

# TOB MONTHLY KIDS

THEOLOGY OF THE BODY

AGES 6-9

(+PARENT)

ISSUE 8 (CYCLE A)

## INSIDE:

**PATHS OF MARRIAGE,  
PARENTHOOD, AND  
SPIRITUAL  
PARENTHOOD**

**PATHS OF RELIGIOUS +  
CONSECRATED LIFE**

**CAREER DISCERNMENT**

**LISTENING FOR GOD'S  
VOICE IN DISCERNMENT**

## GOD WILL HELP US CHOOSE A SPOUSE + A CAREER

THROUGH MARRIAGE, HOLY ORDERS, OR CONSECRATED LIFE,  
AND EVEN THROUGH MY CAREER, I CAN FULFILL MY GIFT OF LOVE.

I AM A GIFT! MY NAME IS:

.....>

**MAIN POINT: WE ARE CALLED TO LIVE LOVE IN MARRIAGE, HOLY ORDERS, OR CONSECRATED LIFE**  
(Christian Anthropology Standard II)

## **FIRST THOUGHTS...**

Many children will grow up and get married. Some will feel called to become a religious sister, brother, or priest. The Sacrament\* of Matrimony (marriage) and the Sacrament of Holy Orders (priesthood, diaconate) are holy and fruitful\* in many ways. Some people will not feel called to these choices and will experience a yearning\* in their hearts outside of marriage + holy orders. They might be called to live as people who consecrate\* their bodies + souls to God, or as religious brothers or sisters. Within marriage, couples are called to be open to life and to welcome children from God. People who cannot have their own biological children can fulfill\* their call to parenthood through adoption or as spiritual parents. They might open their home to foster children or provide care in other ways to people. All people are called to honor God with the work of their hands and to listen to His voice when discerning\* a career or primary vocation as a parent. If we listen closely, we may find out that the career God sees for us is different than the one we see for ourselves! We will explore careers in a future issue.

\*work with a parent to define these words (there is a glossary in the back!)

*"For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope." - Jeremiah 29:11*

## **Pray this with a parent ...**

**God, as I grow, help me to listen for your still + knowing voice. You have great plans for me. You know what's best for the love of my heart and the work of my hands. Help me to trust YOUR plan for my life, just as Mary did when you revealed your great plans for her. Jesus, I trust in YOU.**

# INTERVIEW YOUR PARENT



Tell me your story about preparing for marriage. What do you want me to know about my own discernment of marriage, holy orders, or consecrated life?

Tell me your story about discerning a career. What do you want me to know about my own discernment of a career?

What's joyful about marriage?

What's challenging about marriage?

What's joyful about holy orders/consecrated life?

