

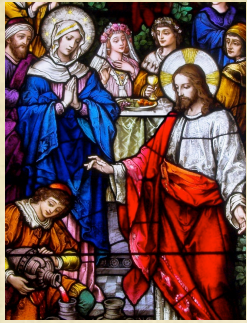


Free, Full, Faithful and Fruitful Love

Fr. Roger J. Landry

Fifth Annual
Families Encountering Christ Camp
On the Theme “Building Love”
Diocese of Lubbock

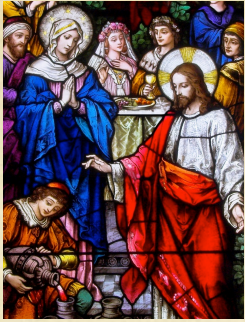
Christ the King Cathedral
June 30-July 1, 2018



Encountering Christ and Building Love

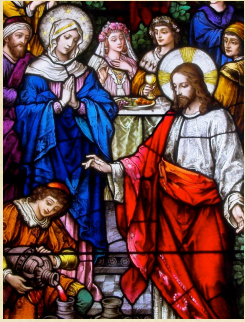
- Second Vatican Council:
 - GS 22: “Christ fully reveals man to himself and makes his supreme calling clear.”
 - GS 24: “Man cannot discover himself except in the sincere gift of self.”

- Four Characteristics of Love mentioned by Soon-to-be St. Pope Paul VI 50 years ago in *Humanae Vitae*
 - Context of *Humanae Vitae*
 - Critique of Cardinal Karol Wojtyla/St. John Paul II



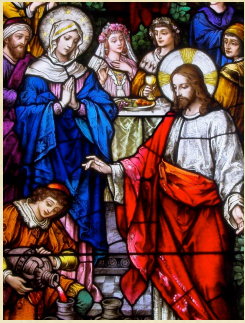
Paul VI's Four Characteristics of Love

- *Humanae Vitae* 9 – “Husband and wife, through the mutual gift of themselves, which is specific and exclusive to them alone, develop that union of two persons in which they perfect one another, cooperating with God in the generation and rearing of new lives.”
- With that introduction, it says that the characteristic features and demands of married love are:
 - Fully human and free
 - Full or total
 - Faithful and exclusive until death
 - Fruitful



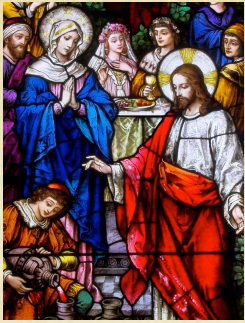
The Big Picture of Love

- God is love, an eternal loving Communion of Persons, and formed the human person in his image and likeness for love.
- God's love is free, full, faithful and fruitful
- We are called to receive, reciprocate and share that love of God.
 - “In this is love: not that we have loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as expiation for our sins” (1 Jn 4:10)
 - “You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.” (Mt 22:37)
 - “Love one another as I have loved you” (Jn 15:12)
- Love is not just a gift but a task



The Big Picture of Love

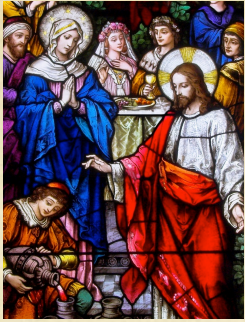
- Love is patient, kind, not jealous, not pompous, not inflated, not rude, not self-interested, not quick-tempered, doesn't brood over injury, doesn't rejoice over wrongdoing but rejoice in the truth, bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. (1 Cor 13:1-8)
- The person who loves is sincere, hates evil, holds to the good, is affectionate, anticipates others in showing honor, constantly zealous, fervent in spirit, serves the Lord, rejoices with hope, endures affliction, perseveres in prayer, contributes to the needs of others, exercises hospitality, blesses those who persecute him, rejoices with those who rejoice, weeps with those who weep, isn't haughty, associates with the lowly, conquers evil with good, is concerned with what is noble, lives at peace with all. (Rom 12:9-21)



The Big Picture of Love

- Four words for love in Greek
 - *Storge*
 - *Philia*
 - *Eros*
 - *Agape*

- Stages of love in *Love and Responsibility*
 - Attraction
 - Desire
 - Goodwill
 - Sympathy
 - Friendship
 - Betrothed Love

