

The Sacrament of Marriage

The Sacrament of Marriage is a bond made by a man and woman in the presence of God, joining themselves to one another, becoming one flesh, one mind and of the same Spirit for the glory of God. Marriage held in a Sacramental union, is one of the most beautiful and healing graces that can enter into this world.

“This is what marriage is all about: man and woman walking together, wherein the husband helps his wife to become ever more a woman, and wherein the woman has the task of helping her husband to become ever more a man.” Pope Francis

So when does a Sacrament, holy and sacred in the name of God, no longer become valid? Is it when two people stop loving each other? When violence or differences arise? Sometimes when one is faced with divorce they have no choice or say in the matter; so what then makes it ok to nullify a Sacrament?

We must always remember that there is no textbook answer, response or standardization when it comes to divorce. Every situation is different, every person has a different and valid story. Each case of divorce or annulment must be looked at through the eyes of Christ; merciful, compassionate and understanding. You can't always see the hurt, the longing, or the lack of commitment. Christ does not tell us to condemn, only He has the right to judge, we are to care for one another in all situations of life. We are to walk beside, embrace and comfort in times of hardship and unknowing.

“The Church must accompany - not condemn - those who experience failure in married life.” Pope Francis

This world is starving for the authentic witness of the Sacrament of Marriage, but in order for this to happen we must, together as the ONE body of Christ, seek to build up marriages, provide resources to help them succeed and support them in any way that we can. And if there is a reason that the marriage does not last, then we must continue to walk, guide and nurture them. If there is nothing that can separate us from the love and mercy of God, then there is nothing that can separate us from the love of His Church!

*Gentle Creator,
you willed that men and women be joined together in marriage.
Bless, protect and guide all marriages,
that they might be the healing and nourishing grace this world is longing for.
Help your Church to comfort and nurture those whose marriages have failed,
grant them peace, that they might know your compassionate and merciful love never ends.*

AMEN