

# Promoting and Defending the Sacrament of Marriage



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*As the family goes, so goes the nation  
and the whole world in which we  
live.*

~Blessed John Paul II

# Marriage



## Modern Society

- ❧ Contractual
- ❧ Civil Arrangement
- ❧ Based on feeling “in love”
- ❧ What’s in it for me?
- ❧ Need not be open to life
- ❧ Is personal

## Catholic Church

- ❧ Covenantal
- ❧ Sacramental
- ❧ Based on Love
- ❧ Laying down one’s life for another
- ❧ Must be open to life
- ❧ Is public

# Promotion and Defense



- ❧ One in the same
- ❧ Reclaiming Marriage
  - ❧ God's plan for marriage
    - ❧ Free
    - ❧ Full
    - ❧ Faithful
    - ❧ Fruitful
  - ❧ Sign of Christ to the world

# The Current Debate



## ☞ Gay “marriage”

- ☞ All families are “normal”
- ☞ Marriage is about love
- ☞ Civil Rights issues

## ☞ Divorce

- ☞ Brian Brown vs. Dan Savage Debate
- ☞ No fault divorce
- ☞ Marriage is about love
- ☞ Annulment is “Catholic Divorce”
- ☞ Abuse? Addiction? Church is very clear

# Why Should Civil Society Care?



- ❧ #1 indicator of a child being raised in poverty?
  - ❧ Single mother
  
- ❧ The people who marriage benefits the most are the people who are least likely to marry
  - ❧ Elitist attitude
    - ❧ Must have it all in order before “ready” to marry
    - ❧ Children are expensive
    - ❧ Wedding vs. marriage
      - ❧ TLC? – Bridezilla, Say Yes to the Dress, etc. etc

# Why Should Civil Society Care?



- ❧ Children have a right to
  - ❧ Be conceived in the love of their mother and father
  - ❧ Be raised by their mother and father
    - ❧ Importance of both same and opposite gender parent throughout life
- ❧ Marriage ties parents to their children
- ❧ Maintain the economic pyramid

# How?



- ❧ Speaking the Truth in Love without comprising
  - ❧ Importance of marriage
  - ❧ Love is not just a “feeling”
  - ❧ Premarital sex
  - ❧ Contraception
  - ❧ Artificial Reproductive Technology
  - ❧ Divorce
  
- ❧ Talk the talk, walk the walk

# Why?



- ❧ Marriage and religious liberty are intricately intertwined
  - ❧ Catholic Charities and Adoption
  - ❧ Enrollment in schools
  - ❧ Weddings
  
- ❧ “As the family goes, so goes the nation and the whole world in which we live.” ~Blessed Pope John Paul II

# Resources



❧ [www.foryourmarriage.org](http://www.foryourmarriage.org)

❧ [www.marriageuniqueforareason.org](http://www.marriageuniqueforareason.org)

❧ [www.ruthinstitute.org](http://www.ruthinstitute.org)

❧ PRAYER!



**Blessed Pope John Paul II,  
pray for us!**

**St. Raphael the archangel,  
pray for us!**