



Marriage

Below is only a brief outline of the sacrament along with the Catholic particularity of each sacrament. The recontextualisation of each sacrament is explored and explained in the "Sacraments Tile" on the Awakenings website.

The Sacrament of Marriage is one of the two sacraments of vocation. This sacrament focuses on how adults continue to shape their Christian life in response to God's gift. The believer receives the renewed gift of the Spirit to live his/her life in response to God's invitation. In this sacrament, God's gift becomes visible when the couple want to be a gift to each other in marriage^[i]. This sacrament sanctifies the relationship between a man and a woman and they are called to love each other in the same unselfish way that Christ loved the world^[ii].

Marriage unites the couple to each other in a deep and profound way. In the celebration of this sacrament, the couple are invited to enter a relationship with God that is full of love. The promises made binds the man and woman to each other in God's love and this raises human love to a participation in the divine love^[iii]. The couple's love mirrors the faithful love that God has for the world. The couple gives witness to God's love through their love of each other, their children and community.

- The Sacrament of Marriage is not just about joining two people together in a human contract but also about *joining two people together in a covenant before God*.
- The Sacrament of Marriage is not just celebrating the love between two people but also recognising that the couple's love *mirrors the love that God has for the world and a manifestation of God's love in the world*.
- The Sacrament of Marriage not just about two people giving themselves to each other but also about *giving themselves to each other just as Christ gave himself to the world*.
- The Sacrament of Marriage is not just about setting up a new home but also *setting up a 'House Church' to give witness to the faith and live Christian values*.
- The Sacrament of Marriage is not just about gaining a new status in the community but also about *the two individuals being created anew through the renewed gift of the Spirit and being invited to participate in God's divine love*.

[i] Lambert J. Leijssen, *With the Silent Glimmer of God's Spirit: A Postmodern Look at the Sacraments*, trans. Marie Baird (Mahwah, New Jersey: Paulist Press, 2007), 91.

[ii] Leijssen, *With the Silent Glimmer of God's Spirit*, 93.

[iii] Leijssen, 95.