

About Marriage

What is Marriage?

The sacrament of Matrimony establishes a perpetual and exclusive bond between the spouses. God himself seals the consent of the spouses. Therefore, a marriage which is ratified and consummated between baptized persons can never be dissolved. Furthermore, this sacrament bestows upon the spouses the grace necessary to attain holiness in their married life and to accept responsibly the gift of children and provide for their education. (# 346)

What is the plan of God regarding man and woman?

God who is love and who created man and woman for love has called them to love. By creating man and woman he called them to an intimate communion of life and of love in marriage: "So that they are no longer two, but one flesh" (Matthew 19:6). God said to them in blessing "Be fruitful and multiply" (Genesis 1:28). (# 337)

Why has God instituted Marriage and what did Jesus say about it?

The marital union of man and woman, which is founded and endowed with its own proper laws by the Creator, is by its very nature ordered to the communion and good of the couple and to the generation and education of children. According to the original divine plan this conjugal union is indissoluble, as Jesus Christ affirmed: "What God has joined together, let no man put asunder" (Mark 10:9). (# 338)

Christ not only restored the original order of matrimony but raised it to the dignity of a sacrament, giving spouses a special grace to live out their marriage as a symbol of Christ's love for his bride the Church: "Husbands, love your wives as Christ loves the Church" (Ephesians 5:25). (# 341)

The Domestic Church

The Christian family is called the domestic church because the family manifests and lives out the communal and familial nature of the Church as the family of God. Each family member, in accord with their own role, exercises the baptismal priesthood and contributes toward making the family a community of grace and of prayer, a school of human and Christian virtue and the place where the faith is first proclaimed to children. (# 350)

Are all obliged to get married?

Matrimony is not an obligation for everyone, especially since God calls some men and women to follow the Lord Jesus in a life of virginity or of celibacy for the sake of the Kingdom of Heaven. These renounce the great good of Matrimony to concentrate on the things of the Lord and seek to please him. They become a sign of the absolute supremacy of Christ's love and of the ardent expectation of his glorious return. (# 342)

Reference: *The Compendium of the Catechism of the Catholic Church*, St. Paul's Press, Sydney, 2006

CATHOLIC VOCATIONS

Prayer for Vocation

Almighty God,

You have made me to know you,
to love you and to serve you.
And thereby to find and to fulfill myself.

I know that you are in all things,
And that every path can lead me to you.
But of them all, there is one especially
by which you want me to come to you.

Since I will do what you want of me,
I pray you, send your Holy Spirit to me:
into my mind,
to show me what you want of me:
into my heart,
to give me the determination to do it,
and to do it with all my love, with all my mind
and with all my strength right to the end.

Amen

HELPFUL RESOURCES:

www.catholicvocation.org.au
www.vatican.va
www.catholicovocations.org.au
www.newadvent.org/cathen/09707a.htm

Like to talk to someone about your vocation?

Contact Catholic Vocations

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Luke & Genevieve Burton



Marriage



CATHOLIC VOCATIONS



Luke & Gen's Story

In the year 2000 Luke and Gen both separately chose to join Cardinal Pell and the youth of their areas to travel on pilgrimage through the Holy Land of Israel and onto Rome for World Youth Day.

Luke, the third of nine children from NSW, had been working as a Baker for the four years prior to this trip and was contemplating a career that would be more conducive to family life further down the track. He always felt that he would meet somebody and marry but was very patient and relaxed about it all as he knew that the right person would come along if this was God's plan for his life.

Gen, the third of six children had been working in the family business as personal assistant/office manager for 6 years prior to the trip. She was using the trip as a stepping stone for a 2 year+ working holiday in the UK and Canada after feeling a little lost in her direction. Gen

was discerning whether she was called to married or religious life at this time but also felt that if God wished marriage as her vocation that "Mr Right" would come across her path in time.

During this amazing pilgrimage, their paths crossed on the plane trip with Gen's younger brother introducing them. Spending time together and with other siblings, Gen and Luke quickly discovered a strong connection. With hours of talking covering a vast array of topics, both felt something special and soon romance blossomed.

After a long distance relationship with many long letters, emails and phone calls, Gen and Luke soon knew that they had found their call to marry and became engaged 18 months after their initial meeting. Despite Gen being unemployed and Luke beginning full time study, they felt sure that they were on the right path and married 5 months later, putting their trust in God that He would provide all that they needed.

They have been blessed with five wonderful years of marriage and have never been without. They frequently reflect on their good fortune and how God has continued

to guide them in all their decisions and choices. By sharing a life of prayer and centring their marriage on the Eucharist they have made it through some difficult times. Looking back they are able to see God's hand in everything. He has a great sense of humour!

This year Gen and Luke welcomed their first child, Thomas Michael after a long and unknown waiting period. After being diagnosed with a fertility problem prior to their wedding, they were never sure if or when they would be able to have children but again trusting that God would show them in His time. During these years of waiting, Gen and Luke chose to make the most of every opportunity together and just enjoyed each other and those around them. They shared in other people's families and were open to other callings within their marriage if children did not come.

Gen and Luke pray regularly and thank God for all their blessings, asking Him to continue guiding their decisions, especially the big ones that often come up in married life.

Married: 13th April 2002. Luke was 21. Gen was 25

Luke and Gen said yes when they heard God calling... will you?

V O C A T I O N S