

*Sermon from the Second Sunday after Epiphany: Marriage, Part 2*

February 4, 2018

Marriage is the lawful contract between a man and a woman by which is given and accepted the exclusive and perpetual right over each other for the purpose of bringing forth offspring in a natural fashion. As said, this beautiful contract has been raised to the level of a sacrament so that the couple can be assured of God's special help of sacramental graces throughout their entire married life.

Let us look at Genesis, Chapters 1 and 2. "And God created man to His image; to the image of God He created Him, male and female He created them. And God blessed them and said: 'Increase and multiply & fill the earth.'" (Genesis 1:27, the sixth day of creation) Later we read in Chapter 2, after God created Eve from the rib of Adam: "This is bone of my bone, and flesh from my flesh; she is called woman since she was taken from man. On which account man shall leave his father and mother and cleave to his wife; and they are two in one flesh."

We see in Sacred Scripture and in the Liturgy that marriage plays an important role in the life of the Church. Right at the beginning this institution is presented to us. It is the foundation of society.

Marriage is also one of the first sacraments presented to us in the Gospel.

This is very important for couples to remember. Whenever two baptized people, a man and a woman, get validly married, they have a whole treasure house of graces at their disposal. This is why the spiritual preparation for a wedding should be more important than the material ones. The marriage is more than the wedding day – it is a lifelong commitment. In the marriage contract, it does not say that there will be more good days than bad; rather, it says the couple has married for life. Good times or bad, sickness or health, richer or poorer – it doesn't matter, they are married for life. I do not insist on this to discourage couples from getting married, but that they take it seriously if they do and look to Cana of Galilee where our Lord worked His first miracle.

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