



GIVE US
THIS DAY
OUR DAILY LOVE



POPE FRANCIS
ON THE FAMILY

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Compiled by
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and Donna Giaimo, FSP


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Prayer to the Holy Family

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

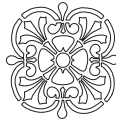
Holy Family of Nazareth,
may the Synod of Bishops

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.

Angelus message, December 29, 2013

The Sacrament of Marriage



“Marriage is the icon of God’s love for us.”

Created in Order to Love

The image of God is the married couple: the man and the woman; not only the man, not only the woman, but both of them together. This is the image of God: love; God's covenant with us is represented in that covenant between man and woman. And this is very beautiful! We are created in order to love, as a reflection of God and his love. And in the marital union man and woman fulfill this vocation through their mutual reciprocity and their full and definitive communion of life.

When a man and woman celebrate the Sacrament of Matrimony, God as it were "is mirrored" in them; he impresses in them his own features and the indelible character of his love. Marriage is the icon of God's love for us. Indeed, God is communion too: the three Persons of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit live eternally in perfect unity. And this is precisely the mystery of Matrimony: God makes of the two spouses one single life. The Bible uses a powerful expression and says "one flesh," so intimate is the union between man and woman in marriage. And this is

precisely the mystery of marriage: the love of God which is reflected in the couple that decides to live together. Therefore a man leaves his home, the home of his parents, and goes to live with his wife and unites himself so strongly to her that the two become—the Bible says—one flesh.

There is a truly marvelous design inherent in the Sacrament of Matrimony! And it unfolds in the simplicity and frailty of the

human condition. We are well aware of how many difficulties two spouses experience. . . . The important thing is to keep alive their bond with God, who stands as the foundation of the marital bond. And the true bond is always the Lord. When the family prays, the bond is preserved. When the husband prays for his wife

“When a man and woman celebrate the Sacrament of Matrimony, God as it were ‘is mirrored’ in them...”

and the wife prays for her husband, that bond becomes strong; one praying for the other. It is true that there are so many difficulties in married life, so many, when there is insufficient work or money, when the children have problems. So much to contend with. And many times the husband and wife become a little fractious and argue between themselves. They argue; this is how it is. There is always arguing in marriage; sometimes the plates even fly. Yet we must not become saddened by this; this is the human condition. The secret is that love is stronger than the moment when there is arguing, and therefore I always advise spouses: do not let a day when you have argued end without making peace. Always! And to make peace it isn't necessary to call the United Nations to

come to the house and make peace. A little gesture is sufficient, a caress, and then let it be! Until tomorrow! And tomorrow begin again. And this is life, carrying on, carrying on with courage and the desire to live together. And this is truly great; it is beautiful!

General Audience, April 2, 2014

Renewing the Sacrament of Marriage

The family is founded on marriage. Through their free and faithful act of love, Christian spouses testify to the fact that marriage, insofar as it is a sacrament, is the foundation of the family and strengthens spousal union and the couple's mutual gift of self. It is as though matrimony were first a human sacrament, where the person discovers himself, understands himself in relation to others and in a relationship of love which is capable of receiving and giving. Spousal and familial love also clearly reveals the vocation of the person to love in a unique way and forever, and that the trials, sacrifices, and crises of couples as well as of the family as a whole represent pathways for growth in goodness, truth, and beauty. In marriage we give ourselves completely without calculation or reserve, sharing everything, gifts and hardship, trusting in God's Providence. This is the experience that the young can learn from their parents and grandparents. It is an experience of

faith in God and of mutual trust, profound freedom, and holiness, because holiness presumes giving oneself with fidelity and

“In marriage we give ourselves completely without calculation or reserve, sharing everything, gifts and hardship, trusting in God’s Providence.”

sacrifice every day of one’s life! But there are problems in marriage. Always different points of view, jealousy, arguing. But we need to say to young spouses that they should never end the day without making peace. The Sacrament of Marriage is renewed in this act of peace after an argument, a misunderstanding, a hidden jealousy, even a sin. Making

peace gives unity to the family; and tell young people, young couples, that it is not easy to go down this path, but it is a very beautiful path, very beautiful. You need to tell them!

*Address to the participants in the plenary assembly
of the Pontifical Council for the Family, October 25, 2013*

Building a Forever Home

It's important to ask yourself if it is possible to love each other "forever." This is a question that must be asked: Is it possible to love "forever"? Today so many people are afraid of making definitive decisions. One boy said to his bishop: "I want to become a priest, but only for ten years." He was afraid of a definitive choice. But that is a general fear that comes from our culture. To make life decisions seems impossible. Today everything changes so quickly, nothing lasts long. And this mentality leads many who are preparing for marriage to say: "We are together as long as the love lasts"; and then? All the best and see you later . . . and so ends the marriage. But what do we mean by "love"? Is it only a feeling, a psychophysical state? Certainly, if that is it, then we cannot build on anything solid. But if, instead, love is a relationship, then it is a reality that grows, and we can also say by way of example that it is built up like a home. And a home is built together, not alone! To build something here means to foster and aid growth.