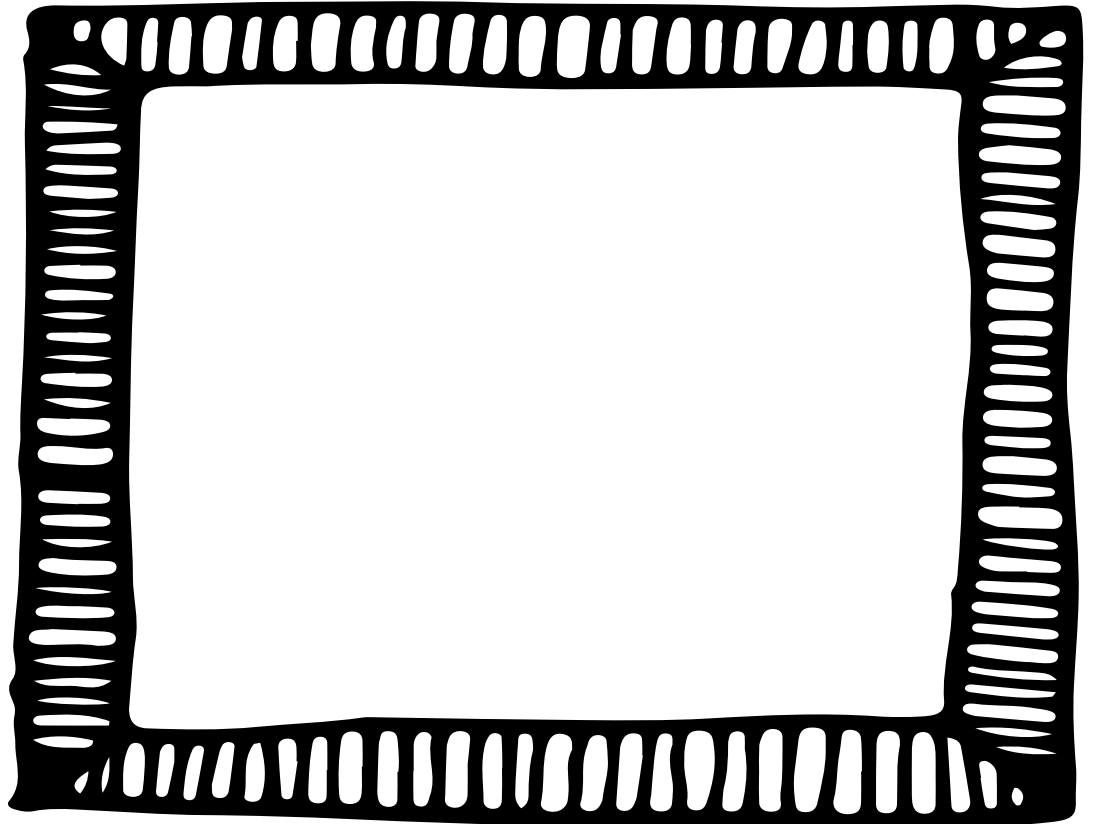
What's challenging about holy orders/consecrated life?

Is there anything you wish you had known earlier about discerning your marriage and career?

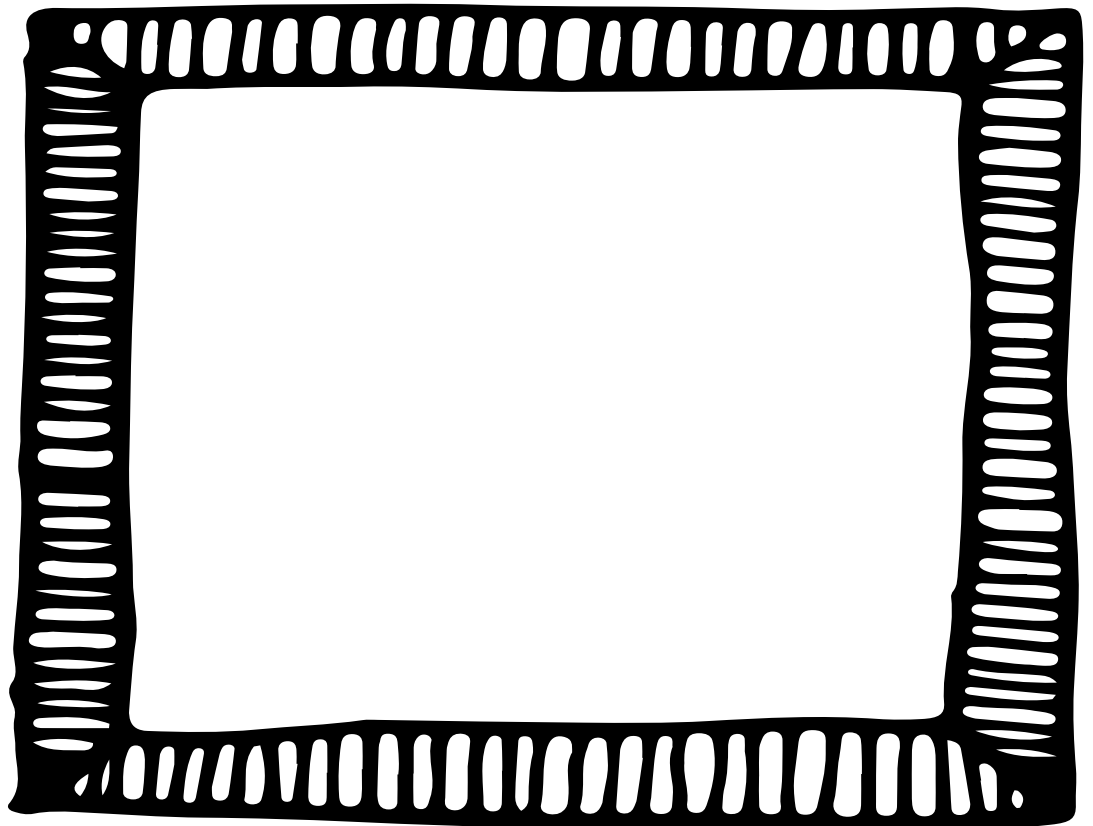
A woman's egg is 85,000 times larger than a man's sperm, but the egg and the sperm each contain only a HALF SET of DNA. The egg, despite its comparatively large size, still needs the sperm to create a cell that contains a FULL SET of DNA.



