

## *Matrimony is a Sign*

Have you ever wondered why we are all attracted to a couple in love? The sincerity and tenderness of true love between a man and woman can disarm the hardest heart. The church teaches that God is Love, and that the sexual love between a man and a woman in marriage is the closest thing we have to the intimacy of the trinity and the passionate life giving desire God has for each of us. It resonates with us because we are made in the image of a God who is love, and in a very real way it teaches us about God's love for us. It is a "sign" to us of that reality. Matrimony speaks of passion, permanence, intimacy and generosity. We need more "signs" of committed love in the church today, and our young people need to see marriages that are worth waiting for!



*Most Catholic Couples do not experience being married "in the Church", only "at the church"*

So often our active support and encouragement ends at the wedding; yet, clearly the couple has only just begun to marry and needs our help in the work of becoming one in mind heart and affection. The marrying process is personal but not private, and the Church is called to be fully invested and involved.

*There is a difference between marriage and the Sacrament of Matrimony*

For Catholics, the Sacrament of Matrimony has a very specific job description, a mission to reveal how Christ loves the church by the way husbands and wives choose to love each other. It is a special call to a true love that is total and permanent. The vision, the goal, and the potential are different from secular marriage and it requires prayer and grace to be lived to the fullest.

*Your prayer can make the difference!*

*Prayer book available*

**Ask, Search, Knock**  
Fr Johnny Doherty, CSsR

A simple aid to help us lift others up in prayer. It is not meant to restrict or be a burden but instead offers a starting point to make the hour of prayer possible and enjoyable for all. This book, as well as the Campaign of Prayer itself, is an invitation to belong to one another as a faith family and to pray for each other with the compassion and caring of the Body of Christ.

Pastoral and Matrimonial  
Renewal Center  
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PMRCusa@msn.com  
877-201-2142

In the United States, the Movement of Continuous Prayer for Marriage and Family Life is sponsored by the Pastoral and Matrimonial Renewal Center. Founded by Father Chuck Gallagher S.J., the Center offers resources to bring joy to priest and parish, marriage and family.

Your Prayer Coordinator:

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone:

\_\_\_\_\_

Your Hour To Pray:

From \_\_\_\_\_ To \_\_\_\_\_ am pm

The \_\_\_\_\_ Day of the Month



*"My husband is not Catholic. This is the first time he has felt at home with something "Catholic". He has made praying our hour together a very important priority in his life and I am thrilled to feel so close to him in faith."*



# Pray for Family & Marriage

# Worry is Useless. Prayer is Powerful.

Why worry then there is something powerful you can do.

All around the world, all around the clock, people have decided to pray.

Would you be willing to focus one hour a month of your prayer, specifically and personally for the marriages and families in your life?

**Join the church in praying for those you love, one hour a month.**



## How?

Anyway you are comfortable, in the privacy of your own home or wherever you pray well. Pray for your children's marriages, for your parents, for your own marriage, and for couples in your parish, friends or family. We offer a simple prayer book "Ask Search Knock" to help you think of couples that you know in every circumstance.

- Preparing for Marriage
- Yearning for a child
- Working too hard
- Taking each other for granted
- Raising teens
- Having babies
- Caring for a sick or dying spouse
- Lonely, separated or divorcing



## When?

A designated hour that you choose, on the same date and time each month. There is someone praying at this very minute, every minute, everyday.

There are teenagers, and college students, widows and divorced men and women who have chosen hours in the middle of the night, parents of small children, priests and religious who wake up early to pray.

Ask your parish coordinator what hours are still open or choose a date and hour that is special to you and contact The PMRC to let us know when you are praying.



## Why?

**So much depends on Marriage.**

**The family is the "first school of love".** It is there that we learn loving sacrifice, unconditional acceptance, trust, openness, and affirmation or we learn, anger, criticism, pride and isolation. The patterns of relating we observe in our home of origin can be passed on for generations.

**The couple is at the heart of the family.** Their delight in each other can make the home sing, just as their discord can scar everyone present.

**Couples need the grace to marry each other every day.** That grace comes most powerfully from the community of faith. By focusing our prayer on marriage and family for this one hour a month we are acknowledging that the Sacrament of Matrimony is a vocation that needs the prayers of the faithful.

**Prayer is the perfect gift after the wedding!**



*"I have been confined to a wheel chair and therefore limited in my ability to be active in the parish since I suffered a massive stroke. I was very grateful to be included in the prayer campaign for marriage and family. The experience moved me to tears and I felt once again connected to the community."*

