



August 25, 2024

Who's Keeping Score?

The motto of the Marine Corps is Semper Fidelis - always faithful. Marines never leave anyone behind, to the point of laying down their lives for each other. They serve with a willingness to sacrifice all without counting the cost. Similarly, in marriage, each spouse is called to sacrifice by voluntarily putting the needs of the other above their own. St. Paul calls this “mutual subordination” to one another. Love doesn't hold anything back, present or future.

Even though this can be difficult to live out, when one spouse has difficulties, the other picks up the slack out of love. Couples are called to sacrificial love like Jesus because love doesn't keep score. The couple sacrifices for their marriage because they are better together and joined by mutual respect and trust. In this way, the couple embodies the love of Christ and his Church and becomes an image of God's love on earth.

Marriage is a partnership. Two are united as one, creating a sense of “us-ness” that is greater than either person. Rather than a 50/50 split of child-raising, housework, and finances, it's a 100/100 split of each giving their all for each other and the family. So when money is tight, nights are long, or schedules are stressful, don't keep score. Instead, let Jesus on the cross show you how to love without counting the cost.

“Christ dwells with them, gives them the strength to take up their crosses and so follow him, to rise again after they have fallen, to forgive one another, to bear one another's burdens, to 'be subject to one another out of reverence for Christ,' and to love one another with supernatural, tender, and fruitful love.” - Catechism of the Catholic Church #1642

