

## FROM THE PASTOR

My brothers and sisters,

Today we celebrate World Marriage Sunday: we celebrate the beauty of the Sacrament of Matrimony, and the vocation to married life. In the beginning, “God made them male and female,” Genesis says, and the very first commandment of God to humanity was to “be fertile and multiply” (Gen. 1:27-28). It also says, “the two of them become one flesh” (Gen 2:24). This union of husband and wife, seen by the very nature of how our bodies were made (and the more we learn about hormones and the make-up of our bodies, the more we should be in awe at the miracle of how God made us), shows the deep intimacy that is marriage, and how God created us to be. This is the Natural Law we find written in our bodies!

When Christ walked this earth, He raised the natural sacrament of marriage to a *supernatural* Sacrament. No longer is it governed only by the Natural Law. Now, as St. Paul says in his letter to the Ephesians (chapter 5), the bond of husband and wife are a **sign** of Christ’s love for the Church!

You who are married, think about this: as much as Christ loved the Church, and gave His Body up for her, so are you to love each other. Christ’s love is **total, faithful, free** and **fruitful** (life-giving), and the Sacrament of Matrimony is supposed to be a **total, faithful, free** and **fruitful** gift of self to the other. Marriage is meant to desire and work for the best *good* for the other – that means getting each other to heaven.

On this World Marriage Sunday, may we come to a greater awe at the great gift of marriage that God has given us, and strive to live out the joy-filled plan that God has for this commitment of life and love.