

Bulletin Insert – The Adventure of Commitment



Have you seen rock climbers or mountaineers tie a rope to their climbing partner? Ascending to the peak, the climbers entrust their lives to the other person, each one using their strength to pull the other up. Similarly, husbands and wives “tie the knot” of marriage so together they can cross the peaks and valleys of life.

No one knows what his or her spouse will be like in five, twenty, fifty years! Perhaps they will face health problems, job loss, grief, or other great challenges. Perhaps they will still love cooking but have developed a passion for a new sports team, or a talent for dancing. Adventure comes from saying a vibrant yes to the person, to a love that holds nothing back for itself and cannot help but say forever. What could be more romantic than that?

Today’s scripture readings describe God creating man and woman as complementary—made for each other. When a woman and a man freely choose to marry, each reveals a different way of being human through their masculinity and femininity. Husband and wife offer the totality of gifts they have received from God, and God blesses them to become more than either of them alone.

Jesus says in the Gospel, “What God has joined together, no human being must separate.” He affirms that marriage is faithful and does not stray, it is exclusive to one’s spouse alone, and it is indissoluble, an unbreakable bond. These truths are gifts from God that reflect the commitment to love found in marriage.¹

The great 20th century author C.S. Lewis wrote, “To love at all is to be vulnerable.” Your adventure follows an unknown road, but the journey is worth the risk. God will give you fellow climbers along the way, and way stations when you need support and resources. Together, you help each other reach the peak – climbing to heaven side by side.

“For those who are not intent on loving forever, it is hard to imagine that they could truly love for even one day. True love, following the example of Christ, entails a complete gift of self... always seeking the good of the beloved.” – St. John Paul II, Homily in Córdoba, April 8, 1987

Our Lady, Untier of Knots Saint Irenaeus wrote in the 2nd century, “The knot of Eve’s disobedience was untied by the obedience of Mary. What the virgin Eve bound by her unbelief, the Virgin Mary loosened by her faith.” (Adversus Haereses, III, 22, 4) Mary’s yes to being the mother of Jesus and her life lived according to God’s will untied for all the knots of sin and death. From the earliest days of the Church, Mary has helped her children untangle the knots in their lives, whether knots of sin, discord, hurt, doubt, or anything that troubles them. Jesus is the Savior, and Mary intercedes for us to her Son.

In 1700, a Bavarian artist was commissioned by Fr. Hieronymus Langenmantel to paint Our Lady Untier of Knots in thanksgiving for the restoration of his grandparents’ marriage through her intercession. To this day, her shrine receives hundreds of thousands of pilgrims. Devotion spread from there to Brazil and Argentina. Today, Pope Francis’ strong devotion to Our Lady Untier of Knots has introduced millions to our mother under this special title. Our Lady, Untier of Knots, pray for all married couples, especially those facing difficulties.

Reflection questions for couples:

- What are the knots in your married life or family life that need to be untied?
- How can you support each other in prayer and loving service to overcome those knots?

Reflection questions for parents and children:

- Parents, tell your children about a time when you needed your mother’s help to get out of a tricky situation. How did you feel?
- How can your family help untie each other’s knots with Mary’s intercession?
- What knots do you see in the world around you? Join together in prayer to ask for Mary’s help.

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¹ For those who know the pain of divorce, that deep suffering speaks the truth that no one was meant to go through such a loss. If that is your story, know that there is healing for you. The Church offers great solace and spiritual growth for those who separate or divorce.