

Marriage

Thursday of Respect Life Week – October 2021

Marriage and Family

Grades 7-9

Goal: Marriage and family are a vital and important part of our society. Marriage numbers are decreasing around the world and there is much confusion about the nature of marriage and why people even ought to get married. Students will explore the benefits of marriage for individuals and society and learn how to have a fruitful marriage.

Materials: Call to Family ([video link](#))
Living Richly: Faith and Marriage ([video link](#))

Throughout this week, we have explored the dignity of the human person and the various ways we are called to uphold and protect life at every stage and in every circumstance. Married couples have a special role in modelling God’s love and protecting the most vulnerable. The family is often called the “sanctuary of life.” Within the family, we are meant to learn and experience our dignity in the context of love.

Watch: Call to Family ([video link](#))

Discussion Questions:

How do we learn to give of ourselves in family?

How does marriage and family life affect society?

How does the topic of marriage and family relate to human dignity and the other topics we’ve been discussing this week?

Watch: Living Richly: Faith and Marriage ([video link](#))

In this video, a married couple discuss the joys, blessings, and faithfulness of their marriage and family. This video teaches how marriage and family can help us grow in love, patience, joy, and faith. Through marriage and family, we can learn to look outside ourselves and live for others.

Discussion Questions:

How can marriage teach us how to live a richer and more meaningful life?

How does marriage and having children expand someone’s capacity to love?

What does it mean to “make a gift of yourself”? How do parents and spouses do this daily?

Activity: Discuss the sacrament of marriage. Ask students to write a definition of marriage that includes not only the interests and benefits of the husband and wife, but also the responsibility toward any children they may have.

Is there one definition in the class that everyone can agree on? Now compare that definition with the one given in the Catechism of the Catholic Church #1601. Are they close?

Questions for Discussion

What does marriage mean?
How would you describe marriage?
Why do you think marriage is important?
Would you like to get married when you grow up?
Why or why not?
Why is family important?

Prayer:

God and Father of us all,
in Jesus, You have made us Your sons and daughters
in the family of the Church.

May Your grace and love help our families
in every part of the world be united to one another in fidelity to the Gospel.

May the example of the Holy Family, with the aid of Your Holy Spirit,
guide all families to be homes of communion and prayer
and to always seek Your truth and live in Your love.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Lesson adapted from the plans on the Archdiocese of Los Angeles Office of Life, Justice and Peace website.