

Dear Padre,

Why should we be married in the Church?

At baptism, every Christian is called to be not just Jesus' disciple, but an apostle. While it's easy to see how priests and religious sisters and brothers serve as missionaries, a man and woman joined in the sacrament of matrimony are also missionaries. Saint Paul noted the way a husband and wife love each other reflects how Christ loves his bride, the Church: "Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ loved the church" (Ephesians 5:25).

The first beneficiaries of the missionary vocation of marriage are the husband and wife. Through their exclusive love, they support each other.



Their relationship is open to sexual expression, allowing the body and soul of two to become one. And, if God wills, children will benefit from the Christian bond of their parents. They bring their children to baptism, then teach them about their faith at home through example and instruction.

Those who encounter a couple throughout their lives—relatives, friends, coworkers, parishioners, and even strangers—benefit from their Christian marriage. How often have we been touched by the sight of an older couple walking hand in hand?

God will reveal to them only in eternity how many lives have been impacted by their love.

Jesus praised matrimony as part of the initial vocation given to humanity (see Mark 10:6–9). Without reproduction, there would have been no human race. But humans, created in God's image, lead lives reflecting God's love. In the couple who says, "I do," God's love shines brightly as a light to the world.

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Calendar

Monday

OCTOBER 3

Weekday

Gal 1:6–12

Lk 10:25–37

Tuesday

OCTOBER 4

St. Francis of Assisi

Gal 1:13–24

Lk 10:38–42

Wednesday

OCTOBER 5

Weekday

Gal 2:1–2, 7–14

Lk 11:1–4

Thursday

OCTOBER 6

Weekday

Gal 3:1–5

Lk 11:5–13

Friday

OCTOBER 7

Our Lady

of the Rosary

Gal 3:7–14

Lk 11:15–26

Saturday

OCTOBER 8

Weekday

Gal 3:22–29

Lk 11:27–28

Sunday

OCTOBER 9

Twenty-eighth

Sunday in

Ordinary Time

2 Kgs 5:14–17

2 Tm 2:8–13

Lk 17:11–19

A WORD FROM *Pope Francis*

Marriage isn't just a social act. It's a vocation that's born from the heart, a conscious decision for the rest of one's life that requires specific preparation....God has a dream for us, love, and he asks us to make it our own. Let us make our own the love which is God's dream for us.

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