

Maintain the truth lovingly and
 always love truthfully.
 John Paul II

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Persuing Our Mission

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Dear Friends,

Wonderful news! Pope John Paul II will be beatified on May 1st, 2011, Divine Mercy Sunday, just six years after his death on April 2, 2005, on the vigil of the same feast. Our Holy Father's vision and high expectation for the Christian family have shown the world that its role is central in advancing God's reign on earth. *A man and woman joined in matrimony become partners in a divine undertaking: Through the act of procreation, God's gift is accepted and a new life opens to the future.* (Pope John Paul II, *Evangelium Vitae*, no. 43). The family is the domestic church and Catholic Parents OnLine has been working diligently for 12 years to help spread this awesome truth! One grateful supporter wrote to us: *Last night my husband and I watched your video: A Parent's Guide: Teaching the Truth & Meaning of Human Sexuality on EWTN. It was very well done. So many materials addressing human sexuality are geared to adolescence and approach it from a negative side. It was refreshing to experience this positive view - geared to parents. We loved how it encouraged, supported and guided parents in how to establish a Godly foundation for teaching about human sexuality. May God continue to bless you in this important and vital ministry.*



Fr. Alberto Curbelo, SEMV, and Beatriz Lopez, ready on the CPO TV set

We recently completed the Spanish version of our popular video, *A Parent's Guide: Teaching the Truth and Meaning of Human Sexuality*. This month we mailed a large shipment of DVDs, ordered by a Catholic organization in Los Angeles, California. Our DVD will be featured at a Hispanic Women's Conference to be held at the Los Angeles Sports Arena! We are also thrilled to announce that EWTN will air this Spanish version of our film, just as they aired our English version.

We are happy to announce our brand new endeavor for CPO TV. We are working with a wonderful priest of Hispanic descent, who serves in the St. Paul and Minneapolis Archdiocese, producing programs which teach the fundamentals of the Catholic Faith, again in the Spanish language. These TV programs will be aired each Sunday from 9:30 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. on Metro Cable Network, channel 6.

First Things magazine reports: *In immigrant communities across the United States, a battle is being waged for the souls of Hispanics – and a distinctly American style of worship is beginning to take hold. According to a landmark study, as many as 600,000 Hispanics in this country leave the Catholic Church every year in favor of Protestant evangelical churches.* Our new video and TV program are exceptional opportunities to reach thousands of Catholic Hispanic people who simply do not know the teachings of the faith.

CPO has produced a brand new, original DIVINE MERCY CHAPLET in song, composed by Vicki Kueppers and featuring Pro-Life meditations by Fr. Robert Altier. This beautiful CD is an excellent way to pray for a Culture of Life! For more information on how to receive a copy of this CD please see our website: www.catholicparents.org.

Our website continues to be a critical tool providing parents, grandparents and teachers with authentic Catholic education resources. A religion teacher writes: *I hopped on the computer and pulled up CPO - what a delight to read the articles about curriculum, what to*

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 teach, and stories from catechists. I have wrestled about how to equip the children of our parish so they would be prepared to go forth from Confirmation, as solid Catholics, and I found great insight, advice and encouragement on your site - THANK YOU!

Seating is limited, so register early for the annual CPO Lenten Retreat to be held on Saturday, April 9, 2011. This year's theme is: *Learn from Me for I am Meek and Humble of Heart: The Virtue of Humility in the Christian Life*, featuring Father Robert J. Altier. The Retreat will be held at St. Jerome Catholic Church in Maplewood, Minnesota. For more information and to register please see the flyer on page 11 of this newsletter.

Praise God! Bishop David Ricken has officially approved the Marian apparitions at the Shrine of Our Lady of Good Help at Champion, Wisconsin. This is the first recognized Marian Apparition in the United States. In 1859, Our Lady told Adele Brise to "Teach the children their Catechism" and as instructed, Ms. Brise devoted her life to teaching

Catholic beliefs to children. This is very near and dear to the Mission of CPO! For more information see: www.shrineofourladyofgoodhelp.com.

God's Grace and your tremendous support has enabled us to continue our Mission: *To build a network of faithful, dynamic, and informed parents, students, and alumni, committed to working with Catholic schools, other programs of education and the community at large, to ensure the authentic teaching and protection of our Catholic Faith, and to address issues that undermine our Catholic Faith and Morals.* We are very grateful to all of you who donate financially, who volunteer, and especially for all your prayers! A Holy Mass is offered every month of the year for the intentions of our benefactors.

I hope to see you at the Lenten Retreat on April 9th!

