples do you look to as a model for marriage? What do you most admire about them? What do you hope for your son or daughter in their future marriage (if that is their vocation)?

After sharing, ask your student:

Have you considered religious life (priest, monk, nun)? If not, would you consider it? Have you considered the vocation of marriage? Why do you think marriage is considered a vocation (or job for the Church)?

3. Activity

Fill-in-the-Blanks You'll need a pen and paper. **DO NOT** show your student the right side of this activity.

Directions:

Open up *Confirmed in the Spirit* to page 100 as a reference for this activity, then have the student number their paper 1-10. Ask your student the questions on the left below, being sure that they fill in the numbered blanks on their paper accordingly. Finally, have your student read the passage on the right with their answers filled in to the coordinating numbered blanks.

HINT!!! This works best if the student **is not** familiar with the passage on the right (like a MadLibs game).

Blanks to be filled in

Think about your best friend right now. What three positive qualities best describe him or her?

1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____

What Theological Virtue (reference *Confirmed in the Spirit* pg. 100) is most important to you?

4. _____

Which Cardinal Virtue (*Confirmed in the Spirit* pg. 100) would you most like to work on?

5. _____

The Gifts of the Holy Spirit (*Confirmed in the Spirit* pg. 100) will be strengthened at the time of your Confirmation. Which Gift are you most excited about strengthening?

6. _____

Fill-in-the-Blank Prayer for a Good Spouse

O Jesus, the dearest Friend I have, send me the future spouse whom in Your divine wisdom You judge best suited to be united with me in marriage. I humbly implore that my future spouse's character reflect some of the traits herein.

May my future spouse be 1. _____,
2. _____, and 3. _____.

May my future spouse live a life of 4. _____
that is always oriented towards You and your creation.

May my future spouse model 5. _____ in their dealings with others.

May my future spouse have strong 6. _____
and lead our family into stronger communion with You.

Which three Fruits of the Holy Spirit (*Confirmed in the Spirit* pg. 100) would you like help growing in your own life?

7. _____ 8. _____ 9. _____

What is something (activity/sport/hobby) you love right now that you hope you'll love forever?

10. _____

May my future spouse help me grow in 7. _____, 8. _____, and 9. _____.

And, if it be your will, O Lord, let my future spouse love 10. _____ as much as I do.

Heavenly Father, guide me to the one with whom I can live in peace, love and harmony in this life, and attain eternal joys in the next. Amen.

4. Discussion Questions (writing down answers prior to discussion may encourage deeper conversations)

1. Watch this [Three Minute Catechism](#) on marriage. What does the catechism mean when it says love is an act of the will?
2. Read 'The Purposes of Marriage' (Catechism for Adults pg. 283-285). Fill in the following blanks: "The Sacrament of Marriage protects the essential purposes of marriage: the _____ of the couple and the generation and the _____ of the children. These purposes are protected and fostered by the _____ of the marriage bond and the mutual _____ of the spouses" (pg. 283).
3. What do parents have a responsibility to pass on to their children?
4. Read 'The Love of Husband and Wife' (Catechism for Adults pg. 408-410). In what way is "marriage a lifelong process" (pg. 408)?
5. Based on all of the readings today and the teachings of the Church (including those discussed by Fr. Tilley in our last Sunday Sanctuary Lesson Dec. 11th about love being fully-human, total, faithful, and life-giving), what questions do you still have about marriage and its importance as a sacrament of the Church?

5. Closing

Sunday Sanctuary Lesson Reflection:

What moved you the most from Fr. Tilley's talk?
What did you learn about how marriage reflects Jesus' love for us on the cross?

End in Prayer:

As a family, discuss your current prayer intentions and take a moment to pray together.