

# **ONGOING HUMAN FORMATION IN MARRIAGE**

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**MARRIAGE RECOLLECTION**

**ICC-DALLAS, SATURDAY, 20<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2024**

*Fr. Redempt Jawa CSsR*

## REMINDER

- I hope Easter joy and new life are still with us all as we move from the tomb of Jesus to “our Galilee,” particularly to your marriage life and relationship as husband and wife.
- Today, we focus on your marriage life—the relationship between you and your husband or wife. So, it is time to listen to yourself, your husband or wife, and, most importantly, to the Risen Lord: what He wants you and your marriage to be.
- The Scriptures and Church documents become a reminder to help you reflect on and share about your marriage and relationship as husband and wife in today’s context because your marriage is always in the Church community and the world, not in an isolated place.

# PROGRAM

- 10.00am : Check-in
- 10.30 – 10.50 : Worship and Opening Prayer
- 10.50 – 11.00 : Personal/Couple's Goal
- 11.00 – 11.40 : First Talk: God's Ongoing Work for Marriage
- 11.40 – 11.55 : Personal Time
- 11.55 – 12.15pm: Sharing
- 12.15 – 12.30 : Preparation for Lunch
- 12.30 – 13.30 : Lunch
- 13.30 – 13.45 : Worship
- 13.45 – 14.00 : Sharing
- 14.00 – 14.35 : Second Talk: Marriage is a Journey to an Intimate and Perpetual Relationship
- 14.35 – 14.50 : Sharing
- 14.50 – 15.00 : Personal Commitment
- 15.05 – 15.30 : Adoration and Renewal of Marriage Commitment



**WORSHIP  
&  
OPENING  
PRAYER**

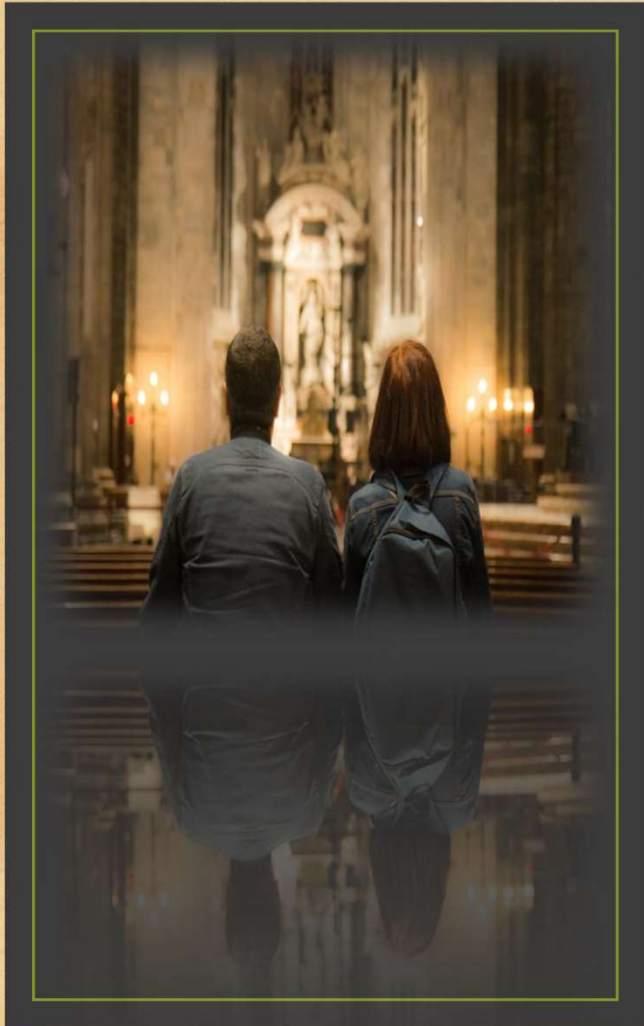


**Psalm  
128:1-6**

Blessed is everyone who fears the Lord,  
who walks in his ways!

You shall eat the fruit of the labour of your hands;  
you shall be happy, and it shall go well with you.

Your wife will be like a fruitful vine  
within your house;



your children will be like olive shoots  
round your table.

Thus shall the man be blessed  
who fears the Lord.

The Lord bless you from Zion!

May you see the prosperity of Jerusalem  
all the days of your life!

May you see your children's children!

Peace be upon Israel!”

# PERSONAL/COUPLE'S GOAL

- What is my **GOAL**?
- What is our (husband and wife) **GOAL**?





