



Homiletic Guide – Marriage: The Multiplication of Love

July 28, 2024 – [Seventeenth Sunday](#) in Ordinary Time ([National Parent’s Day](#))

First Reading: 2 Kings 4:42-44

Give it to the people to eat... and there shall be some left over

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 145 – The hand of the Lord feeds us

Second Reading: Ephesians 4:1-6 – Live in a manner worthy of the call you have received; one body and one Spirit, one hope, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all

Gospel: John 6:1-15 – Multiplication of the loaves and fish

This is the first in a series of 12 Homiletic Guides that will help you encourage your people to invest in their marital relationship, share the faith with their children, and open their hearts for the Lord to multiply their love so that it may radiate out to the world. The Marriage Fact Sheet 2024 offers some important background information for your review, but not necessarily to include in your homily. Although the social trends regarding marriage in California are not great right now, it is important to be positive, practical, and personal.

There is strong evidence that marriage can have a profoundly positive effect on people’s lives, but nowadays a lot of parishioners or their young adult children have lost hope that love can actually last a lifetime. We want to restore that hope and let people know that we will walk with them through the challenging work of growing as couples and families in order to reap the benefits. The following notes are provided as a leadoff for your reflection—it is not necessary to address every bullet point in your homily. With that in mind, here are some thoughts to ponder:





- **Marriage and family life as a response to the *Eucharistic Revival*:**

- The reading from John's Gospel is a prelude to his great Eucharistic Discourse on the Bread of Life, which we will hear in the next few weeks. The miraculous multiplication of the loaves and fish is also a sign of the superabundant nourishment we receive in the Eucharist (CCC, [1335](#)).
- Just as Jesus blessed and multiplied the loaves and fish to feed the hungry multitude, he blesses and multiplies our gifts and our love in families through the Sacrament of Marriage. See the Bulletin Insert for more on this theme.
- The Christian vocation of marriage reflects the abundance Jesus offers us in the Eucharist. From the unlimited spring of his Sacred Heart, Jesus nourishes the family with wisdom, mercy, grace, and love through sacramental marriage.

- **Love is multiplied in marriage and family life:**

- It starts with the couple whose imperfect and sometimes selfish love is blessed and multiplied through the act of a complete, lifelong gift of self to one another.
- Daily acts of mutual care and service, putting the needs of the other before our own, can draw couples together into the heart of Christ, where their love grows.
- The natural complementarity and capacity for procreation of man and woman in the marriage covenant is an image of the generativity and multiplication of love that emanates from God's own life of communion as Father, Son, and Spirit.





- **National Parent's Day**

- Today we celebrate and honor the special gift of parenthood and invite all parents through the words of Saint Paul in the second reading to: “live in a manner worthy of the call you have received.” (See also Gaudium et Spes, [50](#))
- Parenthood calls mothers and fathers to exercise their full capacity as human beings to multiply love through service to all, starting with their children:
 - *Parental responsibility shifts our perspective on life.* When adults suddenly bear the responsibility of nurturing and guiding another human being, it alters their priorities, making them more attuned to the long-term effects of their actions for the well-being of their child and society.
 - *Parenting increases empathy and compassion.* When witnessing the vulnerability and dependence of their child, they often become more attuned to the struggles of others, recognizing the interconnectedness of the human experience and our need for one another in community.
 - *Raising a child demands personal growth.* Parents learn patience, selflessness, and adaptability. These qualities extend beyond parenting, influencing how they interact with others and contribute to society.
 - *Parents grow in their concern for the future.* Having a child creates a sense of legacy—parents worry over the world they are leaving behind for their offspring. This future orientation often motivates actions on behalf of the common good, as parents strive to create a better world for their children.



- *Parenthood connects people to the broader community.* By engaging with other parents, educators, healthcare providers, and the faith community, they discover volunteer opportunities such as advocating for child-friendly policies or supporting community initiatives.
- In short, becoming a parent is a profoundly meaningful way to live the call to holiness that we received in our Baptism. Let us help one another to live that call.

- ***The Radiate Love Marriage Initiative***

- The Catholic Church throughout California is embarking on the year-long Radiate Love initiative to deepen our appreciation for the gift of Marriage.
- Highlight any activities that the parish will be sponsoring in the coming months, and invite couples and parents to explore the resources on the [website](http://www.radiatelove.info), especially those for marriage enrichment or designed for faith sharing at home.

Note: This Homiletic Guide is one resource among many others designed for your parish ministries or your parishioners' home use. You may want to take some time to familiarize yourself with the resources for July (bulletin insert or announcement, prayer card, blessing, intercessions, videos, etc.) on the Radiate Love website: www.radiatelove.info. In particular, be sure to make use of the Intercessions and Blessing for National Parents' Day at all weekend Masses.

