



**WITNESSTO LOVE**

A MARRIAGE MOVEMENT

**What is Marriage?**

# Marriage: A Vocation and A Sacrament

- Marriage is a vocation, a calling, and invitation into a COVENANT.
- Needs to be discerned
- The vows are indissoluble “until death do you part”



# The Sacrament of Marriage



The sacraments are efficacious signs of grace, instituted by Christ and entrusted to the Church, by which divine life is dispensed to us. The visible rites by which the sacraments are celebrated signify and make present the graces proper to each sacrament. (*Catechism of the Catholic Church, 1131*)

The communion of love between God and people...finds a meaningful expression in the marriage covenant which is established between a man and a woman. (*Familiaris Consortio, 12*)

A permanent partnership between a man and a woman ordered to the good of the spouses and the procreation of offspring. (*Code of Canon Law, 1055 & 1096*)

# Three elements to the sacraments

## Form

Words, Consent

## Matter

Something physical,  
sacramentals

## Ministers

Person who “gives” the  
sacrament



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# The Marriage Vows

## Questions Before Consent

N. and N., have you come here to enter into Marriage without coercion, freely and wholeheartedly?

Are you prepared, as you follow the path of Marriage, to love and honor each other for as long as you both shall live?

Are you prepared to accept children lovingly from God and to bring them up according to the law of Christ and his Church?

## Consent

I, N., take you, N., to be my husband/wife.

I promise to be faithful to you,

in good times and in bad,

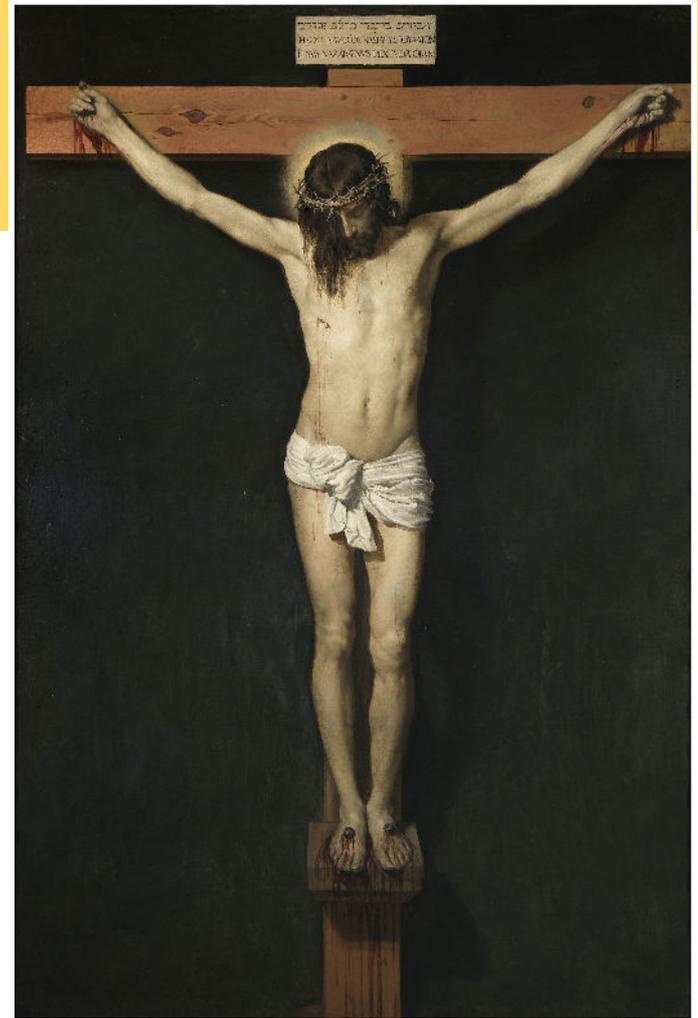
in sickness and in health,

to love you and to honor you

all the days of my life.

True Love Is...

**FREE**  
**TOTAL**  
**FAITHFUL**  
**FRUITFUL**



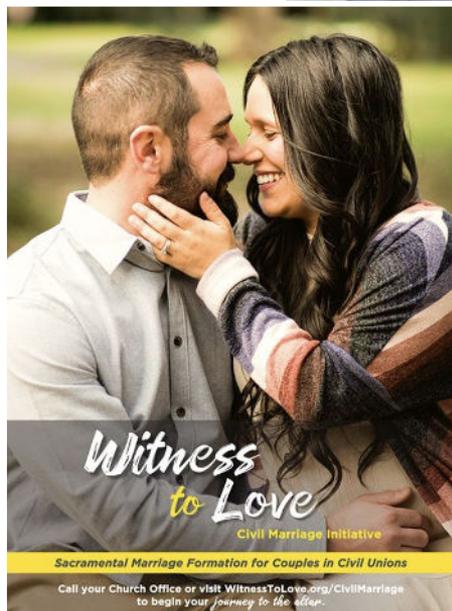
# Civil Marriage

*The matrimonial covenant, by which a man and a woman establish between themselves a partnership of the whole of life and which is **ordered by its nature to the good of the spouses and the procreation and education of offspring**, has been raised by Christ the Lord to the dignity of a sacrament between the baptized.*

***For this reason, a valid matrimonial contract cannot exist between the baptized without it being by that fact a sacrament.*** (Code of Canon Law, 1055)

# Convalidations

- To convalidate a marriage which is invalid because of a diriment impediment, it is required that the impediment ceases or is dispensed and that at least the party conscious of the impediment renews consent. (Can. 1156 §1.)
- A marriage which is null because of defect of form must be contracted anew in canonical form in order to become valid (Can. 1160)



# What About Annulments?

- It is more accurately referred to as a “Declaration of Nullity.”
- Authentic marital bond was never established and so was null from the beginning. The Church still respects the civil jurisdictions rules concerning properties, parental rights, etc.
- A marriage can only be declared null by the Tribunal if it can be proven that there was a lack of form or an impediment **at the time of the wedding**, including the incapacity or unwillingness for free, total, faithful, and fruitful love.

# Summary

- Marriage is a partnership of the whole life between a man and a woman ordered to the good of the spouses and procreation
- It is a vocation and a sacrament
- The vows (form) points to free, total, faithful, fruitful love
- Marriage between two baptized people is sacramental, therefore it must be celebrated using the Rite of Marriage in the Church
- When the Rite of Marriage is not followed (lack of form), a convalidation will be required
- A marriage can only be declared null by the Tribunal if it can be proven that there was a lack of form or an impediment **at the time of the wedding**, including the incapacity or unwillingness for free, total, faithful, and fruitful love.



# ¿Questions?

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