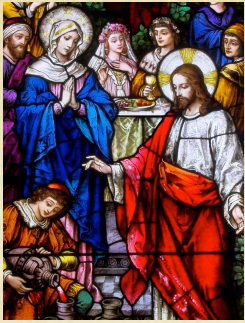


The Big Picture of Love

- Sacramental participation in Christ's spousal love
- Eph 5:21-23
 - Reverence one another out of reverence for Christ
 - Husbands love as Christ loves the Church; Wives love as the Church loves Christ.
 - The great mystery. Human marriage flows from Christ's, not the other way around
- The Covenantal Aspect of Love
- The Statements of Intention pronounced by couples before their marital vows

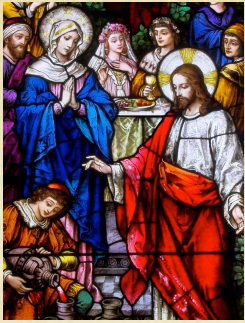


Loving with
Freedom



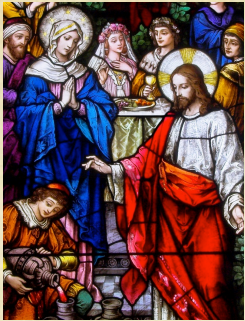
Love That Is Fully Human and Free

- Bl. Paul VI in *Humanae Vitae*:
 - “Love is above all **fully human**, a compound of sense and spirit. It is not, then, merely a question of natural instinct or emotional drive. It is also, and above all, an act of the **free will**, whose trust is such that it is meant not only to survive the joys and sorrows of daily life, but also to grow, so that husband and wife become in a way one heart and one soul, and together attain their human fulfillment.”
- God’s love is Free
- Statement of Intention: “Have you come here **freely** ... intent upon **giving yourself** to your intended spouse in marriage?”



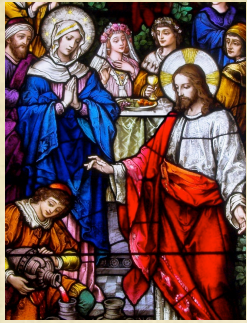
Love That Is Fully Human and Free

- “Positive” Characteristics of Freedom
 - Freedom cannot be understood as a license to do “absolutely anything:” it means a “gift of self.”
 - The paradox of love and freedom: Freedom exists for love, commitment and self gift. But we freely limit one form of freedom for the fulfillment of freedom in love.
 - Mutual choice to give and receive.
 - The Nuptial meaning of the body, of the person.
 - The Book of Genesis highlights the conscious and free choice that gives rise to marriage.
 - Our character is built through the free choices we make.
 - The link between freedom and the truth.
 - The link between freedom and the good



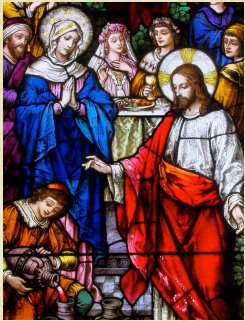
Love That Is Fully Human and Free

- “Negative” Characteristics of Freedom
 - Not controlled or manipulated or compelled by another person
 - No internal or external pressure or constraint.
 - “Shotgun weddings” and the problem of pregnancy.
 - Ultimatums.
 - Parental pressure.
 - Not dominated by a disordered desire



Love That Is Fully Human and Free

- The Necessity of Chastity
 - Lack of chastity robs us of freedom. Only the chaste person is capable of true love, because only the chaste person is free from the domination of the temptation to use others.
 - Most are confused about what chastity is:
 - Difference between chastity and continence/abstinence
 - Difference between chastity and celibacy
 - Understanding Chastity and...
 - Temperance/continence
 - Love
 - Purity
 - Piety
 - The virtue of chastity is a self-mastery tied to ascetical practices and discipline that bears fruit in serenity and peace.

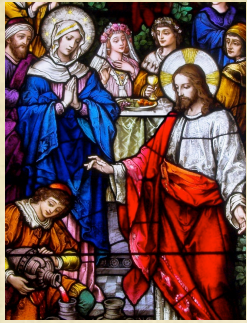


Love That Is Fully Human and Free

- Problems making fully human and free love more challenging:
 - Enslavement in general, to oneself, to one's urges.
 - Confusion about meaning of freedom
 - Selfishness and individualism.
 - LF 14. Individualism presupposes a use of freedom in which the subject does what he wants, in which he himself is the one to "establish the truth" of whatever he finds pleasing or useful. He does not tolerate the fact that someone else "wants" or demands something from him in the name of an objective truth. He does not want to "give" to another on the basis of truth; he does not want to become a "sincere gift." Individualism thus remains egocentric and selfish.
 - Fear of commitment, entrapment.
 - Addictions to alcohol, drugs, sex, porn.
 - Forced marriage, child marriage

