

LIVING WITH CHRIST THIS WEEK

Sunday, June 13: Eleventh Sunday in Ordinary Time (C) - green
Monday 14: Ferial - green
Tuesday, June 15: Ferial - green
Wednesday 16: Ferial - green
Thursday 17: Ferial - green
Friday 18: Ferial - green
Saturday 19 : Ferial - green
Sunday 20: Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time (C) - green

To Get Married

2. Christian Marriage



Above all else, marriage is a human reality: an adventure of love undertaken by men and women who have expressed their commitment to each other, their families and society. They have chosen to be a couple and possibly a family. Whether it is a civil or religious union, celebrated at a Church, City Hall, or in a garden, marriage is always an intriguing and magnificent reality. Sometimes it has become an ostentatious ceremony yet we know that weddings can be so moving that they bring tears to our eyes. It is a mutual giving of self and a commitment, an expression of confidence in the future that two people share.

Love and marriage remind us of a relationship that is much greater than ours. God is Love and couples who marry with God's blessing place their conjugal love within the context of God's love for us. The symbolism of human love (passion, freedom, courage and commitment) reminds us of the Father's love for Christ who gave his life for us. St. Paul naturally made the connection between the love shared by a man and a woman and Christ's love for his Church.

In the Catholic tradition, a Christian marriage is a sacrament, a sacred sign that is part of the divine plan of love. We note in passing that the churches that emerged during the Reformation do not recognize the sacramental character of marriage. The Christian celebration of marriage takes place in a liturgy of prayer, praise, and thanksgiving. We hear the Word of God, witness the exchange of vows and rings, and receive a solemn benediction. We also remember the living and the dead and those present and absent.

Normally the Eucharist extends this commitment of love by sharing the Lord's meal, which is followed by music, songs by the choir, and processions.

A Christian marriage is similar to a civil marriage in that the same reality is celebrated. But there are added dimensions: the references to God and the mystery of his love for us.

André Beauchamp

Translated by Honore Kerwin Borrelli