



1B: "Marriage and Our Kids"

A Session for Parents of Children in Religious Ed with the DVD

This is a suggestion for using the 29-minute *Vocation to Love* DVD on marriage with parents whose children are in religious-education and sacramental preparation programs. Please see the supplementary items #2, 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7 for facilitator and participant outlines of the DVD; suggested small-group questions and responses; participant take-home materials; and an evaluation form.

Suggested Schedule for a 60-Minute Presentation

5 minutes: Introduction and opening questions

- Introduce yourself
- Start with a prayer (suggestion: Daily Marriage Prayer)
- Explain: Today we are going to explore marriage more deeply, in order to be able to help teach our children about it. What is the point of marriage? What is it for?
- Hand out outline of DVD (#3)
- Introduce DVD: You are going to see some couples in this DVD. Ask yourself: am I seeing anything new? Anything helpful?

30 minutes: Show DVD

15 minutes: Small-group sharing (see item #4)

5 minutes: Share conclusions of the small groups with everyone

5 minutes: Facilitator wrap-up

- Acknowledge: We have heard a lot of good things tonight.
- Summarize: **The point of marriage is to bring about new life, both physically and spiritually.** Those of us given the vocation to marriage are called to become holy through our marriages. We can't do this on our own! We need God's grace, which is why marriage between baptized Christians is a **sacrament**. It enables us to raise our children well and to be a good example of self-giving love to them. Every parent should ask: What do my children think the point of marriage is? How can I help them understand it better? Let's pray that God gives us an abundance of graces to teach our children well.
- Conclude: Thank everyone; hand out take-home materials and evaluation; closing prayer

Check-list for facilitators

- Reserve room and arrange for TV, DVD player, chairs, and beverages
- Publicize event through bulletin announcements and flyers
- Review DVD and materials before event
- Photocopy outline of DVD for participants (item #3), take-home materials (item #5 and maybe items from #6), and evaluations (item #7)
- Arrive 30 minutes early to plug in coffee maker, arrange chairs, and set up