**GOD'S ONGOING WORK  
FOR MARRIAGE**

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**What does  
the  
Scripture  
say about  
marriage?**

**Gen 4: Adam and Eve's family to Rev. 21:2,9: the wedding feast of the Bride and Lamb**

**Mat 19: 4: Have you not read that he who made them from the beginning made them male and female?**

**Gen 2:24: Therefore, a man shall leave his father and mother to live with his wife, and they shall become one flesh.**

# What does the Scripture say about marriage?

- 1Tim 4:4: Everything created by God is good and nothing is to be rejected.
- 1Kor 7:7: Marriage is a gift from the Lord
- Eph 5:21-32: Marriage and the family have been redeemed by Christ.
- Mat 19:6: What God has joined together, let no man put asunder.

# Jesus' Ministry: Encountering Family

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- ❖ John 2:1-11: Wedding feast at Cana
- ❖ Luk 10:38: Jesus made friends with Lazarus and his sisters
- ❖ Mrk 8:14: Jesus visited Peter's family
- ❖ Mrk 5:41; Lk 7:14-15: Jesus sympathized with grieving parents and restore their children to life



# What does the Church say about marriage?

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- ❑ **Gaudium et Spes:** Marriage as a communion of life and love (48), placing love at the center of the family... True love between husband and wife (49). Mutual self-giving (48-49).
- ❑ **Lumen Gentium:** The body of Christ and a domestic church (11).
- ❑ **Humanae Vitae:** The exercise of responsible parenthood requires that husband and wife, keeping a right order of priorities, recognize their own duties towards God, themselves, their families and human society (10)

## What does the Church say about marriage?

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- ❑ **Deus Caritas Est:** The truth of the love of man and woman is fully illuminated only in the love of the crucified Christ (2).
- ❑ **Canon 1055.1:** The marriage covenant, by which a man and a woman establish between themselves a partnership of their whole life, and which of its own very nature is ordered to the well-being of the spouses and to the procreation and upbringing of children, has, between the baptised, been raised by Christ the Lord to the dignity of a sacrament.



## What does the Church say about marriage?

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- ❑ **Canon 1057.2:** Matrimonial consent is **an act of will** by which a man and a woman by an irrevocable covenant mutually **give and accept** one another for the purpose of establishing a marriage.
- ❑ **Saint John Paul II** (*Amoris Laetitia*): Our God in his deepest mystery is not solitude, but a family, for he has within himself **fatherhood, sonship and the essence of the family, which is love. That love, in the divine family, is the Holy Spirit.**



## What does the Church say about marriage?

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- ❑ **Pope Francis** (*Amoris Laetitia*): the couple's fruitful relationship becomes an image for understanding and describing the mystery of God himself.....Father, Son and Spirit of love. The triune God is a communion of love, and **the family is its living reflection.**
- ❑ **CCC 1534:** It is called **the Sacraments at the service of others.** They are directed towards the salvation of others and their personal salvation, too.

## What does the Church say about marriage?

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- **CCC1603:** The intimate community of life and love which constitutes the married state has been **established by the Creator** and endowed by him with its own proper laws.... **God himself is the author of marriage.**



# What do you say about your marriage?

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**Some realities of marriage today** (*Amoris Laetitia*):

- ❖ Extreme Individualism: the center is not in Christ anymore.
- ❖ Personalism vs. Conformity
- ❖ Contract and Partner: no courage to make a commitment.
- ❖ Ideal and abstract theology
- ❖ Social, economic, culture, politic.



**What do you say about your marriage?**



**Personal**

**Couple**

## God's Ongoing Work for Marriage/Couple

- Gen 1:26-27: let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness...in the image of God he created them, male and female...
- Gen 1:28: Be fruitful and multiply....
- Gen 1:29-30: I give you every plant...every bird..... ( Eden)
- Gen 1:31: It was very good.
- Gen 2:18: It is **not good that the man should be alone**; I will make him a **helper as his partner**.



# God's Ongoing Work for Marriage/Couple

## First God's ongoing work:

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- Gen 3:6: She took its fruit and ate; she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. **They ate.**
- Gen 3:9: The Lord God: Where are you? (I was afraid and naked)
- Gen 3:10: Who told you? (He knew and did not throw away immediately. He respected their choice/freedom)



# God's Ongoing Work for Marriage/Couple

## Second God's ongoing work:

- Gen 6:5-8: Growing wickedness and evil....**God wanted to destroy all he had made....**but Noah found favor in the sight of the Lord. (The great flooding).
- Gen 12:1-9: Abram: Go...to the land I will show you....I will bless you...in you **all the families of the earth shall be blessed.**
- Ex 3:1-12: God called Moses to **bring His people out of the land of suffering** to a land flowing with milk and honey.....
- The Prophets: Isaiah, Jeremiah.....

