



Marriage

What's Love Got To Do With It?

*God who created man out of love also calls him to love
- the fundamental and innate vocation of every
human being. For man is created in the image and
likeness of God who is himself love.*

The Two

Become One

The image features two gold wedding rings. The ring in the foreground is engraved with the words "The Two" in a cursive font. The ring behind it is engraved with "Become One" in the same font. The rings are set against a soft, light-colored background.

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Opening Prayer

What the Day Looks Like

- Welcome & Introductions
- A Natural & Supernatural Gift
- Unique Union of a Man and a Woman
- **Leisure Activities**
- Communion of Love and Life
- Sacrament of Christ's Love
- **Forming Good Habits**
- Foundation of the Family and Society
- Journey of Human and Spiritual Growth
- **Relationship Roles**
- School of Love and Gratitude

What to Expect...

...Prayer.....

.....Fun.....

.....Small Group Discussion....

.....Large Group Discussion

...Personal Journal Time....

Some Goals...

...Better Understanding of
Marriage as Sacrament....

.....Better Understanding of Each
Other.....

.....Having God in the Center
of Our Relationship....

Welcome & Introductions

- Name
- Years Married
- Number of Children / Grandchildren
- How did you meet?
- Name something you love about your spouse



David
&
Debbie
Reaves
Married 28 Years
1 Child
Met at a Bar!
Her Nurturing Spirit
He Encourages Me

A Natural and Supernatural Gift

From the Pastoral Letter *Marriage: Love and Life in the Divine Plan*

• Marriage is

- a natural blessing authored by God
- a permanent, faithful union intended for the good of the spouses, children, and all of society
- a visible sign of God's love
- caught up into divine love and is directed and enriched by the redemptive power of Christ and salvific action of the Church
- where spouses are effectively led to God and are helped and strengthened in their lofty role as fathers and mothers



How my wife, Debbie, continues to draw me closer to God, even when I tried to resist.

The story of Dolores Mae & Paul Vincent Larkin and how their marriage impacted others

Marriage is not the effect of chance or the product of evolution of unconscious natural forces, it is the wise institution of the Creator to realize in mankind His design of love - Pope Paul VI, Humanae Vitae, no. 8

A Natural and Supernatural Gift

Discussion and Journal Questions

- **Discussion Questions for Small Group**

- Think of a couple whose marriage you admire. Why do you admire them? What would you say are their best qualities?
- In what ways can your marriage become a gift to other people, not only to each other?
- What practical steps could you take to extend encourage or support another couple?
- What signs do you see that the love of a husband and wife benefits society?

Journal Question – How has your spouse been a gift to you?

Journal Question – What would you like to do for your spouse that would express your love in a special way? Make a plan and follow through.

Unique Union of a Man and a Woman

From the Pastoral Letter *Marriage: Love and Life in the Divine Plan*

- Marriage is
 - the foundation of the family, the domestic church
 - a personal relationship with public significance
 - a commitment to seek the good of the other
 - a communion of persons
 - a call to love like God loves
 - to thoroughly give one's self to the other
- Men and women are uniquely different yet complementary in so many ways
 - biologically
 - how we think
 - how we express ourselves
 - how we pray
- But we are all created in the image of God!
- Marriage brings the full gifts of both male and female together



How have Debbie and I helped each other grow as persons over the years?

What are those things that make us different and how do we respond to them?

God created man and woman in his image, male and female he created them (Genesis 1:27).

Unique Union of a Man and a Woman

Discussion and Journal Questions

- **Discussion Questions for Small Group**

- How has society's images of masculinity and femininity changed since your parent's day? How are they the same?
- Name three (3) ways in which your spouse's approach to problems differs from how you like to do things?
- What unique qualities do you bring to relationships, both at work and in your family?
- What do you enjoy most about being a woman or a man?

Journal Question – In His Wisdom, God planned that man and woman would be made for each other. How would you say that your spouse has been made for you?

Journal Question – How does being a man or woman affect how you approach your relationship with God?



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Leisure Activities

Communion of Love and Life

From the Pastoral Letter *Marriage: Love and Life in the Divine Plan*

- Each one of us is **called** to love like God
- We are all called to **Holiness**
- Marriage
 - is meant to be love-giving and life-giving
 - creates a **one-flesh** union
 - is a partnership for the whole of life
- Husband and wife are a **symbol** of both life and love
- Spouses have a responsibility to **nurture** marital love



In what ways can our marriage contribute to holiness?

What are some of the ways that we nurture our marriage and our marital love?

God is Love and the World was created out of His Love

Communion of Love and Life

Discussion and Journal Questions

- **Discussion Questions for Small Group**
 - How is marriage a call to holiness?
 - How is marriage both life-giving and love-giving?
 - How can we as a church community communicate the importance of marriage?

Journal Question – What do you admire most about your own family and how does this impact others around you?

Journal Question – In what specific ways can you nurture the marital love of your spouse? In what ways can you love your spouse the way God loves you?

Sacrament of Christ's Love

From the Pastoral Letter *Marriage: Love and Life in the Divine Plan*

- **What is sacrament?**
 - Outward sign
 - Instituted by Christ
 - Entrusted to the Church
 - To give grace
- **Marriage as**
 - a model of the Blessed Trinity
 - participation in the covenant between the Church and Christ
 - service of communion which means service directed towards others that contributes to one's own personal salvation
- **We are never alone as husband and wife – We have Jesus**
- **The love of Christ allows us**
 - to rise when we have fallen
 - to forgive one another
 - to bear each other's burdens
 - to love until the end



The many ways
Debbie is sacrament
to me in our
marriage.

