



The Sacrament of Matrimony



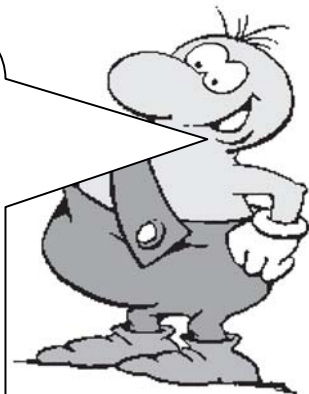
Micah

Hi everyone. The last time we talked, we were speaking of the sacraments that we must have in order to go to heaven. Do you remember what they were? They were *Baptism, Confirmation, Communion, and Confession.*

The Church established these four sacraments for our salvation. We must partake in them in order for us to go to heaven.

The next three sacraments we don't need to partake in order to go to heaven. But they are still sacraments because the Holy Spirit of God comes down on us and changes us in some way.

This time we want to talk about the holy Sacrament of Matrimony. When a man and a woman are ready to get married, they go to their Father in Confession and let him know that they want to partake in the Sacrament of Matrimony.



Micah



A long time ago, when God created Adam, He saw that Adam needed a partner. So He placed Adam in a deep sleep and then took a rib from his side and created Eve. Eve became Adam's wife. God blessed the union by presenting Eve to Adam. Adam and Eve lived very happily in Paradise until sin entered and God exiled Adam and Eve from Paradise because they disobeyed His commandment.



Our Lord Jesus Christ also blessed the sacrament of marriage when He attended the Wedding at Cana. Our Lord went to the wedding along with His holy mother and His disciples. It was there that He turned water into wine.

Micah



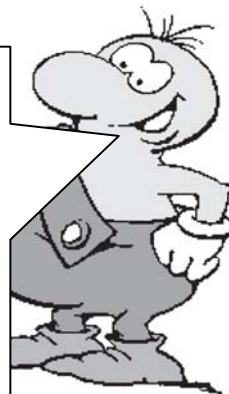


While at the wedding, the people ran out of wine. St. Mary asked her Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, to help them. Our Lord Jesus Christ asked the servants to fill six large stone water jars with water. Then He told them to draw some of the water out and give it to the host of the wedding to try. When the host of the wedding tried the wine, he found it to be better than the original wine given out earlier.

Our Lord's presence at the wedding in Cana shows that He blesses the union between a husband and a wife.



Like the other sacraments we have, the sacrament of marriage has special prayers. During these prayers, the Holy Spirit of God comes down on the bride and groom and makes them one person, no longer two. They have been made into one person (just as Eve taken from Adam and was one with Adam). This is the mystery of this sacrament.



Micah



Our great God created marriage so that the world can be filled with people who would serve His holy name. Marriage is for making families that will worship the Lord for as long as they exist. It is between one man and one woman. They are to live together all their lives, to have children to play in God's world, to teach their children to love God with all their hearts and to teach their children the ways of the Church.



So special is the sacrament of marriage that St. Paul uses it as a symbol of the Church to the Lord Jesus Christ. He says that the Groom is our Lord Jesus and the Bride is the Church. The Church is made of believers who take His holy Body and Blood in the Communion. That is why St. Paul calls us the Bride to be presented to her Groom (the Lord Jesus Christ). All those who live for the Lord Jesus Christ and who love Him with all their hearts and those who died for Him are all brides and will one day become united with Him in heaven.