

# Love is Fruitful

December 2018

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*"[Married] love is fecund (fruitful). It is not confined wholly to the loving interchange of husband and wife; it also contrives to go beyond this to bring new life into being.*

*'Marriage and conjugal love are by their nature ordained toward the procreation and education of children. Children are really the supreme gift of marriage and contribute in the highest degree to their parents' welfare.'*"

*(Humanae vitae no. 9)*

## **Reflection**

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When we open our hearts to God and allow his love to reign, it bears great fruit for our lives. In the same way, when a married couple opens their hearts to the gift of new life, they are forever enriched. St. Paul VI highlights the beautiful "supreme" gift that children are to marriage, contributing "in the highest degree to their parents' welfare." (HV no. 9) The love between husband and wife not only unites the two, but is so rich that it becomes love incarnate in the child conceived from their love. What an incredible and humbling honor God bestows upon parents, the privilege of participating in co-creating a new life with him!

In all the joys and challenges of parenthood, the married couple and the family is enriched, strengthened and blessed.

How has the news of a new life in your family or community blessed your own? How can we better encourage others to receive and reverence the gift of life?

## **Intercessory Prayer to St. Paul VI**

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God our Father,  
fill all married couples  
with your love.

Give them the grace  
to love one another every day,  
living out their promise to love  
and to love in a way that looks beyond themselves.

Help them to imitate your  
freely given, sacrificial love,  
that they may choose each day  
to give of themselves,  
reflecting your love for us  
when you sent your Son to  
die for our sins.

We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord,

St. Paul VI, pray for us!

Amen.