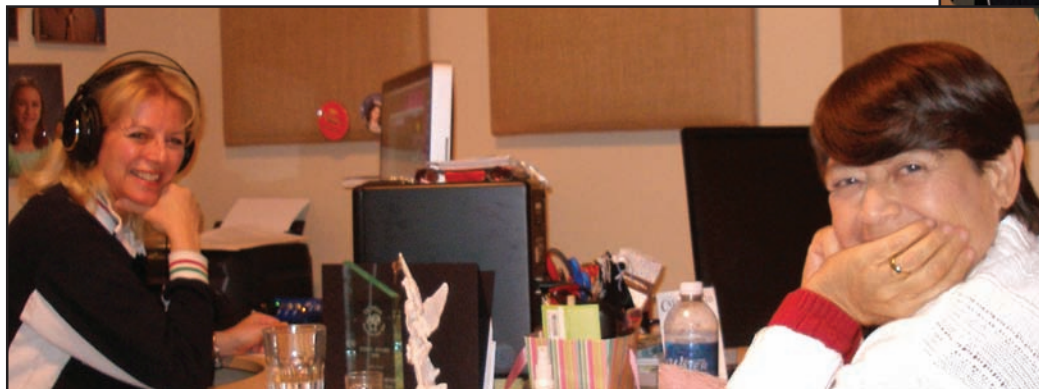
*God bless you and yours,
 Colleen Perfect*



From left to right, top row: Ana Maria Brown, Susana Enriguez, Marta Pereira, Marta Guzman, Fr. Alberto Curbelo, SEMV. Bottom row: Hector Delgado, Janice Burton, Vicki Kueppers, Colleen Perfect, Beatriz Lopez previewing our new Spanish DVD.

From left to right: Vicki Kueppers, Geny Aughahl, Ana Maria Brown, Beatriz Lopez working on a script.

Below: Vicki Kueppers and Ana Maria Brown on a taping day!



Marta Pereira recording for Spanish version of A Parents Guide...



Deacon Luis Rubi recording for Spanish version of A Parents Guide...



Handmade Chasuble, Rich in Symbolism

designed by Fr. Robert Altier

Father Altier celebrated his fiftieth birthday and the 21st anniversary of his ordination last spring. As a gift for Father, many people contributed toward the cost of having special new vestments created for him to use when celebrating Mass. Father is humbled by the generosity of those who donated, especially to the woman who lovingly and skillfully custom-made this entire vestment; she desires to remain anonymous. He is very grateful and hopes that others will be blessed by the charity extended to him in this project. Father plans to wear this first completed chasuble on solemnities when gold is allowed.

The beautiful gold on white brocade background depicts angels holding thuribles for incensing the holy altar of God, like the angel mentioned in Revelation 8:3. According to the Psalms and the Book of Revelation, incense is also a sign of the sweet odor of our prayers rising up to God. In the Roman Canon, or the First Eucharistic Prayer at Mass, we pray that the angel will take our Sacrifice to God's altar in Heaven; hence, our Eucharistic prayers are carried heavenward on the smoke of incense and the lift of angel wings.



The cross on the back of the chasuble and the band on the front are made of a deep burgundy color, symbolizing the royalty and divinity of Christ. There are a total of five crosses with jeweled icons, representing the five wounds our Lord endured in the crucifixion. These icons represent the five liturgical solemnities of Easter, Christmas, Sacred Heart, Divine Mercy and St. Joseph. The three crosses on the back call attention to the divinity of Christ, which is shared equally by the Three Persons of the Trinity. In the center, the largest of the crosses shows the resurrection on Easter, the most important feast of the year. In the two crosses below are the Sacred Heart and the image of Divine Mercy, pointing back to the redemption and forward to the promise of resurrection. The three smaller crosses on the back remind us of the suffering, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.



The images on the front of the vestment point to our Lord's humanity: Our Lady of Tenderness is the icon above and St. Joseph holding the Child Jesus is depicted below, together portraying for us the Holy Family.

Exorcism and the Church Militant

by Rev. Thomas J. Euteneuer

A BOOK REVIEW BY FREDERICK BLONIGEN

To say that mankind today is engaged in an intense and massive spiritual war is an understatement. *Never in all of history*, says Fr. Thomas Euteneuer in his superb new book ***Exorcism and the Church Militant***, *have we seen evil promoted so effectively and the true good so roundly mocked and rejected as in the age of extreme technological prowess... The 21st century is a moral and spiritual battlefield of such immense proportions that no era of human history will have ever seen a war like it. Satan is using the cumulative force of this world's sinfulness to re-define life as we know it... It is total war against all that is sacred and natural... If the measure of a war's ferociousness is the number of casualties, the modern war to exterminate souls is unprecedented in the history of humanity; it is nothing short of history's worst nuclear holocaust in spiritual terms.*

