

# Pastor's Corner

November 1, 2020 Bulletin



Dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

Between November 1-7, the Catholic Church in the United States commemorates **National Vocations Awareness Week**. We set aside this time to focus on and to renew our commitment of promoting vocations to the ministerial priesthood, the permanent diaconate (see my column in the bulletin of Sunday, October 18), and the religious life. I invite us all to pray fervently that every man and woman will consider the way in which the Lord is calling them, by name, to serve him and his bride, the Church. St. John Vianney, pray for us; St. Lawrence, pray for us; St. Benedict and St. Scholastica, pray for us.

Men and women also serve the Lord and his Church through the Sacrament of Marriage. As part of the divine plan for man and woman, the marriage vocation is another way to strive for holiness on earth and heaven for eternity. Rooted in creation, redeemed by Christ, and recognized as a source of consecration/blessing, the Church upholds and supports this beautiful sacrament for the good of the couple, their family, the Church, and society at large. Christian marriage is rooted in the divine gift of covenant. Whereas a contract is an agreement between two parties that is sometimes broken, either unilaterally (for example, failing to live up to its terms) or even by mutual decision of the parties; however, a covenant is a perpetually binding commitment that reflects God's everlasting fidelity to His people. For example, God made covenant with his servants Abraham, Moses and David. And although they or their descendants were disobedient or unfaithful, God has remained faithful to the promises He made. Likewise, marriage between one man and one woman creates a covenant built upon these expressed essential intentions: (1) Unity, which is the intention of an exclusive love, "forsaking all others"; (2) Indissolubility, which is the intention of a permanent love, "until death do us part"; and (3) Openness to Life, which is the intention of a love that is open to the new life of children. This vocation should neither be taken lightly nor rushed into.

**With special congratulations:** This week, our friends and fellow parishioners, Jeanette and Frank Jordan, are being celebrated and honored as a true testament to the sacred covenant of marriage. They celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary several months ago, and recently, they were awarded the 2020 World-Wide Marriage Encounter's (WWME) Longest Marriage Award for the state of Maine.

***Congratulations to Jeanette and Frank, to all couples that were nominated, and to all couples who witness to this beautiful, life-giving sacrament.*** Frank and Jeannette, who are humbled by this award, wanted nonetheless to share this honor with our parish community and to build up the vocation of marriage. For more information about WWME and its weekend retreats devoted to strengthening marriage, please follow this link: <https://wwme.org/>. Let us also prayer for all married and engaged couples, for single people discerning their vocation, and for those who suffer from the loss of a spouse through death or divorce.

Saints Mary and Joseph, pray for us. Saints Joachim and Anne, pray for us. Saints Louis and St. Zelig Martin, pray for us.

Peace and blessings,

Msgr. Andrew