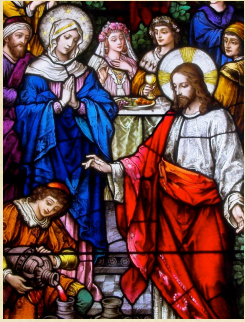


Loving
Fully



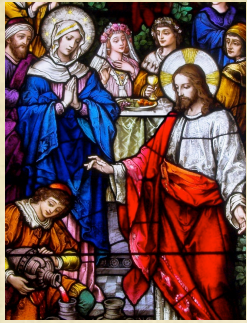
Loving Fully

- Blessed Paul VI in *Humanae Vitae* 9 said that love is full or total:
 - It's “a very special form of personal friendship in which husband and wife generously share everything, allowing no unreasonable exceptions and not thinking solely of their own convenience. Whoever really loves his partner loves not only for what he receives, but loves that partner for the partner's own sake, content to be able to enrich the other with the gift of himself.”
- God's love is total, as we see in Jesus
- Jesus calls us to that type of full love
- Statement of Intention: “Are you ... **without reservation** intent upon **giving yourself** to your intended spouse in marriage?”



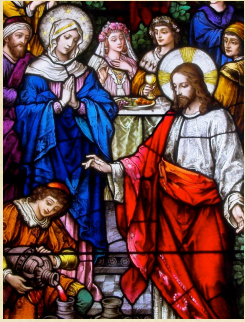
Loving Fully

- “Positive” Characteristics of a Love that is Full
 - Involves the whole of the person in fullness of self-surrender and completeness of personal commitment: one’s body, mind, fertility, finances and unknown future health conditions.
 - Aims at a “deeply personal **unity**, a unity that, beyond union in one flesh, leads to forming one heart and soul” (CCC 1643)
 - “Demands **indissolubility** and faithfulness in definitive mutual giving” (CCC 1643)
 - Until death, not “until further notice,” or “for as long as we both shall love.”
 - Can’t be past action alone, but continuous, each day, self-giving love.
 - Involves a mutual belonging (AL 319)
 - Features a priority commitment over other loves, over work.
 - Modeled on the Eucharist.
 - Ultimately desires God for the person, the truest happiness, truest good.
 - Self-mastery is needed to give like this.



Loving Fully

- “Negative” Characteristics of a Love that is Full
 - There is no totality in eros without marriage. Shared attractions, desires or emotions are not enough.
 - Doesn't mean losing one's identity, melding into each other, giving up healthy boundaries or letting oneself be abused.
 - Must accept the whole of the other, including those parts that annoy or you wish were different.
 - *Love and Responsibility*: take away the fullness of self-surrender and completeness of personal commitment, what remains will be a total denial and negation of it.

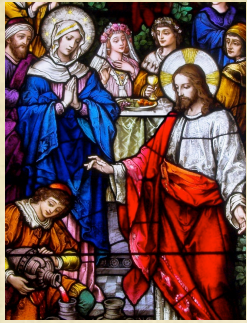


Loving Fully

- Problems confronting the fullness of love
 - Giving partially because one is divided
 - Trust issues
 - A failure to appreciate properly and give and receive with regard to the fullness of the respective masculinity and femininity.
 - Taking rather than giving. Using rather than loving.
 - Lack of honesty, hiding or keeping critical information from one's fiancé(e) that would fit with reservations
 - Pre-nuptial agreements.
 - Polygamy

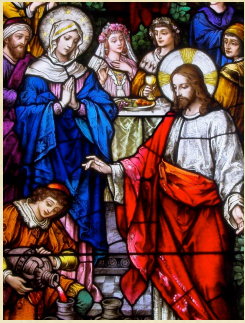


Loving
Faithfully
and
Exclusively



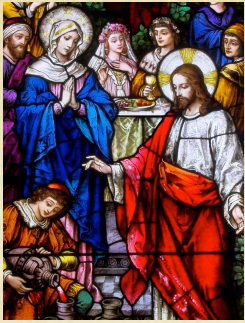
Loving Faithfully and Exclusively

- Bl. Paul VI said in *Humanae Vitae* that love is faithful and exclusive of all other until death
- God's love is faithful and irrevocable, fulfilled in Jesus
- Spouses have the ability to share in and represent this love
- Statement of Intention: "Will you love and honor your intended spouse for the rest of your life?"