In this time of unprecedented demonic influence and spiritual warfare it is above all the Catholic Church that is commissioned by Jesus Christ, her Head, to do battle with Satan and his minions for the salvation of countless souls. To fight in this titanic spiritual war requires spiritual armor: daily prayer, frequent use of the sacraments (especially Penance and the Eucharist), and living a life of virtue and holiness. It also demands that one be intellectually armed with knowledge of one's enemy. Yet ignorance about the demonic and the workings of Satan abounds, not only among the laity but even among the Catholic clergy. Gratefully, Fr. Euteneuer's new book, ***Exorcism and the Church Militant***, goes a long way to filling this vacuum of knowledge.

As Fr. Euteneuer explains in his introduction, he had two main reasons for writing ***Exorcism and the Church Militant***: first, to communicate a true understanding of exorcism, to take back *...this important pastoral ministry of the Church from the realm of the internet, movies and tabloids and [place] it back in the hands of the priests where it belongs—true officers of the Church Militant*; and second, *...to help Catholic priests recognize that exorcism is a normal and very important forum of pastoral ministry in the care of souls*. Fr. Euteneuer, himself an exorcist, believes that in the years ahead there will be an increasing need for priests to be trained as exorcists in order to minister to a growing number of individuals inundated by a world of occult influences: everything from the New Age Movement and Satanic cults to Heavy Metal music and modern vampire movies. Catholic priests need to be prepared for the demonic onslaught that the next decade will almost surely bring.

Exorcism and the Church Militant opens with a series of questions about the Chief Exorcist: Jesus. Fr. Euteneuer

explains what Jesus says about exorcism in the Gospels, and tells how Jesus carried on His ministry of exorcism in His Church. The author also addresses the topics of whether other religions can successfully perform exorcisms and if there will be a final exorcism of evil by Christ.

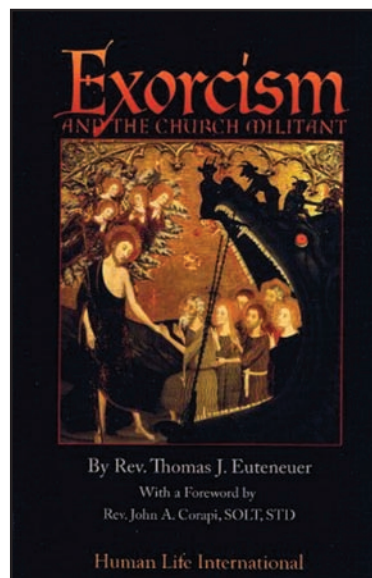
In following chapters, Fr. Euteneuer provides an immense amount of valuable knowledge about every conceivable aspect of exorcism and the demonic. He explains the nature of the fallen angels and difference between demons and devils and discusses the levels of the devil's activities against God's children: temptation, oppression, obsession, and possession. And he answers a wide variety of questions about possession, such as how much power the devil has over us in normal

circumstances. In answering this latter question, the author explains that the devil generally has no power over a soul living in the state of grace. The only way the devil can operate on a person is through the consent of their will. It is also a common misconception, says Fr. Euteneuer, that devils or demons can possess the soul of a person, that they can penetrate the mind and will of a person. They cannot. Devils can only possess bodies.

In answering the frequently asked question as to why the devil tries to possess human bodies, Fr. Euteneuer says there are three main reasons. The first reason is malice: *Simply said, the devil enjoys causing people pain and sorrow, which is part of every demon's scheme of self-aggrandizement and control over humans. When a demon enters a person's body, he causes significant interior chaos, hoping to eventually cause the person to despair of God's mercy and reject God's grace.*

The second reason the devil tries to possess human bodies is envy. *Here, the devil attempts to play the part of the human soul to the body. He is supremely jealous of God's love for man and seeks to ape the Incarnation of Christ.* The third reason for possession is pride: *Since the body is the Temple of the Holy Spirit, the devil only wants to violate and pollute it and claim it for his own.*

Other questions addressed by Fr. Euteneuer include: Who may authorize an exorcism? Who has the authority to perform an exorcism? What is the difference between a "minor" and "major" exorcism? Was there a change in the regulations concerning exorcism in the new 1983 Code of Canon Law? How does the Church determine that a person is possessed? What are the specific signs of possession? How does the Church understand healing? What is the Church's concept of deliverance and how is it different than an exorcism? How does an exorcist actually conduct an exorcism and where? Are



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exorcisms always violent? Can a person be re-possessed? Does the devil retaliate against the priest who does exorcisms?

