

***Blessed Sacrament Parish  
Saugus, MA***

***Saint Margaret Parish  
Saugus & No. Revere, MA***



*The next day John was there again with two of his disciples, and as he watched Jesus walk by, he said, "Behold, the Lamb of God."*

John 1:35-36 (NAB)

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***The Second Sunday in Ordinary Time  
January 18, 2009***

# Blessed Sacrament Parish

14 Summer Street Saugus, MA  
Rectory Phone: 781 233 2497

# Saint Margaret Parish

431 Lincoln Avenue Saugus & No. Revere, MA  
Rectory Phone: 781 233 1040

## Pastoral Team

Father George E. Morin & Father Daniel P. McCoy  
frgeorge@parishmail.com      frdanmccoy@yahoo.com

## Mass Times

### Weekend Masses:

Saturday @ 4:00 pm  
Sunday @ 7:30 am, 9:00 am, 10:30 am

### Weekend Masses:

Saturday @ 4:00 pm & 5:30 pm  
Sunday @ 8:30 am & 10:00 am

Daily Mass: 9:00 am Monday through Saturday

Daily Mass: 9:00 am Monday through Friday

## THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Saturday: 3:00 pm to 3:45pm and by request

Rev. Felix Prior, O' Carm – Sunday Assistance  
Rev. James Riley - Mid week Assistance  
Deacon Francis M. Gaffney – Permanent Deacon  
Martha G. Lecaroz – Parish Secretary  
Donna Zinna – Religious Education -781 231 3699  
Lorraine Perella – Program Coordinator  
Phyllis Bunnell - Music Director  
Debora Pillsbury - Parish Housekeeper  
Nicholas Raftelis – Buildings and Grounds

Rev. Lawrence Wetterholm – Weekend Assistance  
Rev. Vincent Cornejo– Weekend Assistance  
Rev. Donald Skerry, SVD – Mid week Assistance  
Andrea Alberti - Youth Ministry  
Ben DiScipio - Music Director

## THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Usually held on the second Sunday of the month.  
Please call the Rectory to schedule

Usually held on the third Sunday of the month.  
Please call the Rectory to schedule

## THE SACRAMENT OF MATRIMONY

Couples planning to marry are encouraged to schedule more than one year in advance.  
The Archdiocese requires at least six months notice.

### Sick and Homebound

If you know someone in the parish who is sick or homebound and who would like to receive the Eucharist, please notify the rectory.

## WELCOME! New Parishioners


Please introduce yourself to one another, as well as to the priest following Mass.  
Also, please call the rectory to register. We want to know our parishioners and to serve your needs.

**Mass Intentions at Blessed Sacrament**

Ronald Crowell	Memorial Mass	4:00 p.m. Saturday	(1/17/09)
George Frangos (1st Anniv) & Christopher Frangos (2nd anniv)		9:00 a.m. Sunday	(1/18/09)
Mrs. Sophie DZ Melewski	Memorial Mass	10:30 a.m. Sunday	(1/18/09)
Silvio & Angelo Grasso	Memorial Mass	9:00 a.m. Tuesday	(1/20/09)
All Deceased Parishioners, Friends and Relatives		9:00 a.m. Wednesday	(1/21/09)
Frieda Murphy	Memorial Mass	9:00 a.m. Thursday	(1/22/09)
Rev. Arthur O'Rourke	Memorial Mass	9:00 a.m. Friday	(1/23/09)
Janelle Garland	Memorial Mass	9:00 a.m. Saturday	(1/24/09)
Vincent & Clara Zinna	Memorial Mass	4:00 p.m. Saturday	(1/24/09)
Daniel Doredo	Memorial Mass	9:00 a.m. Sunday	(1/25/09)
Filomena & Giovanni DiMambro	Memorial Mass	10:30 a.m. Sunday	(1/25/09)