# God's Ongoing Work for Marriage/Couple

## Third God's ongoing work:

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- Luk 1:26-38: God visits his people (The annunciation of the Lord)
- Mat 1:18-25: God assured Joseph to take Mary as his wife. 2:13-15: The escape to Egypt.
- Luk 2:22-38: Joseph and Mary presented Jesus in the temple
- John 4:1-42: Jesus met the woman of Samaria



# God's Ongoing Work for Marriage/Couple

Third God's ongoing work:

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- Luk 2:41-52: **Joseph and Mary** found Jesus in the temple....**Mary kept all these things in her heart.**
- John 19:25-27: Jesus trusted his loved ones in a family care.
- Mat 19: 4: Jesus emphasized the **perpetual relationship** (husband and wife)



# God's Ongoing Work for Marriage/Couple

**Fourth God's ongoing work:**

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- Who is in charge this stage?
- **God** is still in charge of everything.
- **Easter Message:** The Risen Lord: "Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me" (Mat 28:10).
- **Easter Mission:** Go, therefore and make disciples of all nations.....and I am with you always...(Mat 28:20).

# God's Ongoing Work Continues...

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- **Sent out as a couple:** The family is the image of God and becomes the **sacramental sign** of his love for the Church.
- Sacrament of matrimony: is a **gift**, a **vocation**, and **mutual self-giving**.
- The Church looks to married couples as **the heart** of the entire family, which, in turn, **looks to Jesus**.



# God's ongoing work Continues

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**Nurturing:**

**Reconciliation:**

Acknowledging and Forgiving (renewal)

**Eucharist:**

Giving and Receiving (Thanksgiving)



## PERSONAL TIME

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- ❖ What strengths and undeveloped gifts (weaknesses) do you discover in your husband/wife that empower your marriage?
- ❖ How do you support your husband/wife in developing his/her strengths and undeveloped gifts for your marriage?

# LUNCH

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# WORSHIP





**MARRIAGE:**

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**A JOURNEY TO AN INTIMATE  
AND PERPETUAL RELATIONSHIP**

# Marriage is a Journey

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- God creates (His image and likeness) human beings for LIFE and a RELATIONSHIP
- God's work and relationship with us: A journey
- Creation to eternal life: growing and developing
- Freedom: a way of life



# Marriage is a Journey

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- **Pre-marriage:** to know each other---to live together:  
Exchange Marriage Vows (Husband and wife): **INTIMATE**
- **Journey:** to witness to the Gospel of God's love
- **Marriage/Family:** to love and complement each other---live together (a sign of God's love): Eternal life in communion with the triune God—**INTIMATE and PERPETUAL**

# Marriage is a Journey

*(Fr. R. Rumbke CSSR)*

- **Husband and Wife:** journey to love each other. True love learns to **value the strengths** of each other person; it also seeks to **understand and deal** with the limitations of the other person.
- **Changing my partner vs. changing myself:** Married people can attest to the reality that **no spouse can change his/her partner**. However, the good news is that **people who really love one another can share personal information** with each other.



# Human Formation in Marriage

- ❖ It is Fundamental: We **keep growing and developing.**
- ❖ **The wedding day is the beginning** of being closer to paying attention to each other's uniqueness and supporting each other to grow and develop.
- ❖ Erikson's psychosocial theory of human development

STAGE	AGE	DESCRIPTION	VIRTUE	MALDEVELOPMENT
Infancy	0 – 1 ½	Trust vs. Mistrust	Hope	Sensory maladjustment - Withdrawal
Early Childhood	1 ½ - 3	Autonomy vs. Shame and Doubt	Will	Shameless willfulness - Compulsion
Play Age	3 - 5	Initiative vs. Guilt	Purpose	Ruthlessness - Inhibition
School Age	5 - 12	Industry vs. Inferiority	Competency	Narrow virtuosity - Inertia
Adolescence	12 - 18	Identity vs. Role Confusion	Fidelity	Fanaticism - Repudiation
Young Adulthood	18 - 40	Intimacy vs. Isolation	Love	Promiscuity - Exclusivity
Adulthood	40 - 65	Generativity vs. Stagnation	Care	Over-extension - Rejectivity
Old Age	65 +	Integrity vs. Despair	Wisdom	Presumption - Disdain

*From: Knight, Z. G. (2017)*



**What do you (as individual/couple) do to  
support the ongoing human formation  
in your marriage?**

# Marriage Spirituality

*(Amoris Laetitia and Fr. R. Rubnke CSSR)*

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- Spirituality: **Part of us** (each person) that **determines our choices and actions**. Relationship with **God shapes and forms** our spirituality.
  - **Marital** (*couple/ husband-wife*) **Spirituality**: deepest strengths as husband and wife to develop as marital spirituality that will suit you both.



