

Love is Fruitful

April 2018

"[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

When God created Adam and Eve, he blessed them and told them "be fruitful and multiply," a command which follows almost immediately after their creation in Scripture and which precedes any other directive (Genesis 1:28). This command not only highlights the importance of procreation, but also that fruitful love is a way man and woman were made in God's image and likeness. For just as God in his goodness is supremely generous, creating the entire world to share in his goodness, so should husband and wife be generous, by remaining open to life, oriented toward children that spring from the love they share.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church describes marriage as "directed towards the salvation of others" (CCC 1534). This emphasis on others reminds us in another way that fruitful love goes forth, brings new life into being and seeks the good of the other. Marriage calls the spouses out of themselves and into communion with each other and with their family.

Intercessory Prayer to Paul VI

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.

Blessed Paul VI, pray for us!
Amen.