Draw yourself as a married person  
(husband or wife)



Draw yourself as a priest (m),  
or religious brother (m) or sister (f)



Did you know that when you marry someone with whom you feel safe (someone who shows you that you are special and important) you have more energy to perform acts of love? This type of marriage creates something called a secure attachment, and humans thrive when we have this gift in our lives.

- Harvard Health  
Blog



## MARK TRUE OR FALSE

T F

- ☐ ☐ married couples should be open to life
- ☐ ☐ all married couples can have babies of their own
- ☐ ☐ adoption can help married couples become parents



T F

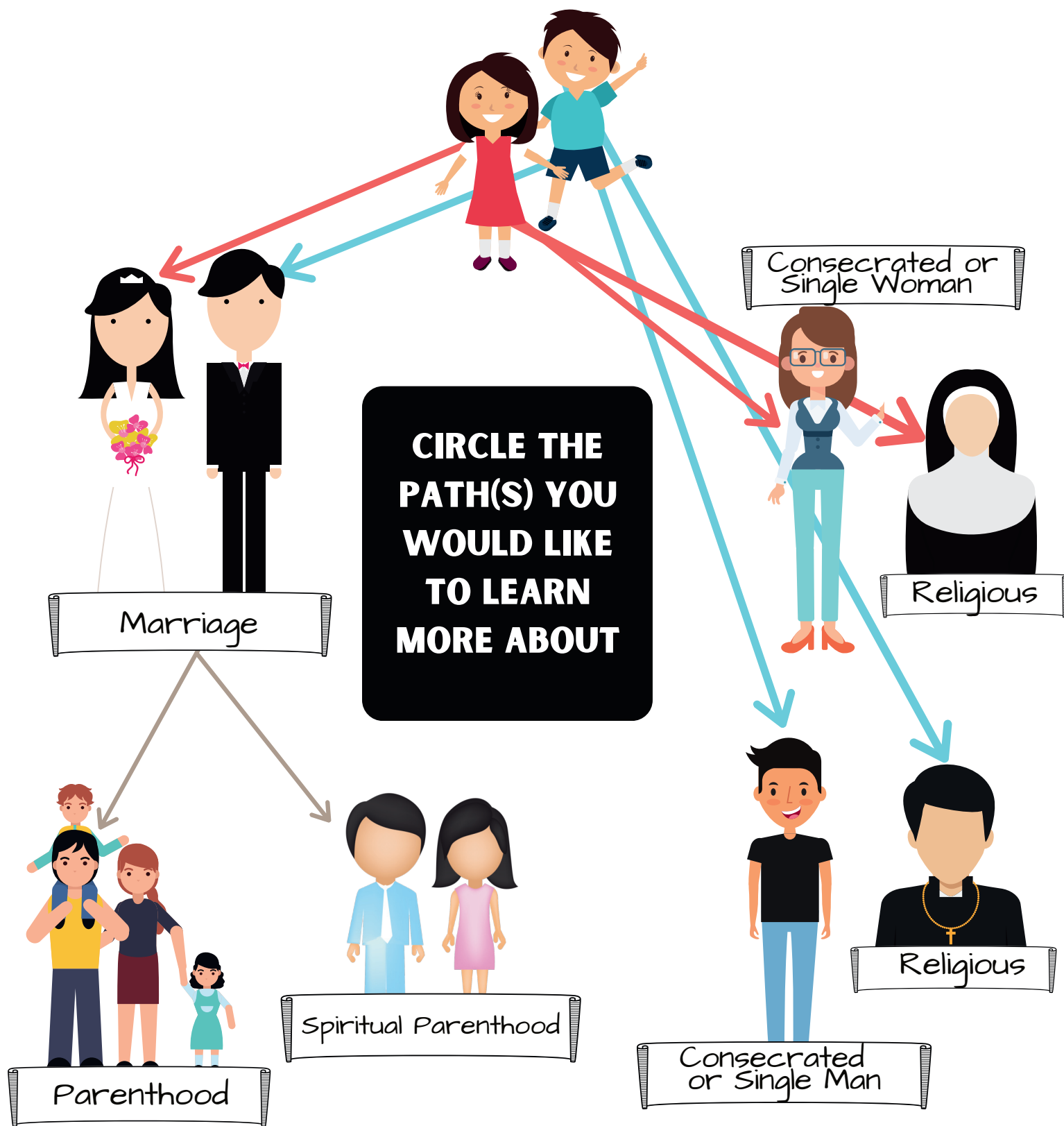
- ☐ ☐ couples who can't have their own kids don't have a full life
- ☐ ☐ couples who can't have their own kids can offer their love to God through spiritual parenthood and other acts of service and sacrifice



