



ON THE OCCASION OF THE FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF POPE FRANCIS' PONTIFICATE

In honor of Pope Francis' one-year anniversary as pontiff, we put together a compilation of some of his **memorable quotes on marriage**. Let us take this opportunity to thank the Holy Spirit for the election of this holy man. Viva el Papa!

“Marriage is between a man and a woman.” *Interview with Corriere della Sera (March 5, 2014)*

“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.” *Address to the Extraordinary Consistory (February 20, 2014)*

“The family is experiencing a profound cultural crisis, as are all communities and social bonds. In the case of the family, the weakening of these bonds is particularly serious because the family is the fundamental cell of society, where we learn to live with others despite our differences and to belong to one another; it is also the place where parents pass on the faith to their children. Marriage now tends to be viewed as a form of mere emotional satisfaction that can be constructed in any way or modified at will.” *Evangelii Gaudium, no 66 (Nov 24, 2013)*

“The second point: the family is founded on marriage. Through their free and faithful act of love, Christian spouses testify to the fact that marriage, insofar as it is a sacrament, is the foundation of the family and strengthens spousal union and the couple's mutual gift of self.” *Address to the Pontifical Council for the Family (Oct 25, 2013)*

“What is marriage? It is a true and authentic vocation, as are the priesthood and the religious life. Two Christians who marry have recognized the call of the Lord in their own love story, the vocation to form one flesh and one life from two, male and female.” *Meeting with the Young People of Umbria (October 4, 2013)*

“Today, there are those who say that marriage is out of fashion... They say that it is not worth making a life-long commitment, making a definitive decision, ‘forever’, because we do not know what tomorrow will bring. I ask you, instead, to be revolutionaries.” *Address to World Youth Day Volunteers, Brazil (July 28, 2013)*

“There is neither real promotion of the common good nor real human development when there is ignorance of the fundamental pillars that govern a nation, its non-material goods... [such as] the family, the foundation of coexistence and a remedy against social fragmentation.” *Address to the Community of Varginha, Brazil (July 25, 2013)*

“The first setting in which faith enlightens the human city is the family. I think first and foremost of the stable union of man and woman in marriage. This union is born of their love, as a sign and presence of God's own love, and of the acknowledgment and acceptance of the goodness of sexual differentiation, whereby spouses can become one flesh (cf. *Gen 2:24*) and are enabled to give birth to a new life, a manifestation of the Creator's goodness, wisdom and loving plan.” *Lumen Fidei, no 52 (June 29, 2013)*



MARRIAGE
Unique for a Reason

Marriage: Unique for a Reason is an initiative of the USCCB and offers resources to assist with the education and catechesis on why marriage is unique and why it should be promoted and protected as the union of one man and one woman. Visit MarriageUniqueForAReason.org.

