

The 30 Day Challenge for Marriage!

Intro Song "Your Kingdom Is Glorious" by Jackie Francois

Prayers:

Novena Prayer to Saint Joseph

God of mercy and of the holy covenant,
you created every human being, male and female,
in your image and likeness,
so that they may be fruitful and multiply on earth.

In the beginning of our Christian era,
you asked Joseph, illustrious descendant of David,
to take the blessed Virgin Mary as his wife
and to form with her a family
for Jesus, your Son, our Redeemer.

Through the difficulties and trials
you guided St. Joseph,
you made him the protector of the Holy Family
and allowed the Church to recognize him
as an attentive protector for all Christian families.

During this stressful time in which we live,
we ask you to safeguard marriage according to your will,
and we appeal for the intercession and protection
of St. Joseph, your obedient servant,
so that families of today
will be strengthened in love
and continue to live securely
in the sacramental state of marriage.

AMEN

The 30 Day Challenge for Marriage!

- My 10 year anniversary – September 30th
 - The first time I laid my eyes on Michelle I knew I wanted to marry her... that night I got on my knees and begged God that she be the one.

- I was addicted to pornography, lust, licentious behavior, and throughly agnostic....
- I became Catholic just so I could get married
- The Priest, Father Bert, prayed fervently for my conversion & tried desperately to get us to do this right.
- Father Bert asked me to make a confession just minutes to receiving Michelle at the Alter... I had no real idea what I was committing myself too!
- If NOT for the graces we receive in the sacrament!
- My conversion would not come to a head until two years later when on my knees, begging God to fix my life, God allowed me a moment of clarity... the ability to see through the nonsense we build up.
- So I pray for the NEXT 10 years... may they be filled with Love, Joy, and God's abiding grace!

Marriage... an ACT of the will... not an act of emotion!

- Last week we talk about how we must exercise our WILL to get through this life.
- Marriage is a perfect practical example of this principle.
 - How many times of you heard, or said yourself...
 - "I'm just not happy anymore"
 - "We are no longer in love"
 - "God wants me to be happy, right?"
 - "We just don't see eye to eye".
 - As a society we have made it far too easy to allow ourselves to look for excuses to break what God has joined together.
 - Our society has decayed to the point that the sacredness of Marriage has all but vanished... WE, YOU and I, are to blame for this.
- Marriage is:
 - For the well being of the individual persons
 - For the well being of children
 - For the well being of society
 - A Covenant NOT a contract

- Indissoluble
- open to LIFE
- and raised to the dignity of a Sacrament by Christ our Lord.
- IN a NUT SHELL: CCC 1660: *The marriage covenant, by which a man and a woman form with each other an intimate communion of life and love, has been founded and endowed with its own special laws by the Creator. By its very nature it is ordered to the good of the couple, as well as to the generation and education of children. Christ the Lord raised marriage between the baptized to the dignity of a sacrament*
- Marriage is NOT:
 - fleeting... when it doesn't work we toss it & get another
 - made in Man's image & likeness!
 - we can NOT decide what configuration of marriage best suits OUR lifestyle... this is NOT how it was in the beginning!
 - Selfish... & closed to the gift of LIFE
- In the beginning:
 - God made them male & female He created them!
 - **Genesis 1:27-28**
 - *[27] So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. [28] And God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion*

over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth."

- In the Garden Adam was made to NAME all the creatures... he found NO equal & God said it is NOT good that Man should be alone so ... **Genesis 2:21–25**
 - *[21] So the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and while he slept took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh; [22] and the rib which the LORD God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man. [23] Then the man said, "This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man." [24] Therefore a man leaves his father and his mother and cleaves to his wife, and they become one flesh. [25] And the man and his wife were both naked, and were not ashamed.*
- Life was Good... until the FALL
 - CCC 1607:
 - *As a break with God, the first sin had for its first consequence the rupture of the original communion between man and woman. Their relations were distorted by mutual recriminations; their mutual*

attraction, the Creator's own gift, changed into a relationship of domination and lust; and the beautiful vocation of man and woman to be fruitful, multiply, and subdue the earth was burdened by the pain of childbirth and the toil of work.

