

Christian Marriage Leads to Family Holiness

Keep these ideas in mind as you study **Chapter 18**.

❖ The story of a family is meant to be a story of love. A family begins with the love of a married couple, and love keeps a family together.

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❖ The Sacrament of Matrimony is a sign of Jesus' love for his Church and his union with it. The love of a parent for a child also reminds us of God's love for us.

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❖ A priest is present to conduct the marriage ceremony, but the bride and groom administer the Sacrament of Matrimony to each other.

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❖ Rings are exchanged during the Sacrament of Matrimony. The rings are not sacramentals, but they are important reminders of the couple's love.

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❖ If the marriage takes place during a Mass, the priest gives the bride and groom a nuptial blessing after the Lord's Prayer.

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❖ Marriage is a sacrament that lasts as long as the husband and wife are alive. The married couple receive God's grace all their lives.

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❖ Married life and family life can be difficult at times. The gift of grace given through the Sacrament of Matrimony will help a husband and wife care for each other and for their family.

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❖ God's greatest natural gift to a married couple is a child. A child is a reminder of the married couple's love and of God's love for us all.

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❖ A family can be called a domestic church. Just like the Church, they form a community of grace and prayer. They help one another grow in faith.

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❖ Every family requires sacrifice sometimes. We must show love and thankfulness for every person in our family. Through our families, we show God's love to the world.

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