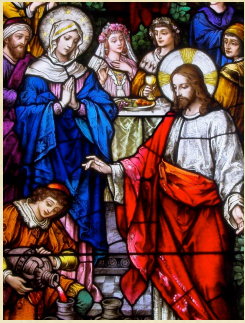
Loving Faithfully and Exclusively

- “Positive” characteristics of faithful and exclusive love
 - One keeps his or her promises, no matter how feelings change.
 - It involves a covenant, commitment, like God’s.
 - Positive acts of faithfulness. Little things of renewing the choice for the other, putting the other first.
 - Faithful in thought, word and action.
 - Faithful to God at the same time.



Loving Faithfully and Exclusively

- “Negative” characteristics of faithful and exclusive love
 - It can seem difficult, even impossible, to bind oneself for life to another human being. Requires trust, holy daring, and God’s help.
 - It involves guarding one’s heart, eyes, body, keeping one’s erotic love exclusively for the spouse.
 - It means fighting and avoiding temptations toward lust, and step-by-step acts of infidelity when one experiences attraction and even desire for someone else, or when one’s attractions and desires for one’s spouse may temporarily wane.
 - No flirting with others

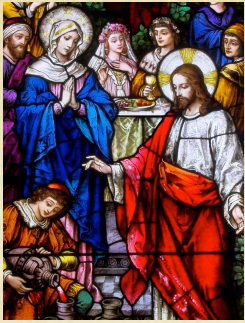


Loving Faithfully and Exclusively

- Problems challenging faithful and exclusive love
 - Infidelity and untrustworthiness
 - Pornography
 - Adultery and extramarital affairs, with internet agencies that specialize in adultery.
 - Problematic forms of online chatting
 - Past relationships that are basically unfaithful in advance.
 - Past wounds that make it difficult to believe that another could be faithful and the insecurity that results.

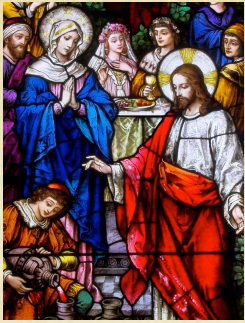


Loving
Fruitfully



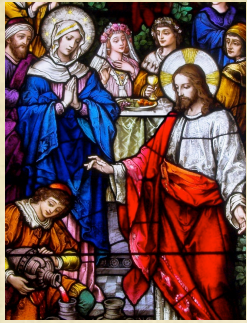
Loving Fruitfully

- Bl. Paul VI wrote in *Humanae Vitae* that love is fruitful:
 - “It is not confined wholly to the loving interchange of husband and wife; it also contrives to go beyond this to bring new life into being. Marriage and conjugal love are by their nature ordained toward the procreation and education of children. Children are really the supreme gift of marriage and contribute in the highest degree to their parents' welfare.”
- Christ's love is always life-giving
- Statement of intention: “Do you intend to **accept children lovingly from God and raise them according to the law of Christ and the Church?**”



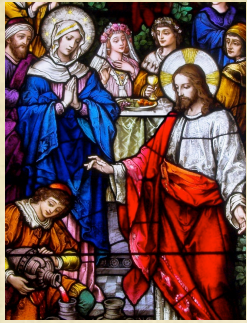
Loving Fruitfully

- “Positive” Characteristics of Fruitful Love
 - Love is life-giving. It makes love as it participates in making life.
 - Cooperation with God in something eternal! Pro-creation.
 - Openness to God and to the generosity of his love. Not just “general” openness but constant openness
 - FC 28. Fecundity is the fruit and the sign of conjugal love, the living testimony of the full reciprocal self-giving of the spouses.
 - Openness to each other: “For spouses, the moment of conjugal union constitutes a very particular expression of this [sincere gift of self]. It is then that a man and woman, in the "truth" of their masculinity and femininity, become a mutual gift to each other. All married life is a gift; but this becomes most evident when the spouses, in giving themselves to each other in love, bring about that encounter which makes them "one flesh" (Gen 2:24). (LF 12).
 - The order of nature and the personal order
 - Moral, spiritual and supernatural fruitfulness



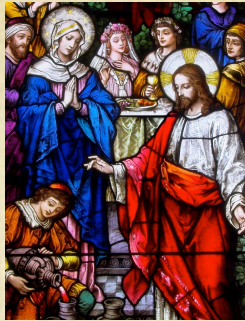
Loving Fruitfully

- “Negative” Characteristics of Fruitful Love
 - No to fear of children.
 - No to focusing on the consequences of the marital act at the expense of focusing on God and the other with love.
 - No to prioritizing many other things above the gift of children.
 - No to exceptions because of a general openness.



