



Cottesloe & Mosman Park Parish

Excerpts on Marriage & Family

The sacraments of Marriage and Holy Orders are the two great sacraments of service. Their service is not only for the Church but indeed for the whole of society. The Catechism of the Catholic Church says that they “are directed towards the salvation of others; if they contribute as well as the personal salvation, it is through service to others that they do so.” (CCC 1534)

Saint John Paul II has called marriage the “Primordial Sacrament”. It is primordial because it is the first sacrament that God created. It has to be “understood as a sign that efficaciously transmits in the visible world the invisible mystery hidden in God from eternity. And this is the mystery of Truth and Love, the mystery of divine life, in which man really participates.” (St John Paul II - TOB 19:4)

Each Christian family can first of all — as Mary and Joseph did — welcome Jesus, listen to Him, speak with Him, guard Him, protect Him, grow with Him; and in this way improve the world. Let us make room in our heart and in our day for the Lord. As Mary and Joseph also did, and it was not easy: how many difficulties they had to overcome! They were not a superficial family, they were not an unreal family. The family of Nazareth urges us to rediscover the vocation and mission of the family, of every family. And, what happened in those 30 years in Nazareth, can thus happen to us too: in seeking to make love and not hate normal, making mutual help commonplace, not indifference or enmity. (Audience, Wednesday, December 17, 2014)

The Second Vatican Council has called the family “The Domestic Church”. It is in [the family] that the father of the family, the mother, children, and all members of the family exercise the priesthood of the baptised in a privileged way by the reception of the sacraments, prayers and thanksgiving, the witness of a holy life, and self-denial and active charity. Thus the home is the first school of Christian life and a school for human enrichment. Here one learns endurance and the joy of work, fraternal love, generous – even repeated – forgiveness, and above all divine worship in prayer and the offering of one's life. (CCC 1657)