



Eparchy of Saskatoon Family and Life Office Bulletin: August 2015

“The future of the world passes through the family”

Familiaris Consortio, 79

With the weddings of two of my children this past year and Marriage Preparation being a central part of my ministry in the Family and Life Office I spent some time this summer reflecting on the sacrament and vocation of marriage. What follows some

advice offered to my newly married children based on my own marriage of 32 years (Time flies when you are having fun!!!!) and the notion of being a “holy fool” or a “fool for Christ”. My husband and I have lived by the adage that “God looks after fools and small children” and we were always very aware of which category we fell into in prevailing upon God’s loving care. At Vespers on August 1, 2015 Fr. Tom Hrynwa reminded those of us at St. John the Baptist Church in Ottawa that we only have one choice in life-- to be a ‘fool for Christ’ or to foolishly choose the madness of the world around us. (Check out 1 Cor. 3:18-19) What came to mind was that song. "Why do fools fall in love?" I thought...because only a fool would fall in love and expect that love to last forever. Only fools would commit their entire lives to loving another person in Christ. Marriage is a very foolish thing. Yet this is the foundation of family -- the domestic church. Married life comes with all its joy and sorrows but because it speaks of the ‘great mystery’ of Christ’s love for the Church, it communicates to the world intense truth and beauty found in the lifelong commitment of one man to one woman. It also creates a powerful synergy where one plus one equals more than two. Marriage is a holy vocation and truly demands our all—however foolish that may be. (Part II of a three part series on Marriage.)

Marriage Rules for Fools: Rule#1. Remember your Love.

Remember that this person who is frustrating and even making you really angry loves you and you love them. So whatever they do or fail to do that hurts you, you have both chosen to love and you can work through it together. This is truly ‘foolish’ faith in the power of Love and recognition of the One (our God) who is the source of our Love--the Holy Trinity who is Love.

Rule#2. Laugh. Find joy in each other. Find joy in your private jokes. Laugh everyday. Laugh at yourselves. You are funny. All good humor comes from God. Laugh with your children. They too will be hilarious. Your pain and sorrows will turn into peace and joy when you give them to God and laugh. Trust me. I am pretty sure God finds a lot to laugh about when he looks at how often we take ourselves way too seriously.

Rule#3. Be willing to face the reality of your own imperfection. This is really only possible with God. He is the source of true humility. In any given dispute it is almost a certainty that you are both wrong. Do not weight wrongs--it is often a waste of time to worry about which of you are more wrong. Say sorry and mean it. Kiss and make up. ***These rules are no joke; even a fool would not joke about something so important. ☺ DPL

Want to work on your marriage? Want to revive a tired Love and make it better?



Worldwide Marriage Encounter

A Worldwide Marriage Encounter weekend is an opportunity for a married couple to take time to rediscover one another and focus on their relationship in a loving encounter. For more information contact: Marc and Anita Loiselle, Phone: 258-2192, Fax: 258-2169, loiselle@baudoux.ca

Need help for a marriage that is struggling?



Retrouvaille
... a lifeline for Marriages

A program to Help Couples Heal and Renew their Marriages.

- **Do you feel lost, alone or bored in your marriage?**
- **Are you frustrated, hurt or angry with your spouse?**
- **Are you constantly fighting? Or, do you simply shut down?**
- **Have you thought about separation or divorce?**
- **Does talking about it only make it worse?**

... Retrouvaille provides marriage help!

Community Contact:

Wendy and Fritz Friedrich, 306-652-7155; email: 1020@retrouvaille.org



TWITTER @PONTIFEX

07/30/2015

The most powerful witness to marriage is the exemplary lives of Christian spouses. (Pope Francis)