# Marital Spirituality

*(Amoris Laetitia and Fr. R. Rubnke CSSR)*

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Elements of Christian **marital spirituality**:

**First:** To develop the value of service and friendship

**Second:** To develop the value of dealing with family members

**Third:** To look beyond relationship with partner and family: belonging to a faith community and the world.

**Fourth:** Prayer: to be open to God's grace and guidance

# Marriage Spirituality

*(Amoris Laetitia and Fr. R. Rubnke CSsR)*

- Trinity is present in **the temple of marital communion.**

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- A family/married **couple is centered on Christ**; he will unify and illumine its entire life. Moments of pain and difficulty will be experienced in union with the Lord's cross which **transforms difficulties and sufferings into an offering of love.**
- Marriage is also the experience of **belonging completely to another person.** Spouses accept the challenge and aspiration of supporting one another, growing old together, and in this way reflecting God's own faithfulness.



# Marriage Spirituality

*(Amoris Laetitia and Fr. R. Rubnke CSSR)*

- There comes a point where a couple's love attains the height of its freedom and becomes the basis of **a healthy autonomy**. Each spouse realizes that **the other is not his or her own**, but has a much more important master, the one Lord.
- **God calls them to bestow life and to care for life**. So let us care for one another, guide and encourage one another. Life as a couple is a daily sharing in God's creative work.

**What**

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**marital spiritual practices  
do you have?**



## **TOGETHERNESS:** *(Fr. R. Rubnke CSSR)*

### **Four ways to strengthen a couple's relationship**

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- Pray together: Pray together as a couple (a family).
- Eat together: Family meal: “What is the taste of food?”
- Talk together: Communication is key to every marriage.
- Play together: Activities for relax and fun.

## SHARING (WITH YOUR HUSBAND/WIFE)

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What concrete actions can you think of at this time that you want to practice in your marriage journey (*happy family and intimate relationship*)?



# CONCLUSION *(Amoris Laetitia)*

- ❖ **Rediscovering the richness** of the Scripture and Church teaching.
- ❖ No family drops down from heaven perfectly formed; **families need constantly to grow and mature in the ability to love. Ongoing human formation is essential.**
- ❖ **Let us make this journey as families. Let us keep walking together.** May we never lose heart because of our limitations, or ever stop seeking that fullness of love and communion which God holds out before us.

be my partner, my confidante,  
and my husband.

We can achieve more together  
than we ever could alone.

~~I will not stand up here  
and promise you unrealistic~~

I love you with all  
my heart and always  
want us to be just

that... us. Robert Brauning  
said it best "Grow old  
with me. The best is yet  
to be!"

**MARRIAGE  
COMMITMENT**  
*(Your own words)*



# PRAYER TO THE HOLY FAMILY

*(From: Amoris Laetitia document)*

Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, in you we contemplate the splendour of true love;

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to you we turn with trust. Holy Family of Nazareth,

grant that our families too may be places of communion and prayer,  
authentic schools of the Gospel and small domestic churches.

Holy Family of Nazareth, may families never again experience violence,  
rejection, and division;

may all who have been hurt or scandalized find ready comfort and healing.

Holy Family of Nazareth, make us once more mindful of the sacredness  
and inviolability of the family, and its beauty in God's plan.

Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, Graciously hear our prayer. **Amen.**

# Further Reflection...

- Scripture: New Revised Standard Version Catholic Edition (NRSVCE)

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- Second Vatican Council (1962-1965) Documents: Lumen Gentium (1964: Light of the Nations), Gaudium et Spes (1965: Joy and Hope),
- Humanae Vitae (1968: Of Human Life)
- Canon Law (1981/2022: Catholic Church Law)
- Deus Caritas Est (2005: God is Love)
- Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC)
- Amoris Laetitia (2016: The Joy of Love—Pastoral care of families)
- Knight, Z. G. (2017). A Proposed Model of Psychodynamic Psychotherapy Linked to Erik Erikson's Eight Stages of Psychosocial Development. *Clin Psychol Psychother.* 24: 1047-1058
- Fr. Robert A. Ruhnke CSsR (San Antonio: TX, 2019): For Better and For Ever (Marriage Preparation Resources).



ADORATION  
AND  
RENEWAL OF MARRIAGE VOWS

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THANK YOU  
&  
GOD BLESS YOU ALL

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