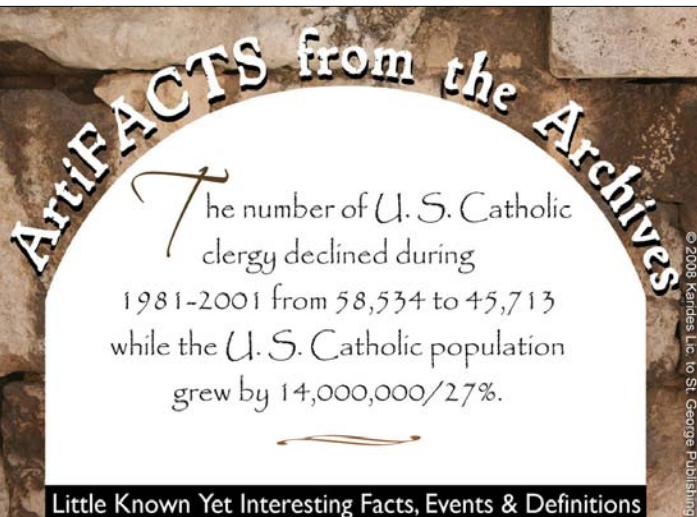
**Mass Intentions at Saint Margaret**

Bernard Murphy	15th Anniversary Mass	4:00 p.m. Saturday	(1/17/09)
Dorothy O'Brien	4th Anniversary Mass	10:00 a.m. Sunday	(1/18/09)
Zita Catherine Geswell	Birthday Remembrance	9:00 a.m. Wednesday	(1/21/09)
Pasquale DiFlumeri	6th Anniversary Mass	9:00 a.m. Thursday	(1/22/09)
Ethel & Eddie Lambert	Memorial Mass	4:00 p.m. Saturday	(1/24/09)
Teresa Hue	22nd Anniversary Mass	5:30 p.m. Saturday	(1/24/09)
Bryant Kimball	9th Anniversary Mass	8:30 a.m. Sunday	(1/25/09)
Rosalie Klecker	10th Anniversary Mass	10:00 a.m. Sunday	(1/25/09)



**Taste of Mediterranean**

**St. Margaret Annual Gourmet Dinner:** Save the date & come to this year's Gourmet Dinner, "Taste of Mediterranean," on Sat. Feb. 21. Tickets, menu & other information will be available very soon.



**Artifacts from the Archives**

The number of U.S. Catholic clergy declined during 1981-2001 from 58,534 to 45,713 while the U.S. Catholic population grew by 14,000,000/27%.

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Little Known Yet Interesting Facts, Events & Definitions

**Pastoral Planning:** On Wednesday, January 7 & Friday January 9, the members of the Parish Pastoral Councils, the Parish Finance Councils and the Parish Staffs of both Blessed Sacrament & St. Margaret Parishes had informative and productive meetings about the need to continue the process of planning for the future when most likely there will only be one priest assigned to the Catholic community of Saugus. Fathers George & Dan are assigned as a Team Ministry for one 6 year term. With Mr. Bernie Swain facilitating, we began with an honest look of where we are. With statistics from the Office of Pastoral Planning of the Archdiocese it was clear to see three trends: the growth in the Catholic population, the decrease in the number of Parishes and the decrease in the number of priests available for service. Our second foci was what we might do and what plan (s) we might enact in the face of these realities. With this information in mind, our very dedicated group of Parishioners will meet now and into the springtime to begin the process of preparing a short term and perhaps a long term plan. Part of the process will involve open meetings to which we hope you will come. May God lead and bless our efforts.



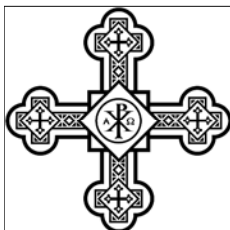
**2009 Catholic Conferences—Save the Date:** The 2009 Boston Catholic Men's Conference will be held on Saturday, April 18, 2009. The 2009 Boston Catholic Women's Conference will be held on Sunday, April 19, 2009 (Divine Mercy Sunday). Both conferences will be held at Boston College's Conte Forum. We are grateful to BC for hosting the conferences for the second year. Registration is now open. It would be wonderful if the Catholic Community of Saugus had a large presence at these conferences. Please call either rectory and register that you plan on attending. Cost of tickets is \$35.00 per person. Exact schedule of each day will be made available soon.

