

## **RCIA – Symbolon Lesson 15: Matrimony and Holy Orders; *We Believe*: Ch. 12 The Priesthood & Ch. 13 Marriage**

### **Opening Prayer: A Prayer for the Discernment of Vocations**

Loving God, my Creator and my Father, life is your gift to me. Through Baptism, you invite me to share the gift of my life in service to others. Be with me as I choose each day to show Your presence in our world.

Give me the courage and generosity to respond to Your love, to Your call. Open my heart and my mind to know what your most holy will for me and my life is and give me the courage and perseverance to do it. Open the minds and hearts of all men and women that we may all share in your work of building the Kingdom – in the Church, our homes, families, workplaces, schools, and society.

Loving God, you have made me in Your image and likeness, and for this I shall praise You forever. Through baptism, You invite me to serve as Your son Jesus served. I offer You this day all that I have and all that I am in union with His saving cross. Through the intercession of the Most Blessed Virgin Mary, all the angels and saints, humbly hear our prayers and grant your Church's needs, through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

### **Song: Servant Song**

#### **• Catechism References for Further Reflection:**

- Marriage in God's Plan: CCC 1602-1605
- Marriage as a Model of Christ's Union with the Church: CCC 1616
- Permanence of Marriage: CCC 1638-1640
- Grace of the Sacrament: CCC 1641-1642
- The Indissolubility of Marriage: CCC 1644
- Openness to Fertility: CCC 1652-1654
- Holy Orders: CCC 1536-1538
- Participation in the Priesthood of Christ: CCC 1546-1548
- Three Degrees of Holy Orders: CCC 1552-1554
- Effects of the Sacrament of Holy Orders: CCC 1581-1585

#### **• Questions for Discussion:**

- Why is marriage one of the seven Sacraments, according to the teaching of the Catholic Church?
- What is God's plan for marriage? How does that differ from secular society's view of marriage? What do we mean when we say love is not a feeling, but a choice – an act of the will? Why is that important in marriage?

- What is a vocation? How did you know what vocation God was calling you to? What does “self-giving love” have to do with the vocations of marriage and holy orders?

- What do we mean that Sacramental Marriage needs to be “free,” “total,” “faithful,” and “fruitful”? Can a marriage be “fruitful” if the couple is not able to conceive children? How can someone who takes a vow of celibacy and is married to Christ and His Church be “fruitful”?

- Why does the Church hold up Christ’s relationship to the Church as a model for the marriage relationship?

- What are the three degrees within the Sacrament of Holy Orders? How are Bishops, Priests, and Deacons supposed to bring Christ to the Church?

• **Weekly Gospel Reading: 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time (Mk 1:14-20)**

After John had been arrested,  
Jesus came to Galilee proclaiming the gospel of God:  
"This is the time of fulfillment.  
The kingdom of God is at hand.  
Repent, and believe in the gospel."

As he passed by the Sea of Galilee,  
he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting their nets into the sea;  
they were fishermen.  
Jesus said to them,  
"Come after me, and I will make you fishers of men."  
Then they abandoned their nets and followed him.  
He walked along a little farther  
and saw James, the son of Zebedee, and his brother John.  
They too were in a boat mending their nets.  
Then he called them.  
So they left their father Zebedee in the boat  
along with the hired men and followed him.

• **Closing Prayer.**