Dear engaged couples, you are preparing to grow together, to build this home, to live together forever. You do not want to

“This is a question that must be asked: Is it possible to love ‘forever’?”

found it on the sand of sentiments, which come and go, but on the rock of true love, the love that comes from God. The family is born from this plan of love; it wants to grow just as a home is built, as a place of affection, of help, of hope, of sup-

port. As the love of God is stable and forever, so too should we want the love on which a family is based to be stable and forever. Please, we mustn't let ourselves be overcome by the “culture of the provisory”! Today this culture invades us all, this culture of the temporary. This is not right!

Address to engaged couples, February 14, 2014

Give Us This Day Our Daily Love

How, then, does one cure this fear of the “forever”? One cures it day by day, by entrusting oneself to the Lord Jesus in a life that becomes a daily spiritual journey, made in steps—little steps, steps of shared growth. It is accomplished through a commitment to becoming men and women who are mature in faith. For, dear engaged couples, “forever” is not only a question of duration! A marriage is not successful just because it endures; quality is important. To stay together and to know how to love one another forever is the challenge for Christian couples. What comes to mind is the miracle of the multiplication of the loaves: for you, too, the Lord can multiply your love and give it to you fresh and good each day. He has an infinite reserve! He gives you the love that stands at the foundation of your union and each day he renews and strengthens it. And he makes it ever greater when the family grows with children.

On this journey prayer is important; it is necessary, always: he for her, she for him, and both together. Ask Jesus to multiply your

“A marriage is not successful just because it endures; quality is important.”

love. In the prayer of the Our Father we say: “Give us this day our daily bread.”

Spouses can also learn to pray like this: “Lord, give us this day our daily love,” for the daily love of spouses is bread, the true bread of the soul, what sustains them in going forward. And the

prayer: can we practice to see if we know how to say it? “Lord, give us this day our daily love.” All together! [Couples: “Lord, give us this day our daily love.”] One more time! [Couples: “Lord, give us this day our daily love.”] This is the prayer for engaged couples and spouses. Teach us to love one another, to will good to the other! The more you trust in him, the more your love will be “forever”—able to be renewed—and it will conquer every difficulty.

Address to engaged couples, February 14, 2014

Restored in Christ's Love

The love of Christ, which has blessed and sanctified the union of husband and wife, is able to sustain their love and to renew it when, humanly speaking, it becomes lost, wounded, or worn out. The love of Christ can restore to spouses the joy of journeying together. This is what marriage is all about: man and woman walking together, wherein the husband helps his wife to become ever more a woman, and wherein the woman has the task of helping her husband to become ever more a man. This is the task that you both share. "I love you, and for this love I help you to become ever more a woman"; "I love you, and for this love I help you to become ever more a man." Here we see the reciprocity of differences. The path is not always a smooth one, free of disagreements, otherwise it would not be human. It is a demanding journey, at times difficult and at times turbulent, but such is life! Within this theology which the word of God offers us concerning the people on a journey, spouses on a journey, I would like to give you some advice. It

is normal for husband and wife to argue: it's normal. It always happens. But my advice is this: never let the day end without hav-

“Marriage is a symbol of life, real life: it is not ‘fiction’! It is the Sacrament of the love of Christ and the Church...”

ing first made peace. Never!

A small gesture is sufficient.

Thus the journey may con-

tinue. Marriage is a symbol

of life, real life: it is not “fic-

tion”! It is the Sacrament of

the love of Christ and the

Church, a love which finds

its proof and guarantee in

the cross. My desire for you

is that you have a good jour-

ney, a fruitful one, growing in love. I wish you happiness. There

will be crosses! But the Lord is always there to help us move for-

ward. May the Lord bless you!

Homily, September 14, 2014

Hand in Hand, Always

Those who celebrate the Sacrament [of Marriage] say, “*I promise to be true to you, in joy and in sadness, in sickness and in health; I will love you and honor you all the days of my life.*” At that moment, the couple does not know what will happen, nor what joys and pains await them. They are setting out, like Abraham, on a journey together. And that is what marriage is! Setting out and walking together, hand in hand, putting yourselves in the Lord’s powerful hands. Hand in hand, always and for the rest of your lives. And do not pay attention to this makeshift culture, which can shatter our lives.

With trust in God’s faithfulness, everything can be faced responsibly and without fear. Christian spouses are not naïve; they know life’s problems and temptations. But they are not afraid to be responsible before God and before society. They do not run away, they do not hide, they do not shirk the mission of forming a family and bringing children into the world. “But today, Father, it is difficult. . . .” Of course it is difficult! That is

why we need the grace, the grace that comes from the sacrament! The sacraments are not decorations in life—what a beautiful marriage, what a beautiful ceremony, what a beautiful banquet. . . . But that is not the Sacrament of Marriage. That is a decoration! Grace is not given to decorate life but rather to make us strong in life, giving us courage to go forward! And without isolating oneself but always staying together.

*Address to the participants in the Pilgrimage of
Families during the Year of Faith, October 26, 2013*