Some examples of
how David shows me
the love of Christ in
our relationship

It is love to be total, faithful, permanent, life-giving and self-giving

Sacrament of Christ's Love

Discussion and Journal Questions

- **Discussion Questions for Small Group**
 - What are some joyful things about being married?
 - What are some of the challenges about being married?
 - Can something be both joyful and challenging?
 - How can the grace of marriage sustain couples in difficult times?

Journal Question – What are ways you can be more giving to your spouse?

Journal Question – Specifically, how has the grace of the Sacrament of Marriage sustained you in difficult times?

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Forming Good Habits

Foundation of the Family and Society

From the Pastoral Letter *Marriage: Love and Life in the Divine Plan*

- The family is the **foundational** way God gathers and forms us
- The domestic church rests on the foundation of a baptized husband and wife
 - Priest, Prophet, and King
- They pass on and share with one another the **essential teachings** on catechesis, prayer, morality, and service
- A husband and wife are **co-builders** of the foundation of all human society
- Married couples **reflect** the life of the Church in the world
- Sharing in the sacraments, especially the **Eucharist**, is so important



What does it mean for me to be Priest, Prophet, and King to my spouse?

How can sharing in the sacraments really help my marriage and my family?

Sacramental couples live as communities that reveal God's blessings, reach out to heal the brokenness of the family and the world, and share their gifts with those around them.

Foundation of the Family and Society

Discussion and Journal Questions

- **Discussion Questions for Small Group**

- What is a ritual in your family and why do you love doing this?
- What does your family do that brings you together?
- What opportunities for passing on your faith are uniquely present in family life outside of church?
- What things or actions remind you of God's presence in your home and family?

Journal Question – Is there anything you would like to do differently in your family? What steps can you take right now?

Journal Question – List three things you have learned from your parents or as being a parent

Journey of Human and Spiritual Growth

From the Pastoral Letter *Marriage: Love and Life in the Divine Plan*

- Marriage is a vocation, a call from God, a path to holiness, an imitation of Christ's self-giving love
- Spiritual growth is intertwined with human growth
- Growth of a marriage happens in stages, each of which have their own joys and sorrows, opportunities and challenges
- Couples grow in holiness when understanding the different stages in light of Christ's own journey
 - Paschal Mystery
 - Holy Thursday, times of loving service when couples put their own needs second
 - Good Friday, times of suffering, tragedy, and death
 - Holy Saturday, times of waiting and uncertainty
 - Easter Sunday, resurrection and new hope



Let me share a story of waiting and uncertainty and new hope – Granny Reaves

Let me share story of Holy Thursday and Good Friday in my life and how it impacted our marriage – Debbie's Dad

Practicing virtues enables us to have a mindset that seeks to do the good. Foundational virtues in a marriage are faith, hope and charity. Faith in Jesus, hope that God is always there, and charity in mirroring the love of Christ

Journey of Human and Spiritual Growth

Discussion and Journal Questions

- **Discussion Questions for Small Group**
 - What have been the stages of your marriage and what types of transitions have you experienced?
 - In what ways can your marriage become a gift to other people, not only to each other?
 - What practical steps could you take to extend encourage or support to another couple?
 - What signs do you see that the love of a husband and wife benefits society?

Journal Question – How has your spouse been a gift to you?

Journal Question – What would you like to do for your spouse that would express your love in a special way? Make a plan and follow through.



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Relationship Roles

School of Love and Gratitude

From the Pastoral Letter *Marriage: Love and Life in the Divine Plan*

- **Marriage is**
 - leading each other to heaven
 - companionship & intimacy
 - mutual support & friendship
 - patience, humility and chastity
 - gratitude
 - Most often overlooked
 - Leaves someone feeling taken for granted
 - Growing in gratitude opens our heart to receive other gifts from God
 - The interior gratitude of a husband and wife is poured out in mutual gratitude to God for Jesus in the Eucharist
- My spouse is a gift whose "love source" is Jesus



Let me share with you how my wife, Debbie is a gift to me

How I show my husband, David, gratitude each and every day

When married couples grow in holiness, they reveal the joy of a life lived in love and gratitude. They become a blessing and gift to each other and to the world.

School of Love and Gratitude

Discussion and Journal Questions

- **Discussion Questions for Small Group**
 - How do spouses show gratitude to one another? Are some ways better than others?
 - How can spouses help each other to share the gift of themselves with others, both inside and outside of the family?
 - Share something your spouse recently did for you and you showed gratitude
 - What do you love most about your spouse?

Journal Question – Write your love story that you want to share to future generations.

Journal Question – List five ways you show gratitude to your spouse. Which ways do you think your spouse likes the most? Try to do these more often.



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*Write a Letter to
Your Spouse*

The background of the slide features two gold wedding rings. The ring in the foreground is positioned slightly to the right and is in focus, showing the inscription 'The Two Become One' in a cursive font. The ring behind it is slightly out of focus and positioned to the left. The overall lighting is soft and warm, highlighting the metallic texture of the rings.

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Closing Prayer