

The Sacrament of Matrimony (CCC 1601-1666)

1. The Trinity

- total self-giving among the Persons of the Holy Trinity
- “Furnace of Love”
- the human person is created in the “image and likeness of God”
- this means that we bear an image and likeness of the Trinity

2. God and the Human Person (Covenant between God and Israel and Christ and the Church)

- God has covenant with relationship with Israel – spouse, partner, friend, etc
 - Exodus 19:5, Leviticus 26:11, Deuteronomy 30:17, 32:4, etc.
- strong examples of God’s spousal love
 - Jeremiah 2:1-3, 3:20-22; Ezekiel 16, 23; Hosea 1:2-3; Song of Songs
- Christ’s love for the Church
 - Christ as Bridegroom (Mark 2:19-20; John 3:28-30)
 - converts presented as spouses to Christ (2 Corinthians 11:2)
 - Samaritan woman at the well (John 4)
- How does Christ give Himself for His Bride?
 - gives His life
 - total gift of Himself (total, faithful, permanent, life-giving, self-giving)
- “the wedding feast of the Lamb” (Revelation 19:7,9)

3. Sacrament of Marriage

- Christ raises marriage to a Sacrament – Wedding Feast of Cana (John 2:1-11)

Celebration of the Sacrament

1. Usually during **Mass**
2. **Reconciliation** recommended beforehand
3. **Spouses are ministers of Sacrament** – priest is witness – priestly blessing necessary for validity
4. **Consent** – no constraint or impediment under natural or ecclesial law -*if consent is lacking, there is no marriage* -consent is binding –“two become one flesh” –free of coercion or grave external fear (effects validity) –priest or deacon receives consent in name of Church and give blessing –they and witnesses express ecclesial reality of marriage
5. **Proper Ecclesial Form** –liturgical act – ecclesial order which creates rights and duties
6. **Free and Responsible Act**
7. **Baptised Christians**

Effects of Sacrament

1. Consent sealed by God
2. Covenant caught up in Divine love
3. Indissoluble
4. Grace given to live vocation

Goods and Requirements

- conjugal love –full person enters in – demands unity, indissolubility, faithfulness, fertility (openness to life)

Domestic Church – parents are first heralds of faith to children

Bringing it all Together

Marriage as a sign of Christ’s love for His Church (Ephesians 5: 21-33)