

MARRIED LIFE

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is Married Life?

Having been created to love by God who is Love, married life is a living expression of that same love between a man and a woman. Christian spouses are called to reflect this in a love which is freely given, a love which is full and unreserved, a love which is faithful and which shows its fruitfulness in being open to children. Married life involves the total gift of oneself to another.

How do I know I am called to Marriage?

As Christians we first prayerfully place our trust in God and listen to his prompting. We also use the intellect and reason with which we have been endowed. It is often helpful to seek the wisdom and guidance of someone whose life witnesses to the goodness and beauty of faithful love. We must then make choices which befit our dignity as human beings.

Unlike a celibate vocation which is one individual's "yes" to God, marriage is the united response of two individuals together. We must also remember that discerning a call to marriage in general and discerning a call to marry a particular person are two distinct questions which require two distinct answers.

How do I get married within the Catholic Church?

Jesus Christ affirmed the sanctity of marriage by making it a Sacrament - a visible sign to the world of God's own love. Therefore, marriage in the Catholic tradition is a sacred celebration. As such, it takes place in a Church with both a priest and the community as witnesses. A couple wishing to marry in the Catholic Church, after finding a priest and a church in which to celebrate the marriage, need to provide documentation to show that they are able to enter a marriage validly. Some form of preparation to help them understand what they are promising to each other in the Catholic rite of Marriage is also necessary.

To find out more visit www.lmf.cam.org.au

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 fulfil myself.

I know 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.

WEBSITES

LIFE MARRIAGE AND FAMILY OFFICE

www.lmf.cam.org.au

www.catholicvocation.org.au

www.foryourmarriage.org

WANT TO TALK TO SOMEONE ABOUT YOUR VOCATION?

Catholic Vocations

Cardinal Knox Centre
383 Albert St
East Melbourne VIC 3002

P 03 9926 5733

E info@melbournepriest.com



ELIZABETH & DANIEL CARRICK



Elizabeth and Daniel were united in the Sacrament of Holy Matrimony in September, 2009.

We just got married. In the midst of a world of speed dating, instant gratification and a very utilitarian approach to relationships, we decided to do something a bit crazy. We could have spent the next ten years living the high life, “trying before buying” and building up a small fortune before we settled down – but instead, we’ve thrown safety nets to the wind and declared to the whole world that we will love one another, exclusively, for life.

Throughout the ages, marriage has been an institution and a concept that is common to just about all nations, cultures and creeds – and yet here in Australia in the twenty-first century, we found ourselves needing to justify our decision to surprised friends and colleagues. An unconditional commitment to love, treasure and honour another person for a lifetime is now strangely counter-cultural. We don’t expect it to be easy, but we expect it to be deeply fulfilling. And so far, so good!

Daniel always knew that he wanted to get married. Despite growing up in a broken family, he was still able to see the tremendous good of marriage and he always yearned to be a husband and a father. By comparison, Elizabeth hadn’t thought much about marriage at all – let alone kids! However, we made sure that our relationship always had a clear purpose, being discernment of a vocation to marriage. Although we tried to take it one step at a time, we were serious about doing the right thing by ourselves and each other. We did break up three times – which we don’t necessarily recommend! – but these experiences really helped us to understand ourselves better, and helped us to pray more sincerely that we would make good choices.

Striving to do God’s will can at times be difficult, because it asks you to be patient and selfless, and to do things that your friends or family may deride or just fail to understand. For us, trying to make the right decisions has sometimes been painful, confusing and humbling, but we’ve found that God’s plan is always heaps better than the journey that we would have mapped out for ourselves – without exception. We’re really, really excited about our future together, with all of the joys and trials of what we hope will be a big, happy family.

If you’re discerning a vocation to marriage, we urge you to pray, to be patient and to approach your relationships with maturity and courage. Trust in God and ask Mary for help along the way. And please pray for us, and for all families.

Liz & Dan Carrick

From Elizabeth:

At the time I met Dan, the whole “vocation” thing was comparatively new to me, and we both understood our dating as a time of discernment. Dating can be really awkward and confusing because you’re growing close to someone whilst being conscious that it might not work out! I learnt a lot about myself, and about relationships and emotions and needs. Most of all though, and most importantly, Dan taught (and continues to teach!) me about love – that in addition to warm and fuzzy feelings, it means wanting the best for the beloved. Difficult – some days more than others! – but awesome.

From Daniel:

I told a friend of mine that I was thinking of becoming a priest and she burst out laughing. She knew me too well – I just always wanted to get married! Even though the experience of coming from a broken home was so devastating, I had hope in those lonely times. I had examples (including my parents) that showed me how good marriage could be. I really wanted to get married – until death do us part! This is what really attracted me to the Church – that divorce is not an option and that it gives me the tools to make this counter-cultural way of life a reality. I’m continually amazed at how well God has worked out this marriage and life stuff. I love being married! My wife is so beautiful and she loves me so much. I hope that everyone can find this sort of happiness, in whatever vocation God has chosen.