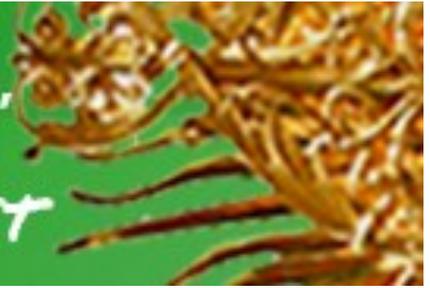




# Pray for Life, Marriage, and Religious Liberty *JOIN THE MOVEMENT*



## February 28: Friday Fast

### Intention:

We pray for a greater understanding of marriage as the unique and permanent union of one man and one woman.

### Did you know?

At the beginning of the Extraordinary Consistory, Pope Francis [addressed](#) the College of Cardinals and introduced their topic of discussion. “During these days, we will reflect in particular on the family, which is the fundamental cell of society. From the beginning the Creator blessed man and woman so that they might be fruitful and multiply, and so the family then is an image of the Triune God in the world.”

### Quick Links

- ⇒ [Call to Prayer facebook page](#)
- ⇒ [Join the Movement!](#) (video)
- ⇒ [Call to Prayer webpage](#)

### Reflection:

In today’s [Gospel](#), the Pharisees approach Jesus to ask if it is lawful for a husband to divorce his wife. Interestingly, before He explains that divorce is not lawful, Jesus first explains what marriage is – the union of one man and one woman: “But from the beginning of creation, God made them male and female. For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh (Mark 10: 6-8).”

The Church’s teaching on marriage is not founded on statistical data nor merely in upholding tradition, but is rooted in the truth of the human person: men and women are created “in the image of God” as male and female. The [Catechism of the Catholic Church](#) explains that “marriage is written in the very nature of man and woman as they come from the hand of the Creator” (no. 1603). Furthermore, what is truly united can never be separated. This is why the union of a man and woman in marriage is permanent: “So they are no longer two but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, no human being must separate (Mark 10: 8-9).”

VISIT [WWW.USCCB.ORG/FAST](http://WWW.USCCB.ORG/FAST) TO SIGN THE FASTING PLEDGE & TO SIGN UP FOR WEEKLY E-MAIL REMINDERS & INTENTIONS, OR TEXT “FAST” TO 99000 TO RECEIVE WEEKLY TEXT MESSAGES.