



Bulletin Insert – Marriage: The Multiplication of Love

Throughout his ministry, Jesus attracted a following of laborers, outcasts, sinners, and people seeking spiritual, physical, and emotional healing. With signs great and small, he prepared them for the Good News from the Father: “You are loved! I created you out of love and for love, because I am Love.” In his Passion, he fully revealed the depth of his love by offering his life to free us from sin, and opened the door to eternal salvation.

We get a glimpse of this love in today’s Gospel reading. Jesus saw the need of his followers—that they were hungry—and he responded in love. Taking the meager gifts the teenaged boy had brought, he made an offering of thanksgiving and multiplied them to satisfy the hunger of the multitude.

This miraculous feeding was a prefiguration of the offering Jesus would make of his own body under the appearance of bread and wine at the Last Supper. At that moment he announced, “I have earnestly desired to eat this Passover with you!” (Lk 22:15) He was expressing his yearning to give his life, his body, his everything to us—the Church

For us as Catholics, this is also the key to living the Sacrament of Marriage. Whenever we feel like our gifts are too meager, Jesus simply says, “Show me what you have.” Through this beautiful sacrament, as husband and wife we place our lives, our bodies, our everything into the hands of the Lord. God takes our gifts, blesses them like the loaves and fish, and multiplies the love of our marriage—through hospitality, through any children God may give, and through our living witness to God’s self-sacrificing love—to radiate love into the world.

“A love that fails to grow is at risk. Growth can only occur if we respond to God’s grace through constant acts of love, acts of kindness that become ever more frequent, intense, generous, tender and cheerful.” – Pope Francis, Amoris Laetitia, n. 134



Blesseds Luigi and Maria Beltrame Quattrocchi



Today in the United States, we celebrate National Parents Day, so it is very fitting to reflect on **Blesseds Luigi and Maria Beltrame Quattrocchi**. This husband and wife lived in Rome in the first half of the 20th century, keeping the light of faith burning in their family life through prayer and devotion to the Eucharist. When asked about their four children, Maria responded quickly and honestly, “We brought them up in the faith, so that they might know and love God.”

Drawing on Scripture and the lives of the saints, Luigi and Maria found ways to develop a rich spirituality, both as spouses and as parents. They generously dedicated themselves to teaching and guiding their children to discover God’s plan of love for their lives. Saint John Paul II noted that their exemplary home life brought forth vocations to the priesthood and the consecrated life, showing that marriage and the religious life are complementary since they both have roots in the same spousal love of Christ.

Reflection questions for couples:

- How and in what circumstances do we experience closeness to God in our married life?
- What more can we do to cooperate with God’s plan of love for us as a couple?
- How does the example of Luigi and Maria encourage us to nurture the spiritual lives of our children this year?

Reflection questions for parents and children:

- As you look around the world today, what do you see that is good about being married?
- What is especially hard for married couples and parents nowadays?
- Share with your children how your faith helps you to overcome challenges and find joy in your marriage.

Scan to Learn More!

