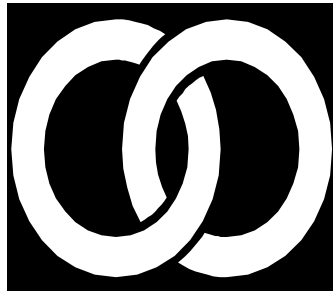


Christian Marriage



*What you should know
about this wonderful gift!*

Yes that's right – The Sacrament of Marriage is a wonderful gift from God, given so that God's love for humanity can be exemplified and expressed in the bond created in marriage and family life.

Read on to learn more about -

- ◇ *Marriage as a Vocation*
- ◇ *Marriage as a Sacrament*
- ◇ *Family life as the 'Domestic Church'*
- ◇ *Parents as the first teachers of the faith to their children.*

Marriage as a Vocation

What is meant by the term Vocation?

The word 'Vocation' comes from the Latin word 'vocatio' which means 'a calling'. Every baptised Christian is called by God to become all that he created us to be. In particular the Church names specific vocations as:

- ◇ *Marriage*
- ◇ *Ordained Ministry (Priesthood, Permanent Diaconate)*
- ◇ *Religious Life*
- ◇ *Single Life*

So as think about marriage remember that you are called by God to this wonderful vocation.

Catholic Vocations Ministry Australia defines a married person as a woman or man who:

- ◇ *Is called by God, through the Sacrament of Marriage, to vow faithful love to husband or wife.*
- ◇ *Shares a relationship with a wife or husband. This ideally, is self-giving, and life-giving for both.*
- ◇ *Is committed to helping the spouse grow to human and Christian maturity.*
- ◇ *Nourishes and fosters his/her relationship with Jesus Christ through prayer and service..*



Marriage as a Sacrament

As a Sacrament, marriage provides a visible sign of God's presence and action in the world. The grace received throughout a sacramental marriage comes from the presence of Christ within the union, and when two people join in such a union they become a living symbol (Sacrament) for each other, their children and many others.

Family Life as the 'Domestic Church'

All of the sacredness that makes up the call and grace of Christian marriage is given expression in the living witness of the family, and especially in the rearing of children. The Catechism of the Catholic Church describes beautifully believing families as "of primary importance as centres of living radiant faith" (Article 1656).

The Church has outlined the responsibilities that comes with being a Christian parent:

"The family is, so to speak, the domestic Church. In it parents should, by their word and example, be the first preachers of the faith to their children. They should encourage them in the vocation which is proper to each of them, fostering with special care any religious vocation".

(From the Dogmatic Constitution on the Church).



A Christian Vocation Prayer

*God of all creation,
through Baptism, you gift us with new life.
You call each of us to live that life in a unique way
so that we may truly become witnesses of your love.*

*Bless all those you call: all single and married people,
all priests and deacons, all sisters and brothers.*

*May we all become builders of your kingdom
and sacraments of your love
as we live out the mission of Jesus Christ
through living our vocational call.*

Amen.

Prayer Used With Permission of Catholic Vocations Ministry Australia
Visit CVMA at www.catholicozvocations.org.au

For Further Information Visit:

www.rok.catholic.net.au/vocations or contact:

Diocesan Vocations Promotions Office on 49 447 270

or Email dvpo@rok.catholic.net.au

*May God continue to Bless you abundantly as
you discern your vocation.*

