



Newsletter – January 2025

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MARRIAGE

SEE

Many writers have addressed the various aspects of marriage and married life. I might be repeating it. Please forgive me. As to why I am writing again on these issues, though from a different angle, I hope, is that as in this age with the omnipresent Artificial Intelligence and LGBTQ, many young people still want to get married. The reasons for this important and life-changing decision vary from individual to individual. In fact, some do not consider marriage as important. For them, it is just a fad. Others do not consider marriage as life-changing. They lead their same single lives after marriage, ignoring the trajectory in which their marriage is going.

Another reason for writing on Marriage is the Sacrament of Marriage that Catholics adhere to. For Centuries, the Catholic Church is clear about what marriage is all about and the biblical values enshrined in the Sacrament of Marriage, one of the Seven Sacraments. So much importance is given to married life and family. This domestic church is the bedrock of society. *Gaudium et Spes* (Joy and Hope) promulgated during the Second Vatican Council in 1965 speaks on the topic marriage in its wider discussion of Dignity of Man, Common Good and the Unity of Mankind. I am sure you will come across other literary sources from our Church on Marriage (If so, please share with all CFSM members).

You will know by now, that many marriages break up for one reason or another. It has become too common. I am a Commissioner for Oaths in Singapore. I often go to law firms where clients need to affirm/swear to the truth of the contents of documents which their

lawyers have prepared on their behalf in divorce cases. Some law firms specialize in family law and therefore they have many such cases per day. When I look at my clients, I feel pain deep down in my heart. These are young couples. It is not fair to judge them. They have their own reasons and they are in a bitter period of their lives.

This year, 2025, I am married for 32 years. I had numerous quarrels with my wife. To date, we are still together. Both of us are Catholics and this foundation of our married life sustains us.

This article does not offer any solutions because there are no ready-made solutions. We are talking about human lives in a troubled and turbulent world. There is no doubt that basic compatibility, common understanding and common interests can help a lot in marriages. Marriage is forever a work-in-progress.

Therefore, whilst living a married life, how can we avoid the pitfalls. For Catholics, we know that our Lord Jesus Christ is the answer. Living his words, reflecting on his life and contemplating his Holy Family will bring not just good solutions to the issues but Joy and Hope in our married life. God will not abandon us. He will never put us in situations where He will not help us. Yes, there is pain and suffering. As Jesus prayed to His Father, let all married couples pray to our Heavenly Father. God will show a way in His time and there will be Joy and Hope thereafter.

JUDGE

“Authentic married love is caught up into divine love and is governed and enriched by Christ's redeeming power and the saving activity of the Church, so that this love may lead the spouses to God with powerful effect and may aid and strengthen them in sublime office of being a father or a mother. For this reason Christian spouses have a special sacrament by which they are fortified and receive a kind of consecration in the duties and dignity of their state. By virtue of this sacrament, as spouses fulfil their conjugal and family obligation, they are penetrated with the spirit of Christ, which suffuses their whole lives with faith, hope and charity. Thus they increasingly advance the perfection of their own personalities, as well as their mutual sanctification, and hence contribute jointly to the glory of God.” – *Gaudium et Spes*

1. Does our married life reflect divinity?
2. Aren't we blessed as a married couple? What do we do with this blessing from God?

A great saint, St Paul, himself felt inadequate to preach the Word of God,

“For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and him crucified. And I came to you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling. My speech and my

proclamation were not with plausible words of wisdom, but with a demonstration of the Spirit and of power, so that your faith might rest not on human wisdom but on the power of God.”- 1 Corinthians 2:1-5

3. Are married couples relying on the power of God or human wisdom? Take a cue from St Paul.

The parable of the Woman Caught in Adultery John 8:1-11.

4. A forgiving heart is vital in a marriage. Can we forgive like Jesus? Let us not condemn others. Let us not condemn ourselves. We all are made for God.

ACT

1. Let us forgive our spousal partner for all past, present and future mistakes.
2. Let us pray daily to God to strengthen the bonds of our marriages.
3. Let us live in Hope trusting in God’s wisdom and not our human intellect.