Exorcism and the Church Militant is a well-organized, thorough, and invaluable resource. With its easy-to-read question and answer format, nine appendices, copious notes and extensive bibliography, the inquisitive Christian, Catholic and non-Catholic alike, is certain to find this a treasure of information. Fr. Euteneuer has done a wonderful service for the Church by writing this important book, especially at a time of great spiritual warfare when the very salvation of so many souls is at stake.



ARTHUR A. HERKENHOFF AWARD

Art Herkenhoff was a true friend and one of CPO's founding Board members. He was a hero in all the areas that truly matter: in Faith, Family and Pro-life involvement. Art had enormous courage in the face of opposition to proclaim the Truth of Jesus Christ and the Catholic Church, and he always exhibited true charity, humility and joy.

Each year CPO receives many outstanding nominations for the Arthur A. Herkenhoff Award. For the past six years the CPO Board of Directors has had the difficult task of choosing one Catholic person to receive this award. The 2010 Arthur A. Herkenhoff Award was presented to a woman who spends her life working for the dignity of life and the Catholic Church, Joanne Whalen.



From left to right: Mary Herkenhoff Mattheisen, Anne Herkenhoff Olund, Joanne Whalen, Elizabeth Herkenhoff Rustad, Mrs. Kathleen Herkenhoff, Bridget Herkenhoff Thauwald, Colleen Perfect and Meghan Herkenhoff Habisch



Fr. Robert Altier, Joanne Whalen with her children Meghan and Brendan and Colleen Perfect.

The Board of Directors of Catholic Parents OnLine seeks the names of individuals who would be worthy of nomination for the 2011 7th Annual Arthur A. Herkenhoff Award. The persons nominated should exhibit the same qualities, principles and values which characterized the life and person of Art Herkenhoff: Faith, family, pro-life involvement, courage, charity and joy. This year's award will be presented at the CPO Annual Fundraising Luncheon to be held on Saturday, October 22, 2011.

Please submit your nomination by October 1, 2011. You may complete the Online Nomination Form at: www.catholicparents.org/herkenhoff/index.html or contact us at 651-705-5409 and we'll be happy to mail you the form!

Life Giving Love

BY FR. ROBERT ALTIER, CPO SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR

Recent surveys have shown that young people are thinking marriage to be less and less important. In fact, today only about 20% of Catholics are married in the Church. The divorce rate is nearly 60%, and 96% of people who call themselves Catholic and are of child bearing age are either contracepting or have been sterilized. These numbers go along with the sharp decline in the belief in the Real Presence of Jesus in the Eucharist, as well as the precipitous fall in the belief in the Church and her teachings. Since marriage is the foundation of the Church and of society, the breakdown in marriage will be reflected in both the Church and in society. This, of course, is not only well documented, but is patently obvious to anyone. The only hope for marriage, and the individuals called to this elevated vocation, is to follow the teaching of Jesus as given to us through the Church. It stands to reason, then, that the salvation of marriage will also positively affect the Church and the society. We must begin with the individuals involved. Every human person is made in the image and likeness of God. We believe in a personal God, meaning that God is not a force of some sort, nor is He created. The definition of a person is a living being with a mind and a free will. Therefore, God has a mind and a will. This corresponds to what we see in Scripture which reveals that God is Truth (mind), God is Love (will) and God is life. Being made in His image and likeness, we too have minds that are made for the truth, wills that are made for love and the soul which is the principle of life; however, we are not made merely for a natural and temporal life, we are made for supernatural and eternal life. You might be wondering what this has to do with marriage. Everything.

Because marriage is the union of two persons, we have to know what a person is and what will be best for that person. Marriage is established by God in such a way that it will fulfill the deepest needs and longings of the human person. But that means that we have to be living marriage in a way that is true, loving and life giving. Marriage is not about being roommates or even odd bedfellows, it is about the union of two persons who are committed to loving one another and sharing one another's life. Marriage is about two persons

