



UP TO THE SOURCE

Adoratio with St. John Paul II

FOR COUPLES

The Bridegroom is With You

From the "Letter to Families" (18–19) from Pope John Paul II, Feb. 2, 1994

Jesus proclaims the truth about marriage when he explains how the love which comes from God, a tender and spousal love, *gives rise to profound and radical demands.* (...) *Spouses and families, remember at what price you have been "bought!" It is humanly difficult to accept and to live this marvellous truth...*

The bodies of the husband and wife are the dwelling-place of the Holy Spirit. Because the transmission of divine life presumes the transmission of human life, marriage not only brings about the birth of human children, but also, through the power of Baptism, the birth of adopted children of God, who live the new life received from Christ through his Spirit.

Dear brothers and sisters, spouses and parents, this is how the *Bridegroom is with you.* You know that he is the Good Shepherd... You know how he withstands the marauding wolves, and is ever ready to rescue his sheep: every husband and wife, every son and daughter, every member of your families. You know that he, as the Good Shepherd, is prepared to lay down his own life for his flock.

The Apostles, overcoming their initial fears even about marriage and the family, grew in courage. They came to understand that marriage and family are a true vocation which comes from God himself and is an apostolate: the apostolate of the laity...

Dear families, you too should be fearless, ever ready to give witness to the hope that is in you... You should be ready to follow Christ towards the pastures of life.

Do not be afraid of the risks! God's strength is always far more powerful than your difficulties! Immeasurably greater than the evil at work in the world is the power of the *Sacrament of Reconciliation*, which the Fathers of the Church

rightly called a "second Baptism." Much more influential than the corruption present in the world is the divine power of the Sacrament of *Confirmation*, which brings Baptism to its maturity. And incomparably greater than all is the power of the Eucharist.

The Eucharist is truly a wondrous sacrament... He has left himself to us that we might have life and have it in abundance: the life which is in him and which he has shared with us by the gift of the Spirit in rising from the dead on the third day. The life that comes from Christ is a life for us. *It is for you, dear husbands and wives, parents and families!* Did Jesus not institute the Eucharist in a family-like setting during the Last Supper? When you meet for meals and are together in harmony, *Christ is close to you*. And he is Emmanuel, God with us, in an even greater way whenever you approach the table of the Eucharist. It can happen, as it did at Emmaus, that he is recognized only in "the breaking of the bread." It may well be that he is knocking at the door for a long time, waiting for it to be opened so that he can enter and eat with us. The Last Supper and the words he spoke there contain all the power and wisdom of the sacrifice of the Cross. No other power and wisdom exist by which we can be saved and through which we can help to save others. There is no other power and no other wisdom by which you, parents, can educate both your children and yourselves. The *educational power of the Eucharist* has been proved down the generations and centuries.



Litany of Married Saints

Holy Mary Mother of God, and Saint Joseph of Nazareth, Spouses,	<i>Pray for us</i>
Saint Joachim and Saint Anne, Parents of the Virgin Mary,	<i>Pray for us</i>
Saints Aquila and Priscilla, Missionary Couple,	<i>Pray for us</i>
Saints Anastasios and Theopista, Martyred Spouses,	<i>Pray for us</i>
Saints Henry II and Cunegunda, Spouses and Emperors,	<i>Pray for us</i>
Saint Stephen and Blessed Gisella, Spouses and Monarchs,	<i>Pray for us</i>
Saint Isadore the Farmer and Saint Mary of the Head, Married Laborers,	<i>Pray for us</i>
Blessed John and Thecla Hashimoto, Married Martyrs and Parents of Martyrs,	<i>Pray for us</i>
Blessed John Yu Jung and Lutgarda Yi Sun-I, Spouses and Martyrs,	<i>Pray for us</i>
Saints Louis Martin and Zélie Guérin, Spouses and Parents of Saints,	<i>Pray for us</i>
Blessed Victoria Rasoamanarivo, Faithful Wife,	<i>Pray for us</i>
Saint Franz Jägerstätter, Husband and Martyr,	<i>Pray for us</i>
Saints Luigi and Marie Beltrame-Quattrocchi, Spouses,	<i>Pray for us</i>



A Prayer for Couples by St. John Paul II

God, from whom all fatherhood in heaven and on earth comes,
Father, you are love and life,
make every human family on earth become,
through your Son, Jesus Christ, "born of woman,"
and through the Holy Spirit, source of divine charity,
a true sanctuary of life and love
for generations that always renew themselves.

Let your grace guide the minds and deeds of the spouses
towards the good of their families
and all the families in the world.

Let the younger generation find strong support in the family,
for their humanity and their growth in truth and love.

Let love, strengthened by the grace of the sacrament of marriage,
prove stronger than any weakness or crisis,
through which our families sometimes pass.

Finally, we ask you through the intercession of the Holy Family of Nazareth,
that the Church in the midst of all the nations of the earth
can fruitfully fulfill its mission
in and through the family.

You, who are life, truth and love,
in the unity of the Son and the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

"The good God gave me a father and a mother worthier of heaven than of earth" (S. Thérèse of Lisieux, Letter 261).

