

Sixth Grade: Lesson 17

Marriage: The Sacrament of Matrimony

Learning Objective:

Now that youth have a better understanding of the natural moral law, they are prepared for the lesson on human sexuality. Sex is an expression of committed love within marriage that brings life into the world. As children enter adolescence, it is helpful for them to have clarity on physical and emotional boundaries as well as guidance in relation to behavior, dress, and speech.

Learning Outcomes: Students will ...

- Know that we are created in God's image as male or female (Gen 1-3; CCC 369-372).
- Discuss why it is a good thing that God created man as male and female.
- Give examples of how the body reveals man (TOB 2:4, 6:3, 7:1, 8:1, 9:4, 12:5, 14:4, 19:4).
- Describe how the human body is the temple of the Holy Spirit and why it is necessary to glorify God in your body (TOB 57:2).
- Discuss sexuality as a gift from God (CCC 2360-2362).
- Recognize how the 6th and 9th commandments apply to young people (Matt 5:27-28; CCC 2333-2336, 2514).

Materials Needed:

- Prayer space items, Bible, pencils,
- Copies: The Four Goods of Marriage, God's Plan for Marriage, What Happens at the Rite, Prayer Journal

Beginning of Class:

- Model a spontaneous prayer to the Holy Spirit, asking him to open your hearts and mind to learn more about their Catholic Faith and to help all your students to understand what God wants for them.

Lesson Order	Implementation Ideas
Lesson 17 Video	<p>This video is 2:07 in length.</p> <p>Highlights: Last week we explored how we need to form good habits to live in accord with God's laws so we can live our lives in a moral way. Through our friendships with others, we imitate Christ and lead others to a greater good. One vocation that is rooted in service is marriage, also known as the Sacrament of Matrimony. We see the covenant of marriage originated in the book of Genesis with the story of Adam and Eve.</p> <p>It is important to understand that the Sacrament of Marriage is based in the Bible and like all the sacraments, it is how God gives us grace. Matrimony is a covenant, a union of love between a man and a woman. This love is self-given and reflects the love Jesus shares with us. It is a sacrament of service because they need to help each other live faithfully as Christians so they can both go to heaven. Marriage is supposed to be permanent, with faithfulness between spouses, with an openness to having children, and with each spouse giving mutual support.</p> <p>The CCC helps us understand this sacrament. You can read 1600-1666 if you would like to learn more about it.</p> <p>Practicing modest dress, good language, praying often, receiving the sacraments often, and having a devotion to Mary will all help protect our chastity, no matter what vocation we are called to.</p>
What is Marriage?	<p>This is a sketchpad video and is 3:40 in length (but is done at 3:35).</p> <p>Highlights:</p> <p>Real love is much more than a feeling. It is an act of the will. Why: The best foundation for real love</p>

is a deep friendship that wills the good of the other. Therefore, love in the sense of a true and deep friendship is an act of the will, since we will the good of the other.

Among all the friends a person may have, there is one friendship that is unique because it is exclusive, since we relate to only one person. In this unique friendship, we also find unique expressions of love. This exclusive relationship is normally called marriage.

The Christian faith gives us a new and deeper perspective of marriage because Christ raised marriage to the dignity of a sacrament. This means the marriage between a man and woman is not only a natural union, but a sacred sign. It signifies the relationship between Christ and the Church. Whenever two baptized Christians enter an exclusive partnership before God and the Church, they say I do to a lifelong fidelity, to mutual self-giving and to the children that God will send them.

As a sacrament, marriage is a source of grace and strength. In a marriage, both people have to learn what it means to will the good of the other. It will mean a call to die to oneself and to live for the other person. Since this is precisely the message of Christ, Christian marriage reveals itself as a true discipleship of Christ and as a real path to holiness.

Questions to prompt reflection and discussion:

Did you know that marriage is a vocation, just like becoming a teacher, doctor, etc...?

How can two married people help each other to reach Heaven?

<p>Why Make Your Marriage Catholic?</p>	<p>This is a Busted Halo video and is 7:37 in length. It ends at 7:14. Please make a note that this video explains things very well. I have made a note as to what point in the video each question is posed, to help you facilitate what can be a sensitive and difficult topic to discuss with your students. The content is addressed with age-appropriateness for your students.</p> <p>Highlights:</p> <p>Why have a Catholic Wedding?</p> <p>CCC 1603: The vocation of marriage is written in the very nature of a man and woman, as they came from the hand of God, our creator. Marriage is not a purely human institution.</p> <p>Catholics describe marriage as a vocation and is a call from God to live our lives in a certain way. Marriage is the permanent, faithful, and fruitful union of a man and woman, who entered a covenant relationship of love with one another and with God.</p> <p>Society defines marriage as a contract between two people that has conditions and may be terminated under certain circumstances. But, for Catholics, the marriage covenant is sealed and strengthened by God and may not be dissolved.</p> <p>Civil marriage is a marriage that doesn't involve the Church and is very different from the Sacrament of Marriage. So much so, that the Catholic Church does not consider a couple to be married if they were married outside the church.</p> <p>As Catholics, we are asked to keep God present in every part of our lives: work, school, activities, etc... Why would a lifelong commitment, like marriage, be any different?</p>
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RELECTION/DISCUSSION: Ask students if they have any thoughts or questions to share? If students are quiet, consider posing the last question: Why would a lifelong commitment, like marriage, be any different?

2:24: Why does it take so long to get married in the Catholic Church?