- In Genesis 2:25 Adam & his wife were both "naked & un-ashamed"... yet in Genesis 3:7 they were both naked & now ashamed... covering themselves with fig-leaves and hiding in a bush!
 - Why?
 - Because of the sin, the fall from grace, the potential for abuse has infiltrated their marriage & all of mankind.
 - The lust after Eve & the abuse of Adam's own self... a long way off from being made in God's image & likeness.
 - We've seen the consequences to this action ever since... in history & now
- Cain murders his brother Abel
 - Cain bares a son himself & names a city of him... seeking his own name & his own greatness & not God's name or His glory!
 - From Cain comes Lamech who takes 2 wives for himself – first recorded in Scripture– Genesis 4:19
 - Lamech then brags about how he too murdered like Cain... only he brags about being that much "better" than his great, great, great grand-father Cain!
 - This evil line of Cain now corrupts the good line of Seth when Genesis 6:1–8

- *[1] When men began to multiply on the face of the ground, and daughters were born to them, [2] the sons of God saw that the daughters of men were fair; and they took to wife such of them as they chose. [3] Then the LORD said, "My spirit shall not abide in man for ever, for he is flesh, but his days shall be a hundred and twenty years." [4] The Nephilim were on the earth in those days, and also afterward, when the sons of God came in to the daughters of men, and they bore children to them. These were the mighty men that were of old, the men of renown. [5] The LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. [6] And the LORD was sorry that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him to his heart. [7] So the LORD said, "I will blot out man whom I have created from the face of the ground, man*

and beast and creeping things and birds of the air, for I am sorry that I have made them." [8] But Noah found favor in the eyes of the LORD.

- This is when God takes one man, one woman, and their Children, with their one wives each and saves them through the tumult of the great flood – taking all others away, while they are LEFT BEHIND
 - To start over in creation – with the land rising out of the waters again
 - With a Man on a Mountain offering up sacrifice & establishing a covenant once again...
- Yet we will see the continued assault on Marriage
 - polygamy
 - Abraham, and Jacob & their concubines
 - Not to mention King David, and his son Solomon.
 - Perversity
 - Sodom and Gamora
 - Offering of babies to Baal
 - The worship of the golden Cafe at mount Siani
 - Divorce
 - Moses allows the people to Divorce!
[Deuteronomy 24:1-4](#)
 -
 - **Yet God says:**
 - [Malachi 2:16](#) "*For I hate divorce, says the LORD the God of Israel, and covering one's garment with violence, says the LORD of hosts. So take heed to yourselves and do not be faithless.*"
- Jesus raises the bar:

- **Matthew 19:3-9**

- *[3] And Pharisees came up to him and tested him by asking, "Is it lawful to divorce one's wife for any cause?" [4] He answered, "Have you not read that he who made them from the beginning made them male and female, [5] and said, 'For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh'? [6] So they are no longer two but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let not man put asunder." [7] They said to him, "Why then did Moses command one to give a certificate of divorce, and to put her away?" [8] He said to them, "For your hardness of heart Moses allowed you to divorce your wives, but from the beginning it was not so. [9] And I say to you: whoever divorces his wife, except for unchastity, and marries another, commits adultery."*

- In Genesis we are given the account of the first marriage between Adam & Eve
 - This is foreshadowing to the marriage all the saved will experience in the fullness of time... the marriage to the lamb! Rev. 21 & 22
 - Our marriages can not be broken just like the marriage to the lamb can not be broken
 - Our marriage is sacred, a covenant, just like it will be with the Lamb...
- Let us pray for the vocation of Marriage... the foundation of a good society!
- Join me these remaining weeks in September in the 30 Day

Challenge for Marriage.... daily Mass, prayers, Sacrifice