

A Love Which is Total

October 2018

[Married love] is a love which is total—that very special form of personal friendship in which husband and wife generously share everything, allowing no unreasonable exceptions and not thinking solely of their own convenience. Whoever really loves his partner loves not only for what he receives, but loves that partner for the partner's own sake, content to be able to enrich the other with the gift of himself.

(Humanae vitae no. 9)

Reflection

In the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus compares the kingdom of heaven to a treasure found buried in a field and a pearl of great price that a person, upon finding them, joyfully sells everything to obtain (Mt 13:44-46). It is clear in these short lines that following God will demand great changes and sacrifices; nothing short of a total commitment in the entirety of a person's life.

Marriage, properly understood as a sacrament and a vocation, has a similar demand for the spouses: to give of themselves totally to each other, to "generously share everything, allowing no unreasonable exceptions and not thinking solely of their own convenience" (HV 9). Marriage asks the spouses to commit fully, for the entirety of their lives and to do so with joy.

How can you more fully give of yourself to others in your life? How can you more generously and completely give to God?

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,
to live out their promise to love
in all times and circumstances.

Help them to imitate your
freely given, sacrificial love,
that they may choose each day
to give of themselves,
to reflect 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.