Loving Fruitfully

- Problems to be confronted with regard to loving fruitfully:
 - Various forms of stinginess or sterility
 - Abortion
 - Sterilization
 - Contraception and confusion over the vast difference between contraception and natural family planning.
 - NFP not being taught as part of the good news, or adequately practiced.
 - Infertility. The problems of IVF and Surrogacy
 - Unfortunate difficulties with the crucially important practices of adoption and foster care.



For a copy of this presentation

You may download a copy of this presentation in powerpoint or in PDF, a copy of the notes for it, or audio recordings

By going to
www.catholicpreaching.com
and then clicking on the appropriate link under “Most Recent Talks”

Fr. Roger J. Landry

Email: fatherlandry@catholicpreaching.com

The screenshot shows the homepage of [catholicpreaching.com](http://www.catholicpreaching.com). The site features a dark header with the logo "Catholic Preaching" and a photo of Fr. Roger J. Landry. Below the header is a navigation menu with links for Home, Homilies, Articles, Plan of Life Book, Retreats, Teaching, and Biography. A search bar is located on the right. The main content area includes a "Welcome!" message from Fr. Landry, followed by a paragraph about his diaconal ordination and a quote from the Ordination Rite. Below this is a section titled "Most Recent Homilies, Articles, and Talks" with three columns of links to recent content.

Home Homilies Articles Plan of Life Book Retreats Teaching Biography

Search this website ... Search

Welcome!

I warmly welcome you to this website, put together at the insistence and with the assistance of friends.

During my diaconal ordination, Cardinal Edmund Szoka gave me the following instruction from the Ordination Rite as together we gripped the Book of the Gospels:

*"Receive the Gospel of Christ, whose herald you now are.
Believe what you read.
Teach what you believe.
Practice what you teach."*

Those words have never lost their resonance.

Since that day -- October 8, 1998 -- I have tried to live up to that commission to be a "herald of the Gospel," by striving to teach what the Church believes, to practice what I preach to others, and to spread with joy and enthusiasm the truth Christ has entrusted to His church -- in and out of season, in and out of the pulpit.

This website is a chronicle of those attempts.

It constitutes the "five loaves and two fish" (or even less!) that I have placed into the hands of the Lord as an attempt to feed a hungry crowd, confident that, if He wishes, He can multiply and supplement that meager offering to nourish many more (Jn 6:1-14).

In Christ,
Fr. Roger J. Landry

Most Recent Homilies	Most Recent Articles	Most Recent Talks
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Bearing Fruit Attached to the Vine, 12th Wednesday (II), June 27, 2018Following the Lead of the Precursor, Solemnity of St. John the Baptist, June 24, 2018Placing Our Heart and Treasure in God, 11th Friday (I), June 22, 2018Longing to See God's Face in Prayer and in Others, 10th Friday (I), June 15, 2018The Surpassing Righteousness of Christ-like Merciful Love, 10th Thursday (I), June 14, 2018Greatest in the Kingdom, 10th Wednesday (I), June 13, 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none">The Secular Push to Get Priests to Break the Seal, The Anchor, June 29, 2018Approaching the Suicide Surge with Honesty and Resolve, The Anchor, June 15, 2018The Abortion Exception to the Practice of Discrimination, The Anchor, June 1, 2018The Contemporary Attack on Motherhood, The Anchor, May 18, 2018The Euthanasia of Alife Evans, The Anchor, May 4, 2018"Do Not Be Afraid of Holiness," The Anchor, April 20, 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none">The Church and International Diplomacy, Acton University, June 20, 2018The Entrepreneurial Vocation, Acton University, June 20, 2018The Social Teaching of Pope St. John Paul II, Acton University, June 20, 2018The Necessity and Art of Trinitarian Prayer, Catholic Medical Association Boot Camp, June 18, 2018Christ, the Redeemer of Marriage: Living and Proclaiming the Gospel of the Sacramentality of Marriage at a Time When Sex, Love,