T F

- ☐ ☐ you can live as a single man or woman
- ☐ ☐ people who are single can offer their love to God through spiritual parenthood and other acts of service and sacrifice





"Day after day I was able to observe the austere way in which he lived. By profession he was a soldier and, after my mother's death, his life became one of constant prayer. Sometimes I would wake up during the night and find my father on his knees, just as I would always see him kneeling in the parish church. We never spoke about a vocation to the priesthood, but his example was in a way my first seminary, a kind of domestic seminary." – Saint John Paul II

Christ points us to our future by calling each one of us to give and receive His Love through marriage, religious, or consecrated life. - St. JP2, TOB 67:4

## GLOSSARY OF TERMS

**CONSECRATE:** to dedicate body + soul in a holy way

**DISCERNING:** listening for and identifying God's desire for a situation or person

**FRUITFUL:** producing good results

**FULFILL:** to bring to completion

**SACRAMENT:** A Catholic ritual that imparts divine grace

**YEARNING:** a feeling of really wanting something

**Want  
to learn  
more?**

**VISIT:**



[tobparentschool.org](http://tobparentschool.org)

**READ:**



So Many Ways  
to be Holy  
by Kristen Soley

*Have a little  
extra time?*

## CRAFT EXTENSION

### Make a wedding cake topper

**TIME:** 1 hour

**MATERIALS:** peg dolls, markers, black + white material scraps

**ACTIVITY:**

- 1) Color the dolls' faces and hair to look like your parents
- 2) Wrap them in black and white fabric to look like a dress + tux
- 3) Place on top of a cake for their next wedding anniversary

## SERVICE EXTENSION

### Plan an anniversary celebration

**TIME:** 1 hour

**MATERIALS:** Bible, memorabilia

**ACTIVITY:**

- 1) Plan Scripture readings, songs, and a photo display to celebrate the anniversary of a marriage or an ordination of someone you love
- 2) Invite family and/or friends
- 3) Lead the ceremony
- 4) Have cake!





Imprimatur, May 22, 2023 in Portland, Oregon, Most Reverend Alexander K. Sample, J.C.L., Archbishop of Portland in Oregon

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