

READINGS

Celebration of

The Sacrament of Marriage



Denver, CO

Our Lady of Guadalupe Church

I. MARRIAGE IN GOD'S PLAN

1602 Sacred Scripture begins with the creation of man and woman in the image and likeness of God and concludes with a vision of "the wedding-feast of the Lamb." [85] Scripture speaks throughout of marriage and its "mystery," its institution and the meaning God has given it, its origin and its end, its various realizations throughout the history of salvation, the difficulties arising from sin and its renewal "in the Lord" in the New Covenant of Christ and the Church. [86]

Marriage in the order of creation

1603 "The intimate community of life and love which constitutes the married state has been established by the Creator and endowed by him with its own proper laws.... God himself is the author of marriage." [87] The vocation to marriage is written in the very nature of man and woman as they came from the hand of the Creator. Marriage is not a purely human institution despite the many variations it may have undergone through the centuries in different cultures, social structures, and spiritual attitudes. These differences should not cause us to forget its common and permanent characteristics. Although the dignity of this institution is not transparent everywhere with the same clarity, [88] some sense of the greatness of the matrimonial union exists in all cultures. "The well-being of the individual person and of both human and Christian society is closely bound up with the healthy state of conjugal and family life." [89]

1604 God who created man out of love also calls him to love the fundamental and innate vocation of every human being. For man is created in the image and likeness of God who is himself love. [90] Since God created him man and woman, their mutual love becomes an image of the absolute and unfailing love with which God loves man. It is good, very good, in the Creator's eyes. And this love which God blesses is intended to be fruitful and to be realized in the common work of watching over creation: "And God blessed them, and God said to them: 'Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it.'" [91]

1605 Holy Scripture affirms that man and woman were created for one another: "It is not good that the man should be alone." [92] The woman, "flesh of his flesh," i.e., his counterpart, his equal, his nearest in all things, is given to him by God as a "helpmate"; she thus represents God from whom comes our help. [93] "Therefore a man leaves his father and his mother and cleaves to his wife, and they become one flesh." [94] The Lord himself shows that this signifies an unbreakable union of their two lives by recalling what the plan of the Creator had been "in the beginning": "So they are no longer two, but one flesh." [95]

Catechism of the Catholic Church

THE SACRAMENT OF MATRIMONY

FIRST READING

Male and female he created them.

A reading from the book of Genesis

1, 26-28. 31

God said: "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. Let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, the birds of the air, and the cattle, and over all the wild animals and all the creatures that crawl on the ground."

God created man in his image; in the divine image he created him; male and female he created

them.

God blessed them, saying: "Be fertile and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it. Have dominion over the fish of the sea, the birds of the air, and all the living things that move on the earth." God looked at everything he had made, and he found it very good.

This is the word of the Lord,

R. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 128

R. Happy are those who fear the Lord.

Happy are you who fear the Lord,
who walk in his ways!
For you shall eat the fruit of your handiwork;
happy shall you be, and favored.

R. Happy are those who fear the Lord.

Your wife shall be like a fruitful vine
In the recesses of your home;
Your children live olive plants
around your table.

R. Happy are those who fear the Lord.

Behold, thus is the man blessed
Who fears the Lord.
The Lord bless you from Zion:
may you see the prosperity of Jerusalem
all the days of your life.

R. Happy are those who fear the Lord.

FIRST READING

Our love is to be something real and active.

A reading from the first letter of John

1 John 3, 18-24

Little children, let us love not in word or speech but in deed and truth. (Now) this is how we shall know that we belong to the truth and reassure our hearts before him in whatever our hearts condemn, for God is greater than our hearts and knows everything.

Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have confidence in God and receive from him whatever we ask, because we keep his commandments and do what pleases him.

And his commandment is this: we should believe in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ, and love one another just as he commanded us.

Those who keep his commandments remain in him, and he in them, and the way we know that he remains in us is from the Spirit that he gave us.

This is the word of the Lord,
R. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM
PSALM 103

R. The Lord is kind and merciful.

Bless the Lord, O my soul;
and all my being, bless his holy name.
Bless the Lord, O my soul,
and forget not all his benefits.

R. The Lord is kind and merciful.

Merciful and gracious is the Lord,
slow to anger and abounding in kindness.
As a father has compassion on his children,
so the Lord has compassion on those who fear him.

R. The Lord is kind and merciful.

But the kindness of the Lord is from eternity
to eternity toward those who fear him,
and his justice toward children's children
among those who keep his covenant.

R. The Lord is kind and merciful.

GOSPEL
HOMILY

RITE OF MARRIAGE

Priest: My dear friends* you have come together in this church so that the Lord may seal and strengthen your love in the presence of the Church's minister and this community. Christ abundantly blesses this love. He has already consecrated you in baptism and now he enriches and strengthens you by special sacrament so that you may assume of marriage and mutual and lasting fidelity. And so, in the presence of the Church, I ask you to state your intentions.

Priest: **N.** and **N.**, have you come here freely and without reservation to give yourselves to each other in marriage?

Will you love and honor each other as man and wife for the rest of your lives?
Will you accept children lovingly from God, and bring them up according to the law of Christ and his Church?

CONSENT

Priest: Since it is your intention to enter into marriage, join your right hands, and declare your consent before God and his Church.

Bridegroom: I, **N.**, take you, **N.**, to be my wife. I promise to be true to you in good times and in bad, in sickness and in health. I will love you and honor you all the days of my life.

Bride: I, **N.**, take you, **N.**, to be my husband. I promise to be true to you in good times and in bad, in sickness and in health. I will love you and honor you all the days of my life.

Priest: You have declared your consent before the Church. May the Lord in his goodness strengthen your consent and fill you both with his blessings.

What God has joined, men must not divide.

R. Amen.

Priest: Lord, bless these rings which we bless + in your name. Grant that those who wear them may always have a deep faith in each other. May they do your will and always live together in peace, good will, and love. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

R. Amen.

The bridegroom places his wife's ring on her ring finger.

He may say: **N.**, take this ring as a sign of my love and fidelity. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

The bride places her husband's ring on his ring finger.

She may say: **N.**, take this ring as a sign of my love and fidelity. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

GENERAL INTERCESSIONS

Priest: We pray to the Lord that this brother and sister of ours that today unite in marriage, may reach the happiness of this and of the next.

R. Lord hear our prayers

Lector: May the Lord bless this holy union, like he bless the wedding in Cana. We pray to the Lord.

Lector: May the Lord give them the grace of children and the happiness of the human family. We pray to the Lord.

Lector: That their love help as support in all the difficulties of life. We pray to the Lord.

Lector: That they are conserved happy in harmony and fidelity to give a good testimony of the Christian name. we pray to the Lord.

Lector: That the Holy Spirit renews the grace of the Sacrament in all the present spouses here. We pray to the Lord.

Lector: That all the marriages united, rediscover the love and peace. We pray to the Lord.

Lector: That the governors ensure the sanctity of marriage and that Christ head of the Church keeps it holy and pure. We pray to the Lord.

Priest: Almighty God, look conducive to these children of yours, keep them together in your love, give them the gifts of your grace, so that, after this life, they deserve to arrive (in company of their children) to the place of the eternal happiness. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

CONCLUSION OF THE CELEBRATION