

LIFE NOTES

Pro Life Topics



May 2013

Marriage

And God created man to his own image; to the image of God he created him. Male and female he created them. And God blessed them, saying "Increase and multiply, and fill the earth." (Genesis 1:27-28)

MARRIAGE: A covenant or partnership of life between a man and woman, which is ordered to the well-being of the spouses and to the procreation and upbringing of children. When validly contracted between two baptized people, marriage is a sacrament (Matrimony) (1601).

Why can marriage exist only between a man and a woman?

The natural structure of human sexuality makes man and woman complementary partners for the transmission of human life. Only a union of male and female can express the sexual complementarity willed by God for marriage. The permanent and exclusive commitment of marriage is the necessary context for the expression of sexual love intended by God both to serve the transmission of human life and to build up the bond between husband and wife (see CCC, nos. 1639-1640). In marriage, husband and wife give themselves totally to each other in their masculinity and femininity (see CCC, no. 1643). They are equal as human beings but different as man and woman, fulfilling each other through this natural difference. This unique complementarity makes possible the conjugal bond that is the core of marriage.

Monthly Prayer

Dear Heavenly Father, Our country continues the acceptance of sinful behavior that brings harm to the human family you created. We pray for the conversion of hearts of all elected officials. We pray for the Supreme Court Justices as they are about to rule on two cases before the court relating to same sex marriage and The Defense of Marriage Act. Please open their minds and hearts to hear Your Voice. Please grant them wisdom and courage to act on what is right – by Your Holy Design. Please strengthen all of us who continue to fight these wrongs and protect us from all that is evil. Through the intercession of Saint Thomas More, patron saint of attorneys and judges, and through the intercession of Saint Joachim and Saint Anne, patron saints of marriage, we confidently place our prayers in the pierced, loving hands of your Son, Jesus Christ.

Amen

Why is a same-sex union not equivalent to a marriage?

A same-sex union contradicts the nature of marriage: It is not based on the natural complementarity of male and female; it cannot cooperate with God to create new life; and the natural purpose of sexual union cannot be achieved by a same-sex union. Persons in same-sex unions cannot enter into a true conjugal union. Therefore, it is wrong to equate their relationship to a marriage.

Marriage is a basic human and social institution. Though it is regulated by civil laws and church laws, it did not originate from either the church or state, but from God. Therefore, neither church nor state can alter the basic meaning and structure of marriage. Marriage, whose nature and purposes are established by God, can only be the union of a man and a woman and must remain such in law. In a manner unlike any other relationship, marriage makes a unique and irreplaceable contribution to the common good of society, especially through the procreation and education of children. (usccb.org)

Suggested Monthly Penance

Put aside your electronic devices for one hour each day in defense of marriage

Suggested Monthly Almsgiving

Pray for a marriage you feel might be in danger.

Our Lady, Queen of the Most Holy Rosary, pray for us.