



Parish-Based Sacramental Preparation Program

CONFIRMATION

PARENT SESSION F

The Sacrament of Marriage

SESSION OUTLINE

Parish-Based Sacramental Preparation

PARENT SESSION for Confirmation Sacramental Preparation

Session F – the Sacrament of Marriage

OPENING PRAYER

Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in them the fire of your love.

V. Send forth your Spirit, and they shall be created.

R. And You shall renew the face of the earth.

Let us pray: **O, God, who by the light of the Holy Spirit, did instruct the hearts of the faithful, grant that by the same Holy Spirit we may be truly wise and ever enjoy His consolations.**

Through Christ Our Lord. Amen.

OVERVIEW OF CONFIRMATION – SESSIONS FOR PARENTS

- To assist the children in their spiritual growth;
- To encourage faith discussions at home; and
- To encourage adults within the faith community to engage in discussions about their faith.

WELCOME

Tell us about someone who you admire for their example of faithfulness and dedication in their marriage.

CATECHESIS

Outline the 5 key points which will be covered in the DVD:

FIVE KEY POINTS

- Marriage is a part of God's plan of creation. It is a sign of God's love. "God did not create man a solitary being. From the beginning, "male and female he created them" (Gen 1:27). (CCC#383)
- In marriage, a man and a woman form with each other an intimate communion of life and love. Marriage is for the good of the couple, as well as the generation and education of children. (CCC#1660)
- Christ the Lord raised marriage between the baptized to the dignity of a sacrament.
- Recognizing the real struggles of marriage, the sacrament of Matrimony helps spouses to love each other more perfectly, strengthens their indissoluble unity, and helps them on the way to eternal life. (CCC#1661)
- The Christian home is the place where children receive the first proclamation of the faith. For this reason the family home is rightly called "the domestic church"... (CCC#1666)

Notes for the Catechist:

These are not points to be taught as such, they are resources for the catechist to deepen his own understanding of the truths of faith in order to be able to better communicate them.

Notes from the Catechism of the Catholic Church:

1534 Two other sacraments, Holy Orders and Matrimony, are directed towards the salvation of others; if they contribute as well to personal salvation, it is through service to others that they do so. They confer a particular mission in the Church and serve to build up the People of God.

1661 The sacrament of Matrimony signifies the union of Christ and the Church. It gives spouses the grace to love each other with the love with which Christ has loved his Church; the grace of the sacrament thus perfects the human love of the spouses, strengthens their indissoluble unity, and sanctifies them on the way to eternal life (cf Council of Trent: DS 1799).

1662 Marriage is based on the consent of the contracting parties, that is, on their will to give themselves, each to the other, mutually and definitively, in order to live a covenant of faithful and fruitful love.

1663 Since marriage establishes the couple in a public state of life in the Church, it is fitting that its celebration be public, in the framework of a liturgical celebration, before the priest (or a witness authorized by the Church), the witnesses, and the assembly of the faithful.

1664 Unity, indissolubility, and openness to fertility are essential to marriage. Polygamy is incompatible with the unity of marriage; divorce separates what God has joined together; the refusal of fertility turns married life away from its "supreme gift," the child (GS 50 # 1).

1666 The Christian home is the place where children receive the first proclamation of the faith. For this reason the family home is rightly called "the domestic church," a community of grace and prayer, a school of human virtues and of Christian charity.

II. The Vocation to Chastity

2337 Chastity means the successful integration of sexuality within the person and thus the inner unity of man in his bodily and spiritual being. Sexuality, in which man's belonging to the bodily and biological world is expressed, becomes personal and truly human when it is integrated into the relationship of one person to another, in the complete and lifelong mutual gift of a man and a woman.

The virtue of chastity therefore involves the integrity of the person and the integrality of the gift.

2339 Chastity includes an apprenticeship in self-mastery which is a training in human freedom. the alternative is clear: either man governs his passions and finds peace, or he lets himself be dominated by them and becomes unhappy.

2342 Self-mastery is a long and exacting work. One can never consider it acquired once and for all. It presupposes renewed effort at all stages of life. The effort required can be more intense in certain periods, such as when the personality is being formed during childhood

Play SYMBOLON Part 2: Episode 5: Matrimony & Holy Orders Part 1 (Some Versions may say Episode 15 – use the Matching Topics)

Review the 5 points from the DVD outlined above. The points are now represented in picture format to reinforce them visually.

- Marriage is a part of God’s plan of creation. It is a sign of God’s love. "God did not create man a solitary being. From the beginning, "male and female he created them" (Gen 1:27). (CCC#383)
- In marriage, a man and a woman form with each other an intimate communion of life and love. Marriage is for the good of the couple, as well as the generation and education of children. (CCC#1660)
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FAITH WITNESS

Share a brief story from your own faith life which reflects one of the five key points.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What is an example of how marriage could be a sign of God’s love?
- Why do you think Jesus raised marriage to a sacrament?
- How are marriage and family connected to the good of society and of each human person?
- How do we teach our children about the true values of marriage and family?
- How can our families be “domestic churches?”

HOME ACTIVITY

HOMEWORK: CHOSEN, student workbook: Hmwk: Lesson 17 – Who’s calling? (Holy Orders and Vocational Discernment) - Mass Journal Part 2 & Service Project Part 2

NEXT CLASS: Parents Invited to Attend Student Session 10 DATE & TIME _____

- Collect Apostolic Service Project 2 & Mass Journal 2

HOME ACTIVITY

TODAY IN CLASS: Student Session 9: Lesson 16: What does it mean to say “I do”? (Marriage, a Sign of God’s Love) For Reference: Lesson 22: Why wait? (God’s Plan for Love and Sex)

CONVERSATION STARTERS

Why is the Sacrament of Matrimony a sacrament and not just a contract on a piece of paper?

What are some things to think about before you go on a date with someone?

What are some important ways to prepare yourself for marriage?

INVITATION TO PERSONAL PRAYER

Adoration: Think about God who has a particular plan for each of our families.

Contrition: Ask forgiveness for not loving and caring the members of our families as we should

Thanksgiving: Thank God for the gift of our family.

Supplication: Ask God to help our family. Think of specific needs or specific people.

PARENT DISCUSSION

Provide parents with time in groups to review the homework. Ask them to discuss these questions together as they look over the topics for home activity.

- How do you plan to approach the home activities with your child? Are you clear on the home activity which will be reviewed at the child’s next session of sacramental preparation?
- Which home activity topics do you anticipate will be easily understood by your child?
- Which home activity topics do you think may pose a challenge for your child? How will you talk about these topics with your child?

EXIT CARD

- In what ways did this session help you in your faith and your role as a parent supporting your child’s faith journey?
- For next time, what would you like to see included in the session to address your questions of faith and help you in your child’s faith journey preparing to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation?
- Are there other things we need to know to assist you, your child and family?

CLOSING PRAYER

Almighty and eternal God, who has given us new life through water and the Holy Spirit, send forth from heaven and shower upon us the gifts of the Holy Spirit: wisdom, understanding, counsel, fortitude, knowledge, piety, and fear of the Lord.
Amen.