



Bulletin Insert - 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



St. Lorenzo Ruiz - Patron Saint of the Philippines, Migrants, and Separated Families

St. Lorenzo Ruiz was born in 1596 to a Filipino mother and Chinese father. Raised in Manila, Lorenzo served his parish, had a strong devotion to the rosary, and wound up marrying a woman named Rosario! The happy couple lived a peaceful, prayerful life with their two sons and one daughter. The daily lessons and prayer life they practiced as a family strengthened them for the crosses ahead.

In 1636, Lorenzo was falsely accused of killing a Spaniard and was forced to flee to Japan. Shortly after arriving in Nagasaki, Lorenzo and the priests he was with were arrested by the shogunate, brutally tortured for their faith, and martyred. Although he was tempted to renounce his faith, Lorenzo's last words were “Had I one thousand lives, all of these I would give to God.”

Lorenzo and Rosario faced many terrible challenges that couples experience even to this day: racism, separation, loss of a spouse, forced migration, persecution for the faith. They can be great intercessors for couples and families to persevere in times of hardship.



Reflection questions for couples:

- What crosses do we carry as a couple, or as a family? How does our faith help us carry those crosses?
- How do we pray as a couple, or as a family? How can we strengthen our prayer life to imitate the Ruiz's?

Reflection questions for parents and children:

- Most people in our state will never have to face death for our beliefs, but we all have to make sacrifices sometimes for our family. Which sacrifices are especially hard for you?
- How does it feel when you generously do something nice for someone in your family? How do you think it makes them feel?

Scan to Learn More!

