

Introduction to Marriage Milestone Anniversary Mass

Holy Rosary Cathedral

9 May 2021

Dear friends, brothers and sisters in Christ:

I'd like to begin by offering to all mothers, physically or spiritually, warm prayers and congratulations. But it's a special privilege for me to welcome all of you today to this Mass which, as you know, we are marking the milestone anniversaries of our jubilarians.

Marriage, as traditionally understood, and as universally understood at least until a generation ago, meant a comprehensive bodily, psychological and spiritual union between a man and a woman, whereby they became "one flesh" and so found a family. That's why you, dear friends, you did not promise to become "partners" on the day of your marriage but to become "husband" and "wife." That's why you promised to be faithful – "for better or for worse"; to be fruitful – open to new life; and to exclude all others from your marital relationship. These dimensions of Christian marriage make it a prophetic sign today, indeed a sign of contradiction, because unfortunately, and even tragically, some want to reduce marriage to no more than a public statement of a physical-emotional bond between any two people. On the Christian view, however, what is so special about the marriage relationship is that it brings a man and a woman together for life: complementary in their sexuality, which leads in most cases to having a family, the fundamental cell of the Church and society. And that's why .

we celebrate greatly these milestone anniversaries, because they really are inspiring, telling us of the goodness and beauty of marriage.

With thanksgiving, then, for the graces of married life in general and especially for the married life of our jubilarians, let's come before the Lord, acknowledging our need for forgiveness so as to celebrate more worthily, to prepare ourselves for this Holy Mass.

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