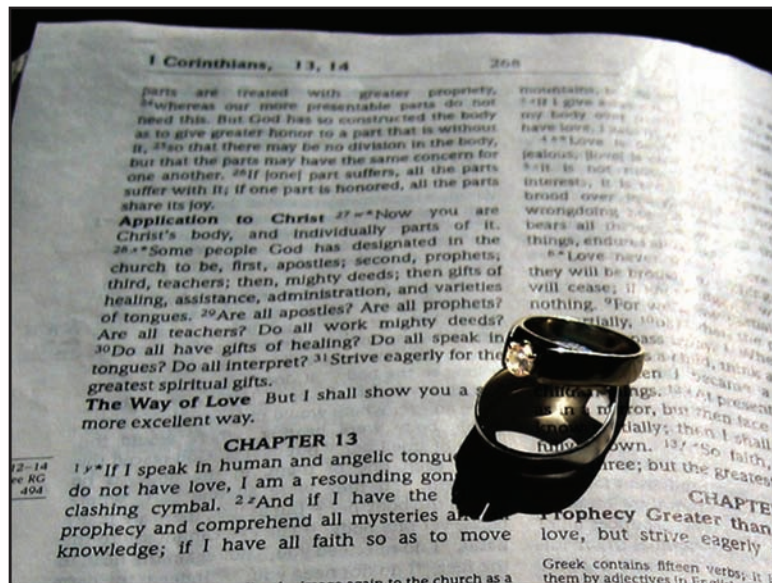
who are committed to serving one another, building one another up and helping one another to become Saints. This kind of commitment provides a stable and secure place where children can be brought into the world and raised in a way that is best for them. Every person is endowed with immense dignity and must be treated as such. To use another person or to sin against another person violates that person's dignity. It is just the opposite of love because it degrades and violates the person rather than building that person up and

respecting that person's dignity. Fornication, adultery, pornography, contraception or any other sin against the sixth or ninth commandment are all examples of using another person and sinning against that person. Each of these also constitutes a violation of the vows that were made on the day of marriage. It is impossible to have a truly good, holy marriage if the very expression of the marriage is tainted by sin.

The very purpose of human sexuality is to

express the union of a couple in marriage: the spiritual union is expressed physically in and through the body by means of the sexual faculties. The marital embrace is to be not only the sign of the marriage, but also an act of love as vowed on the day of marriage. An act of love is selfless, seeking only the good of the other. In other words, the attitude of both persons should be to desire this to be the most wonderful, beautiful, loving experience the other person has ever had. This should be true each and every time the couple engages in an act of intimacy because if the marriage is being properly lived the love that is present today is greater than the love that was present yesterday and the love that will be present tomorrow is greater than the love we have today. Part of love, it must be understood, is to receive what the other person is giving, so both are giving 100% and both are receiving 100%, just as occurred at the moment the couple was married. On the other hand, to take from the other violates love and the dignity of that person.

Every act of intimacy needs to be a complete act of love. This means that it must be an act of total self giving, including the potential for parenthood or the conception of new life. Love



by its nature will always transcend any boundaries we might try to put on it. Love, therefore, cannot remain only within the two who are married, but it must overflow, becoming life giving not only for the couple but for others as well. The most obvious is that marital love will become life giving for children who are not only the fruit of love, but the living, tangible, enfleshed sign of the love of the parents. If a child is love made flesh, then it makes sense that a child should be conceived in love, which is what the church teaches. This means that nothing can legitimately be placed within the marital embrace that would inhibit the full expression of love and self giving.

To contracept, withdraw, or do anything else that would intentionally cause the act to become sterile not only degrades the sexual act and the persons involved, but fails to be an act of love and, thereby, fails to express the love vowed on the day of marriage. This is a sin against one another which tears apart the fibers of the marriage. This in turn causes instability and insecurity within the couple resulting in tensions that spill over into the children. Young children operate by instinct and will begin acting out because their peace and security will be shaken.

What Jesus teaches about marriage and what the Church continues to uphold and present, even though it is rejected by our “advanced” society, is difficult and counter-cultural. It is always easier to be selfish and irresponsible, but that leaves us empty and seeking something, anything, that will bring a sense of fulfillment. Selfishness can never bring fulfillment; the most it can do is bring a few moments of pleasure at the expense of someone else, leaving both feeling empty, rejected

and unfulfilled. Anyone who has embraced the truth taught by the Church regarding marriage, understands that while it is sometimes difficult to die to self in order to love another, it leads to fulfillment, joy, peace, and a desire to love even more.

Marriage is a vocation, a call from God. For those called to this beautiful state in life it is the means to sanctity and fulfillment. Of course, if the call comes from God and the grace to live the married life comes from God, then it only stands to reason that we have to live married life according to the way God has revealed. In a day and age where people are seeking love and self fulfillment and finding neither, it is incumbent upon all of us to encourage them to pray in order to discern the vocation to which God is calling them and to begin to understand their own dignity and that of others so that they can live in a manner that will bring them the fulfillment they desire.

For those who are married, it is necessary that you model true Christian love and married life for our young people who rarely see such an example these days. This means looking at your relationship and making whatever adjustments need to be made so that the needs (not necessarily the wants) of each will be met. There are a variety of needs in each of us, but at the foundation there is the need to be who we were created to be and the need to be treated according to our dignity. This means embracing the truth as taught by the Church, living that truth in love by dying to self and seeking only the true good of the other, and allowing that love to be life giving for yourself, your spouse and your children (or others if you are not able to have children).



