

Love is Faithful

March 2018

Married love is also faithful and exclusive of all other, and this until death. This is how husband and wife understood it on the day on which, fully aware of what they were doing, they freely vowed themselves to one another in marriage. Though this fidelity of husband and wife sometimes presents difficulties, no one has the right to assert that it is impossible; it is, on the contrary, always honorable and meritorious. The example of countless married couples proves not only that fidelity is in accord with the nature of marriage, but also that it is the source of profound and enduring happiness. (Humanae vitae, no. 9)

Reflection

Salvation history tells the story of a faithful God and his oftentimes unfaithful people. The Israelites made idols in the desert. Out of fear, the disciples abandoned Jesus when he was arrested and Peter even denied knowing him. Each time, however, through all of history, God did not abandon his people. Instead he forgave, and called his people back to a faithful, exclusive love.

This divine love stands as a model for married couples—to forsake all others and remain faithful unto death. The call to fidelity is represented in the wedding rings, which are blessed and exchanged as a sign of a couple’s love and fidelity for each other through all of life’s difficulties and trials.

Intercessory Prayer to Paul VI

God our Father,
fill all married couples
with your love.

Give them the grace
to live out their promise to love each other
in all circumstances until parted by death.

Help them to imitate your
freely given, sacrificial love,
that they may choose each day
to give of themselves,
never forsaking their marriage bond and
reflecting your love for us
when you sent your Son to
die for our sins.

We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord,

Blessed Paul VI, pray for us!

Amen.