Marriage is a sacrament and just like First Communion or Confirmation, there needs to be time spent preparing for it. Similar to when a priest is ordained, marriage is a vocation for life. The Church wants to make sure a couple is prepared for marriage and to prevent something impulsive or hasty from occurring. Typically, an engaged couple meets with a priest and/staff 6-12 months before the wedding.

3:10: What kind of advice can a celibate priest give a couple about marriage?

Priests provide a spiritual component of marriage preparation, while lay people and married couples are the primary guides in Catholic marriage preparation.

3:35 What exactly is Catholic marriage preparation?

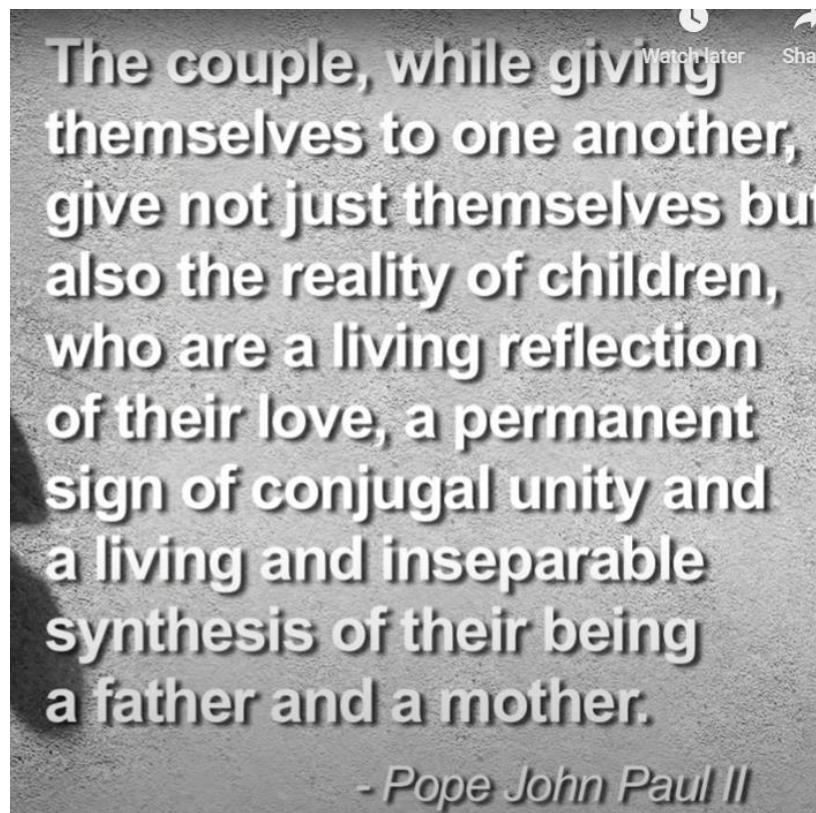
It is a tool to help a couple create a loving, faithful, and lifelong marriage. This process, also known as Pre-Cana, is a little different in each Diocese. It includes:

- Spirituality of marriage
- Reflections on raising children
- Finances, communication and problem solving
- Benefits of NFP

The most important part of this process is to prepare the couple to truly mean what they say during the marriage ceremony. What makes the Sacrament of Matrimony valid are the promises made by the bride and groom. The video then reviews the typical wording of the wedding vows.

5:35 What do our future kids have to do with anything? Why does the Church insist we have children?

The Sacrament of Marriage includes fruitful love, which means procreating and educating children born as the fruit of their love.



- Pope John Paul II

Couples are asked to openly accept children; it's a requirement. If they say no to this, they should not be married in the Catholic Church. Marriage is about selfless love and when a couple becomes parents, they are truly at the service of others.

	<p>This is known as the domestic church: two parents sharing their moral, spiritual, and faith life with their children.</p> <p>Faith begins at home</p> <p>REFLECTION/DISCUSSION: Once again, allow students to share their thoughts or ask questions. If any questions become uncomfortable for you to answer, consider this: Although we may not have the answer, or fully understand something, God does. It's okay to say that some concepts must be taken in the spirit of faith. Faith means following what God says, even when we don't fully understand. Faith is a journey, and we are constantly learning.</p>
Introduction to the Activities:	<p>As Catholics we understand matrimony to have 4 Goods:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Partnership • Permanence • Fidelity • Fruitfulness
The 4 Goods of Marriage	<p>Read Ephesians 5:21 all together and then discuss how this part of scripture relates to the 4 Goods. Students can draw or sketch a picture in each box.</p>
God's Plan for Marriage and Family Life	<p>This activity requires students to read from four parts of scripture. A few different ways to do this activity:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete all together, reading from scripture and then providing time for students to write down their thoughts. • Students work with a partner and complete the activity. Provide sharing time when everyone is done.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Depending on the number of students in your class, you could place students in groups of 2-3 and assign one Bible passage to each group. Students work on their portion and then come back together and share with the class.
What Happens at a Wedding	<p>This is a handout of the order that a Catholic Mass would follow for a wedding.</p> <p>Only copy if you think it is helpful for students.</p>
Prayer Journal Page	Students have been learning a lot about the sacraments. Encourage them to write about one of the Sacraments that they would like to thank God for, such as Holy Eucharist, Reconciliation, etc....
Closing Prayer	Model another prayer of thanksgiving, thanking God for one another, our Church, and our space that allows us to learn about Catholicism.