Celebrating the
Year of the Priests
with Holy Mass
and then treating
Fr. Robert Altier to
brunch with
CPO Board members
and friends of CPO.



Why a Catholic Wedding?

BY MARILYN GRUTSCH

...to have and to hold from this day forward, for better or for worse, for richer or for poorer, in sickness and in health, until death do us part.

A wedding day is the glorious culmination of months, or maybe even years, of planning, fretting, shopping, and choosing every detail of the day. It is a big event and an enormous amount of work to prepare for it. This is probably the first time that a couple is responsible for hosting such a massive and important celebration. With all the information available telling us what entails “the perfect” wedding, shouldn’t it be fairly hassle free? When I recall the simplicity of weddings a few decades ago, it seems obvious that the media, television, movies, internet sources, books, bridal magazines and the like have heavily influences us into the pressure of planning the most unique wedding, one that is better or more creative than any before and, most troubling, one that is acceptably secular. In addition to this, many people in the past couple of generations have not had the benefit of solid catechesis surrounding the Church’s teachings concerning marriage.

Our oldest four children have all married in the past few years. It was a joy to help them prepare for their big day and, as parents, we were proud to do our part in announcing this union and celebrating these new family members with our friends and relatives. But in all the ups and downs of negotiating the who, what, when and where of the big event, sometimes it’s easy to get lost in it all and forget that we are preparing for a Sacrament and the beginning of a lifetime together.

Most Catholics have probably been confronted with a dilemma when invited to a Catholic relative’s possible invalid wedding...a niece, a nephew, or even their own child. How do we show them we are happy about marriage for them and give them our support, yet be true to the Catholic Church’s teaching on marriage? We have personally experienced this and it can be excruciatingly painful and confusing for a family. As on other occasions, when we are confronted with something going awry in our family in regards to the faith, we began to research and read Church documents and met with good priests in an attempt to understand how to handle the situation and reconcile relationships. Could we be a part of this wedding if our child was not willing to go through the steps to have their marriage recognized in the Catholic Church? Is she really willing to walk away from the Eucharist for this? The thought of not being present or not giving our approval pierced our hearts. I recall thinking

we were experiencing, in some small way, the sorrows in our Blessed Mother’s wounded heart over her wayward children. Thankfully, my husband and I were both in agreement about this. We would do whatever the Church asks of us. For the first time, I understood Scripture, *Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me; and whoever does not take up the cross and follow me is not worthy of me.*” (Matthew 10:37-38).

Praise be to God, in the end, thanks to some wonderful holy priests and the intercession of St. Raymond, our daughter and fiancé agreed to meet with a priest and do what the Church asked of them. At that point, we placed it in God’s hands after a good priest said, “*They have made a step towards the Church. Now let the ‘arms of the Church’ bring them in.*” However, we have also had to refrain from attending weddings when Catholic family members did not choose to have the blessings of the Church. Talking with others who have gone through similar situations surrounding a family member rejecting the Church’s teaching regarding weddings, I can only say it is an agonizing, emotional grief for all concerned. The wound is even deeper when relatives and friends fully support an invalid marriage in the family, calling those who do not go along with it “judgmental and unloving,” setting up future scenarios in families when younger members see that the older and wiser are indifferent to following Church teachings.

So what does the Church ask of us in regards to getting married and why should we listen to what the Catholic Church says? At the very foundation, the voice of the Church is the voice of Christ, which is the voice of Truth. Christ formed His Church, as the guardian of Truth: *But when He comes, the Spirit of Truth, He will guide you to all Truth.* (John 16: 13) and *You should know how to behave in the household of God, which is the Church of the living God, the pillar and foundation of Truth.* (1 Tim 3:15). The Truths that the Catholic Church teaches and protects come from God, not from people. The purpose of the Church’s rules is not to restrict us from our freedom but to help us live holy lives and to protect us from being harmed spiritually, emotionally and, on the practical level, physically (such as in divorce, etc.)...*for you are receiving the end result of your faith, the salvation of your souls.* (1 Peter 1: 9).

In *Guadium et Spes (Joy and Hope)* Pope Paul VI states:
God Himself is the author of marriage. The matrimonial



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covenant, by which a man and a woman establish between themselves a partnership of the whole of life, is by its nature ordered toward the good of the spouses and the procreation and education of offspring; this covenant between baptized persons has been raised by Christ the Lord to the dignity of a Sacrament.

