

Talking Point!-Fun Fact in Church History

THE GREATEST PAGAN CONVERT

St. Augustine was born in 354 in Thagaste (*present day Algeria*). Living a wayward life, his mother Monica prayed fervently for his conversion. Shortly before her death in 387, his conversion to the faith was complete. He became a prolific writer, and his works greatly influenced the development of doctrine and Christian spirituality. It is said he "invented" the autobiography, when he wrote his "Confessions".

God's Plan for your Joy filled Marriage



Opening Prayer

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in them the fire of your love.

Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created, and you shall renew the face of the earth.

Let us pray.

O God, who have taught the hearts of the faithful by the light of the Holy Spirit, grant that in the same Spirit we may be truly wise and ever rejoice in his consolation.

Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE PLAN OF GOD FOR MARRIAGE AND THE FAMILY: 10-minute warm up questions

- How would you describe a “good” Catholic marriage...
- What are some positive examples of *Catholic marriage* in your life?
- How do you see marriages like these making an impact on today’s society?



Husbands and Wives: *Missionaries of Love*

Conjugal Love, Covenant Love
*Marriage & Family in a Fallen
World*

THE PLAN OF GOD FOR MARRIAGE AND THE FAMILY

Covenant Love

The desire for God is written in the human heart, because man is created by God and for God; and God never ceases to draw man to himself. Only in God will he find the truth and happiness he never stops searching for: The dignity of man rests above all on the fact that he is called to communion with God. (CCC 27)



THE PLAN OF GOD FOR MARRIAGE AND THE FAMILY

Covenant Love

This invitation to converse with God is addressed to man as soon as he comes into being. For if man exists it is because God has created him through love, and through love continues to hold him in existence. He cannot live fully according to truth unless he freely acknowledges that love and entrusts himself to his creator. (CCC 27)



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...the marriage of baptized persons thus becomes *a real symbol* of that new and eternal covenant sanctioned in the blood of Christ. The Spirit which the Lord pours forth gives a new heart and renders man and woman capable of loving one another as Christ has loved us.

(FAMILIARIS CONSORTIO no.13)



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Covenant Love

The only "place" in which this self-giving in its whole truth is made possible is marriage, the covenant of conjugal love freely and consciously chosen, whereby man and woman accept the intimate community of life and love willed by God Himself which only in this light manifests its true meaning... (FAMILIARIS CONSORTIO no.11)



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... Rather it is an interior requirement of the *covenant of conjugal love* which is publicly affirmed as unique and exclusive, in order to live in complete fidelity to the plan of God, the Creator. A person's freedom, far from being restricted by this fidelity, is secured against every form of subjectivism or relativism and is made a sharer in creative Wisdom. (FAMILIARIS CONSORTIO no.11)

THE PLAN OF GOD FOR MARRIAGE AND THE FAMILY

Covenant Love

Their bond of love becomes the image and the symbol of the covenant which unites God and His people.⁽¹⁾ And the same sin which can harm the conjugal covenant becomes an image of the infidelity of the people to their God: *idolatry* is prostitution,⁽²⁾ *infidelity* is adultery, *disobedience to the law* is abandonment of the spousal love of the Lord. (1) Hos, 2: 21; Jer 3: 6-13; Is 54. (2) Ez. 16: 25.

THE PLAN OF GOD FOR MARRIAGE AND THE FAMILY

Covenant Love

But the infidelity of Israel does not destroy the eternal fidelity of the Lord, and therefore the ever-faithful love of God is put forward as the model of the of faithful love which should exist between spouses. (Hos. 3)



THE LOVE OF HUSBAND AND WIFE: Conjugal Love

Sexuality is ordered to the conjugal love of man and woman. In marriage the physical intimacy of the spouses becomes a sign and pledge of spiritual communion. Marriage bonds between baptized persons are sanctified by the sacrament. (CCC 2360)



THE LOVE OF HUSBAND AND WIFE: Conjugal Love

"Sexuality, by means of which man and woman give themselves to one another through the acts which are proper and exclusive to spouses, is not something simply biological, but concerns the innermost being of the human person as such. It is realized in a truly human way only if it is an integral part of the love by which a man and woman commit themselves totally to one another until death." (CCC 2361) (FC 11)



THE LOVE OF HUSBAND AND WIFE: Conjugal Love

The total physical self-giving would be a lie if it were not the sign and fruit of a total personal self-giving, in which the whole person, including the temporal dimension, is present: if the person were to withhold something or reserve the possibility of deciding otherwise in the future, by this very fact he or she would not be giving totally.



THE LOVE OF HUSBAND AND WIFE: Conjugal Love

"The acts in marriage by which the intimate and chaste union of the spouses takes place are noble and honorable; the truly human performance of these acts fosters the self-giving they signify and enriches the spouses in joy and gratitude". GS 49 § 2

Sexuality is a source of joy and pleasure: *The Creator himself . . . established that in the [generative] function, spouses should experience pleasure and enjoyment of body and spirit. Therefore, the spouses do nothing evil in seeking this pleasure and enjoyment. They accept what the Creator has intended for them. At the same time, spouses should know how to keep themselves within the limits of just moderation.* Pius XII, Discourse, October 29, 1951. (CCC 2362)

Love and Responsibility: Love is seeking the good of the other



Love and Responsibility: Love is seeking the good of the other

- A Husband and Wife are the ministers of this sacrament
- When they come together in one flesh, they are bringing their vows to perfection (*Consummation*)
- The couple celebrates the renewal of their vows through this one-flesh union

Love and Responsibility: Love is seeking the good of the other

A husband is to care for his wife's body as he does his own within the intimacy of marital relations.

Karol Wojtyla (*the future pope and saint*), tells us that if a man is truly to love his wife...



