



THE “VOCATION” OF MATRIMONY

LITURGY BYTES *by Michele Hall*



Most of us when we hear the word vocation probably think about priesthood or religious life. Those with a vocation have received a special calling to follow Jesus and make a gift of their lives directly to God. Actually, each one of us has a vocation, but we lack the awareness that each of us has received a unique call from God. This unawareness causes most of us to think that the priesthood and religious life are the only God-oriented vocations. If we are thinking about only marriage and/or the single life, we seem to leave God out of the equation. It is important to realize that vocation is not just for a chosen few, it is for each one of us whom God has made, whom God loves and longs for, and whom God calls by name. Our Baptisms celebrate holiness which is our lifelong task as Christians. We recognize God in many human experiences. We live to become the person that our God calls us to be in the midst of the world.

Marriage, the single life, the religious life, and the priesthood all represent ways of holiness, ways of discipleship, ways of dying and rising. One of the seven Sacraments, Matrimony, is sought after by the majority of people as their path to God. This Sacrament plays itself out over a lifetime. The celebration of the Sacrament of Matrimony combines domestic and Church ceremony. Many couples comment afterwards about the pronunciation of the wedding vows and what impact those words had on them, especially with family and friends present. In this Sacrament, there is a heightened awareness of commitment because that is what the Sacrament is all about. It also focuses on the couple's commitment to love, to cherish, to honor, to forgive, and to keep Christ a part of their lives. That should be everyone's AMEN!

Have a blessed, healthy, and peaceful week ahead!