If God established marriage and raised it to the level of one of the seven Sacraments, He must have been pretty serious about the purpose of it and meant it to be a great gift of joy for man and woman. What is a Sacrament and why should that matter to a couple getting married? From the Baltimore Catechism: *A Sacrament is an outward sign instituted by Christ to give grace.* Since grace is a supernatural gift from God, should we not be enthusiastic to receive it as we enter into this lifetime partnership?

How many of us on our wedding day are so wrapped up in the busy and blissful moments of the day that the need for any such gift does not even cross our minds? But after thirty nine years of marriage and raising seven children, I can testify that it was this Sacramental grace that has carried us through many trials. *This grace proper to the Sacrament of Matrimony is intended to perfect the couple's love and to strengthen their indissoluble unity. By this grace they 'help one another to attain holiness in their married life and in welcoming and educating their children.'* **Lumen Gentium** After the honeymoon, reality sets in and along with all the joys of family life, come the storms of life. None of us knows what we may be called to face in the years ahead: financial difficulties, miscarriage, physical or mental illness, infidelity, rebellious children, death of a child, and so on. We, who have received this Sacrament, are blessed to have these Matrimonial graces to rely on to carry us through during some of the tough times.

The Catholic Church is not unreasonable in the requirements for a valid Catholic wedding. In a simplified form, they are:

- The couple must be a man and a woman free of any

impediments to marry.

- The couple must give their consent.
- The couple must be married according to the laws of the Church so that the Church and wider community will be certain of the validity of their marriage (including the vows to be faithful, fruitful and forever until death).

When a Catholic is marrying a baptized non-Catholic, provisions can be made to allow them to be validly married in the eyes of the Church. Catholic wedding preparation and a dispensation from the local bishop, which allows them to be released from Canon 1127.2, provides for this. A good Catholic priest would be the best resource for answering questions regarding this.

The thing to remember is that the Catholic Church holds marriage in high regard and desires to help couples attain this union. Tertullian says it so eloquently:

How can I ever express the happiness of a marriage joined by the Church, strengthened by an offering, sealed by a blessing, announced by angels, and ratified by the Father? How wonderful the bond between two believers, now one in hope, one in desire, one in discipline, one in the same service! They are both children of one Father and servants of the same Master, undivided in spirit and flesh truly two in one flesh. Where the flesh is one, one also is the spirit.

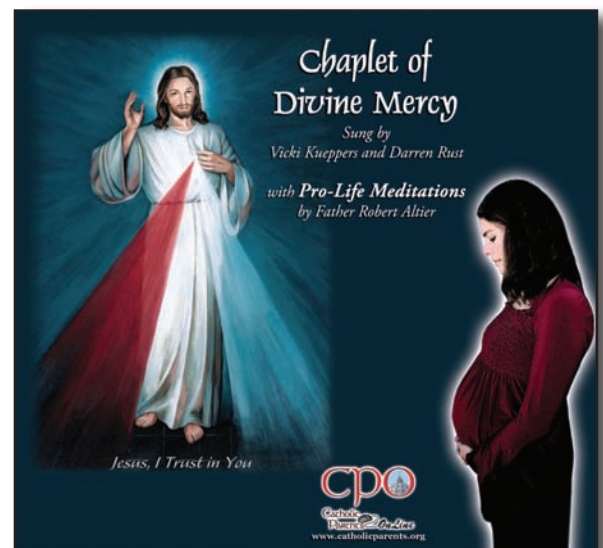
To sum it all up, the Catechism of the Catholic Church, 1642 describes this Sacrament:

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,' (Eph 5:21), and to love one another with supernatural, tender, and fruitful love. In the joys of their love and family life, He gives them here on earth a foretaste of the wedding feast of the Lamb.

❖ ❖ ❖

**CPO has produced a brand new, original
DIVINE MERCY CHAPLET in song,
composed by Vicki Kueppers
and featuring Pro-Life Meditations
by Fr. Robert Altier.**

*For more information on how to receive a copy of this CD
please see our website:
www.catholicparents.org*



Why Study the Bible?

BY LISA BROMSCHWIG

St. Jerome once said, *Ignorance of Scripture is ignorance of Christ*. As Catholic Christians, the Holy Bible is a treasured asset. While we hear the Word proclaimed at every Mass, we must also take it off the coffee table or shelf in our home and read it daily to have a greater impact on our lives. God has given us so many wonderful gifts. In the Bible, He comes to meet us and talk with us about why we were created and how much He loves us. He communicates how He wants us to live in harmony with Him and with each other. Reading and studying Sacred Scripture with an openness to what God wants to say to us in the story of our salvation can be a most fulfilling endeavor. Passing this story on to younger generations can be even more rewarding. Try reading the Bible aloud to your children and teenagers.