Love and Responsibility: Love is seeking the good of the other

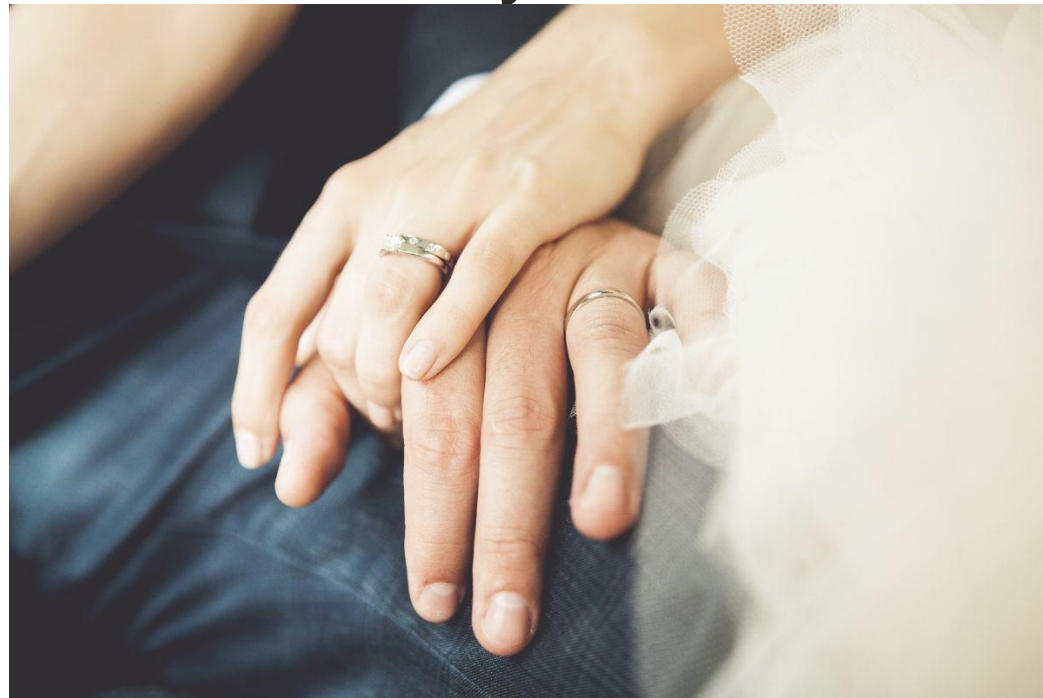
“it is necessary to insist that intercourse must not serve merely as a means of allowing (his) climax. Love he says, demands that the reactions of the other person, the sexual partner be fully taken into account”...

(Love and Responsibility: Pope John Paul II)



Love and Responsibility: Love is seeking the good of the other

...the curve of arousal in woman is different from that in a man, “it *rises* more slowly and *falls* more slowly...”



Love and Responsibility: Love is seeking the good of the other

...the man must take this difference into account...so that climax may be reached by both... and as far as possible occur in both simultaneously (Love and Responsibility)



Love and Responsibility: Love is seeking the good of the other

...the husband must do this, Wojtyla insists, not for hedonistic reasons but for altruistic reasons (Love and Responsibility)



Love and Responsibility: Love is seeking the good of the other

...in this case, if we take into account the shorter and more violent curve of arousal in the man, such tenderness on his part in the context of marital intercourse acquires the significance of an **act of virtue** (Love and Responsibility)



A young man and woman are shown in a close embrace, smiling warmly at each other. The woman, on the left, has her hair tied up and is wearing a dark jacket. The man, on the right, is wearing a red baseball cap and a black and white striped t-shirt. They appear to be outdoors, with a blurred background suggesting a natural setting. The overall mood is joyful and intimate.

**“ONLY THE CHASTE MAN
AND THE CHASTE
WOMAN ARE CAPABLE
OF TRUE LOVE.”**

ST. JOHN PAUL II

Love and Responsibility: Love is seeking the good of the other

Wojtyla is speaking not so much of the “*technique*” of marital relations, but of an atmosphere of tenderness, communication and affection, that creates the proper culture of marital relations

This culture of love reflects Christ tender, incarnate love for his Church

Sometimes Catholic marriage
-like all of Catholic life-
is simply messy.



Love and Responsibility: Love is seeking the good of the other

I **N** take you **N** to be my wife/husband. I promise to be faithful to you in good times and in bad, in sickness and in health, to love you and to honor you all the days of my life.

Living out a Covenant love: Where to Now?

- How can we prepare to enter the nuptial chamber?
- What are some ways to create an atmosphere of tenderness?
- What are some ways to create an atmosphere of communication?
- What are some ways to create an atmosphere of affection?

Living out a Covenant love: Where to Now?

Further Reading:

- **Love and Responsibility:** Karol Wojtyla
- **Familiaris Consortio:** The role of the family in the modern world
- **Letter to the Families** from John Paul II (1994 the year of the family)
- **Chirstifideles Laici:** The lay members of Christ's faithful people
- **Evangelium Vitae:** The Gospel of Life (1995)
- **The Pastoral care of the Divorced and remarried** (Pontifical council for the family. Feb 1997)

Closing Prayers: Anima Christi

Soul of Christ, sanctify me.

Body of Christ, save me.

Blood of Christ, inebriate me.

Water from the side of Christ, wash me.

Passion of Christ, strengthen me.

O Good Jesus, hear me.

Within your wounds hide me.

Permit me not to be separated from you.

From the wicked foe, defend me.

At the hour of my death, call me
and bid me come to you

That with your saints I may praise you

For ever and ever. **Amen.**



Husbands and Wives Missionaries of Love

Conjugal Love, Covenant Love

Questions?
Remarks?



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THANK YOU!



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