

FOR YOUR MARRIAGE

Preaching Resource: World Marriage Sunday 2019

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

February 10, 2019

Below are a few suggested themes, reflective questions, and resources for preaching on World Marriage Sunday 2019. For more instruction or inspiration, visit foryourmarriage.org or marriageuniqueforareason.org.

First Reading: Isaiah 6:1-2A, 3-8

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 138:1-2, 2-3, 4-5, 7-8

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 15:1-11 or 1 Corinthians 15:3-8, 11

Alleluia: Matthew 4:19

Gospel: Luke 5:1-11

- ❖ The readings this Sunday all contain a manifestation of God: to the prophet Isaiah, to the psalmist, to the apostles and five hundred after the Resurrection, and by the Lake of Gennesaret. In all these instances, the recipients of God's revelation experience a degree of trepidation and inadequacy. God reveals Himself to ordinary people in ordinary situations like to the fishermen, Simon Peter and the sons of Zebedee.
 - God meets us in ordinary ways and through ordinary events in our lives. He seeks out the poor of spirit and pure of heart. He reveals His closeness to us in our distress. *In your daily lives as couples, do you have eyes to recognize God's presence in and among you? How can your eyes be opened in faith to His grace?*
 - God's presence is transformative. *Do we allow Him to transform our lives, our marriages, our families? How has God transformed your lives as a couple with the grace of the sacrament of marriage or with the help of the other sacraments?*
 - When God draws near, we recognize our inadequacy, our brokenness, and our sinfulness. His perfection sheds light upon our imperfection. *Are we afraid of our brokenness and imperfection? Are we afraid that it is unforgivable? How can a couple find healing and hope together?*

- ❖ In the first reading, the prophet Isaiah hears the voice of the Lord that says, "Whom shall I send?" He responds, "Here I am, send me!" God summons us to respond to His grace. He asks us to bear His love to the world. His calling comes in many forms. Many are called to the vocation of marriage. It is a calling to love as God loves. In the second reading, St. Paul speaks of the Gospel that he was sent to preach. Those called to marriage can preach the Gospel with their lives of dedication and fidelity.
 - Like the call to the priesthood or to consecrated life, marriage is a calling. It is a form of love and service, witness, and sacrifice. The promises made to one another were taken before God who calls us to ongoing faithfulness and generosity. *How do you individually and*

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together as a couple nourish your response to the vocation of marriage? How do you bear witness to the Gospel in your marriage?

- ❖ In today's Gospel reading, Jesus instructs Simon to "put out into deep water" and lower his nets. Simon had fished all night and had caught nothing. He may have shrugged off or ignored Jesus's words in frustration. However, he chooses to believe that this instruction is meaningful and meant to be obeyed. His faith and obedience are rewarded with an unexpected number of fish.
 - Every couple experiences moments of distress, frustration, and difficulty. It requires a great deal of faith and fortitude to "put out into the deep". *What are the challenges that try your patience and perseverance as a couple? Perhaps it is illness, a career change, a difficult teenager? How is Christ asking you to 'put out into the deep' and trust in Him?*

- ❖ Simon Peter and the other fishermen are astonished at the catch that reveals Jesus as Lord. Jesus' response to Simon Peter is reassuring: "Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching men". Once again, the fisherman of Galilee places his trust in the words of Jesus and leaves everything to follow Him. James and John also do the same; from now on, they will be 'fishers of men'.
 - Jesus invites them to share in His mission, the mission of the Church. As baptized, we all partake in the mission of Jesus Christ, priest, prophet, and king. As married men and women, the calling is lived out in a concrete home and family. *How does your life as a couple, as parents, as godparents, or in another way, touch the lives of your family? How are you witnesses and bearers of the Gospel?*

Resources

- On marriages in crisis – *For Your Marriage* [list of ministries](#) that help married couples in difficulty or crisis
- On healthy sexuality within marriage – Paul VI, Encyclical Letter [Humanae Vitae](#), 1968.
- On divorce – USCCB, *Divorce and the Church's Healing Ministry*, 2010.
- On lust and pornography – USCCB: [Create in Me a Clean Heart: A Pastoral Response to Pornography](#), 2015 and *Clean Heart series of pamphlets*, 2016.
- Pope Francis's [Catechesis on the Family](#), January 7, 2015 – November 18, 2015.
- USCCB, Pastoral Letter [Marriage: Love and Life in the Divine Plan](#), 2009.
- USCCB, *For Your Marriage* website: foryourmarriage.org.
- USCCB, *Por Tu Matrimonio* website: portumatrimonio.org.
- USCCB, *Marriage Unique for A Reason* website: marriageuniqueforareason.org.