What does the Bible say about children and Bible study? Plenty! We are to encourage our families to learn the story of our salvation history and how and why we live our faith. We need to teach our children how much God loves them as we model this love to each other. Here are a couple of scripture passages, for example:

Take to heart these words which I enjoin on you today. Drill them into your children. Speak of them at home and abroad, whether you are busy or at rest. Bind them at your wrist as a sign and let them be a pendant on your forehead. Write them on the door posts of your houses and on your gates.

Deuteronomy 6:6-9

...Jesus said, Let the children come to me, and do not prevent them; for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.

Matthew 19:14

What does the Catechism say about children and Bible study? Again, plenty! The Church is our family, the bride of Jesus Christ, and God has promised that the "gates of hell" will not prevail against her. Here are some excerpts from the Catechism of the Catholic Church:

The Church has always venerated the Scriptures as she venerates the Lord's Body. She never ceases to present to the faithful the bread of life, taken from the one table of God's Word and Christ's Body. In Sacred Scripture, the Church constantly finds her nourishment and her strength, for she welcomes it not as a human word, but as what it really is, the word of God. In the sacred books, the Father who is in heaven comes lovingly to meet his children, and talks with them.

CCC 103,104

Education in the faith by the parents should begin in the child's earliest years. This already happens when family members help one another to grow in faith by the witness of a Christian life in keeping with the Gospel. Family catechesis precedes, accompanies, and enriches other forms of instruction in the faith...

CCC 2226

These are just a few reasons to read, share, and meditate on the Sacred Scriptures. Why not make a daily habit of it today?

Excellent Catholic Bible Studies for Individuals, Families, Small Groups or Parishes:

Catholic Scripture Study International

www.cssprogram.net

The Great Adventure Catholic Bible Study

www.biblestudyforcatholics.com



Joe Kolles, CPO Board member and Sister Rosalind Gefre, CSJ enjoying the fall CPO Luncheon.



Joe Kolles at work recording for CPO TV.

LENTEN RETREAT

Saturday, April 9, 2011
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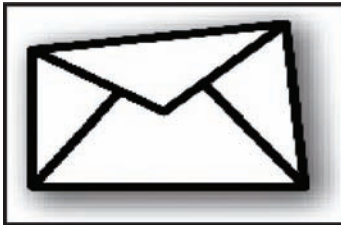
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From the CPO Mailbag

- this is a wonderful DVD and I am very empowered as a parent in raising my daughter and addressing these issues. I have had some challenges at her school and so have found this

a wonderful tool to share with other parents and to add to the armory/tool box, thanks CPO. (From New Zealand)

CPO, the work you do is so valuable. Thank you for any and all protection you give to our precious Faith. We only wish we were able to give a larger donation.

I loved the Parents Guide DVD and have ordered one for our kids who are married and have families of their own. I so appreciate all the help you provide.

Dearest CPO, I am so thrilled about God's timing and so thankful to you all once again for this film! I have just started to spread the word to other parents about the problems with the Growing in Love and Safe Environment programs in our local Catholic school and I was struggling to figure out how to get the video you put out viewed by all the

parents because I was loaning mine out... so I was just elated to get your email last night about the video being aired on EWTN!!! The timing is just perfect in our little neck of the woods around Baltimore, MD. Praise God and may He bless you all abundantly for your work!

Hi, I just wanted to thank you for the beautiful video we watched on EWTN last night on Human Sexuality. I had just returned from teaching R.E. 9th grade Morality on the 6th and 9th Commandments. Wow! Your video was just what I taught. It was great to have that affirmation. These poor kids and their parents are inundated with the brainwashing from the secular culture. We have so much work to do! Thank you for all you are doing and may God bless you.

Thank you, thank you, thank you!!! I hear you on the radio and EWTN. I am from New Jersey. Many Blessings and keep on passing on all the love of Jesus!!!

Thank you for all you do for families, young and older! I just e-mailed the video info to my son and daughter-in-law. God bless you and your good works!



I just saw you on Boston Catholic TV. Thank you for the courage to help parents to guide their children in the teachings of the Catholic Church. Thanks & God Bless You all!

I love your website! I am going to recommend it to the parents of my students. I am using your Examination of Conscience for Children for my Catechism class. Do you have any other articles to help children prepare for their First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion? Thank you.

The CPO information is excellent and many times I forward it. I take this opportunity to congratulate your organization for a wonderful service to the Church. God bless you. (Catholic priest from Florida)

Hi Folks, I have just viewed "A Parent's Guide: Teaching the Truth and Meaning of Human Sexuality" produced by CPO