### TAIZE COMMUNITY Did You Know ?

The Sisters of St. Joseph are offering *Taize Evenings of Prayer* at their beautiful Motherhouse chapel in Brighton. This form of prayer is named after the prayerful, reflective singing made famous by an *ecumenical community* in Taize, France. It has attracted thousands of pilgrims of all ages since 1957. They have found this experience of prayer to be very meaningful. Two years ago I had the privilege of visiting Taize with some *not so-young* pilgrims and singing and praying with this community. It was very inspiring!

**Our next Evening of Prayer will be held on  
Jan .22<sup>th</sup> at 7pm.**

If you are interested in attending or joining a group whoplan to attend, please call me, Sr. Mary O'Rourke, at 781-233-1046 before 20<sup>th</sup>. You may want to check out our Web site [www.csjboston.org](http://www.csjboston.org). Look for the link.



**The Women's Guild:** There will be no Women's Guild Meetings until March 2, 2009.

### ***BLESSED SACRAMENT FINANCIAL BLESSINGS***

Last Sunday's collection was **\$2,771.50**. An additional **\$286** was received from mail-in contributions. Attendance at Mass was **455** people.

### ***ST. MARGARET FINANCIAL BLESSINGS***

Last Sunday's collection was **\$2,387.00** and the Parish Monthly Collection was \$1,317.00. Attendance at Mass was not taken last weekend. Thank you for your generosity to the needs of the Parish and to the mission of the Church.

### **BLESSED SACRAMENT SECOND COLLECTIONS**

Church in Latin America - January 24 & 25 2009

### **SAINT MARGARET SECOND COLLECTIONS**

Church in Latin America - January 24 & 25 2009

**Collection for the Church in Latin America:** Next weekend is the Collection for the Church in Latin America. Your gift helps fellow Catholics in Latin America and the Caribbean who are rich in spirit, but lacking in material resources, to participate more fully in the life of the Church. Collection proceeds support training for seminarians and religious men and women; pastoral care of the sick; formation or lay leaders; family and youth ministries; and religious education for all age groups.

For more information, please visit [www.usccb.org/latinamerica](http://www.usccb.org/latinamerica). Please contribute generously.

**Grand Annual Collection:** We are grateful to those who have generously contributed to this year's Grand Annual Collection. At Blessed Sacrament Parish, \$32,635.00 has been received, and at St. Margaret Parish, \$22,400.00 has been received. All monies collected through the Grand Annual Collection are used entirely for the programs and property needs of each respective Parish. Thank you for your generosity. If you have not donated to the Grand Annual, may we suggest a gift to your Parish at this time. We appreciate your consideration.



**We pray for** Peace in the World, an end to war and terrorism, an end to world hunger, our men & women in the Armed Services, **Patrick McMorro**, **Michael McMorro**, **Joseph DePietro**, **John Scott**, **Brian & Stephanie Howard**, and **Kevin Howard**, **Timothy Perkins**, and **Alison Perkins**.

**The Sick** **Karen Shirk**, **Chris McMahan**, **Kathy Tozza**, **John Welsh**, **Lynda Mscisz**, **Father James Field**, **Father Thomas Nestor**, **Kayden Devine**, **Alexander Mossuto**, **Debbie Maher**, **June Cieri**

**The Faithful Departed** **Paul Wetterholm**, **Claire Vatcher & Father David Ziomek**, **Joan Mullen**



**The United Parish Food Pantry** is at the Cliftondale Congregational Church, 50 Essex Street. **On the last Sunday of each month Blessed Sacrament collects food for the food pantry. On the second Sunday of each month**

**Saint Margaret collects food for the food pantry.** Volunteers are also needed. If you are free on Friday mornings, you are needed. Drop by the Pantry at 9:00 a.m. or call Carol Cashman (781-233-9460) to volunteer. The Pantry is open Fridays from 9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. **The next Food Collection Weekend for Blessed Sacrament is January 24 and 25. The next Food Collection Weekend for Saint Margaret is February 7 and 8.** Your donation of food is always needed. Kindly look at the expiration date on your food donation. Food items that have gone beyond the expiration date may not be given out. They can only be thrown out! Thank you for your cooperation, understanding and your generosity.



**Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament:** On Wednesday evenings at Saint Margaret's from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. join us for all or part of this time of prayer and adoration before the Blessed Sacrament. At 7:00 p.m. those present participate in the recitation of the **Rosary**. You deserve the

peace and quiet that come from being in the presence of the Lord. All welcome. No Adoration on Wednesday, January 21. Please attend Holy Hour for Life at Blessed Sacrament Church.

*“Be still and know that I am God.”*



**Scripture for the week of January 18, 2009**

- 18 **Sun** 1 Sm 3:3b-10, 19/1 Cor 6:13c-15a, 17-20/Jn 1:35-42
- 19 **Mon** Heb 5:1-10/Mk 2:18-22
- 20 **Tue** Heb 6:10-20/Mk 2:23-28 (312)
- 21 **Wed** Heb 7:1-3, 15-17/Mk 3:1-6
- 22 **Thu** Heb 7:25—8:6/Mk 3:7-12
- 23 **Fri** Heb 8:6-13/Mk 3:13-19
- 24 **Sat** Heb 9:2-3, 11-14/Mk 3:20-21
- 25 **Sun** Jon 3:1-5, 10/1 Cor 7:29-31/ Mk 1:14-20

**SnowCAMPS:** Exclusively for 7th and 8th Graders! Parents, are you looking for a high-energy, fun filled, spiritual-growth experience for your 7th/8th grader? If so, this is it!!! SnowCAMPS 2009 will be held on the weekends of February 27 - March 1 and March 6 - 8 at Camp Brookwoods in Alton, NH. Catholic youths from throughout the Archdiocese will be participating in what could very well be the best weekend of their lives! Sign up now as space for SnowCAMPS is limited and will sell out. For application and more information go online [www.campsministry.com/snowcamps](http://www.campsministry.com/snowcamps) Both SNOWCAMPS weekends begin on Friday at 7:00pm. Departure from Alton will be on Sunday at 4:00pm. The cost of SNOWCAMPS 2009 is \$149. This includes meals, lodging, and all activities. (No meal Friday evening) Round trip bus is an additional \$42. **The total cost including bus is \$191.**

**All 7th and 8th graders are welcome!**

# Religious Education

## For Blessed Sacrament

**Level 1 – Gr. 8** NO CLASSES this week for Grades 1-8 at Saugus High School. Classes resume on Sunday, January 25<sup>th</sup>.

**Welcome Fifth Graders** – Next Sunday, January 25, we are happy to welcome our fifth grade students to the 9:00 Mass with their families. After Mass, the students and their families will join their moderator and teachers in the church hall for a special class about Mary and the Rosary.

### Confirmation Preparation

**Attention First Year Candidates** – please return your service forms as soon as they are completed. This is a requirement of the program. Thank you.

**Second Year Candidates**-Our *first class* will be held this **Wednesday, January 14, 2009 at 7:00pm** in the lower church. A letter with a schedule of classes has been mailed to each *registered* candidate.

Our schedule of classes :

Wed. Jan. 14 Seeking the Gifts of the Spirit

Wed. Jan 21 Saints for Friends

Wed. Jan 28 Choosing Confirmation – My

Faith Statement

Wed. Feb. 4 Marriage, Holy Orders and Vocations

Wed. Feb. 11 Moving Forward in Your Journey of Faith

Wed. Feb. 25 7PM Mass - Candidates and Sponsors. Please check in at the church hall at 6:45

Sun. March 15 Rehearsal – ALL Candidates and Sponsors

Sun. March 22 Confirmation

If you have not registered for the second year program, please do so as soon as possible so that we can prepare for classes. Catholic school 10<sup>th</sup> graders must register in the parish for Confirmation prep.

Any questions, please call Donna Zinna at 781-231-3699.

## For Saint Margaret

**Grades 1 through 6:** Classes are held on Sunday mornings from 8:30 to 9:45 a.m. at the Belmonte Middle School.

**First Penance:** The Children of the First Communion Class will be receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation (confessions) for the first time on Saturday, January 24 at 10:30 a.m. Please pray for them and their families as these children approach this Sacrament of God's love and forgiveness for the first time.

**Grades 7 & 8:** The next class is Friday, February 6, from 7 to 9 p.m. in the Parish Hall.

**Grade 9 (Confirmation Year I):** Classes are scheduled on Sundays from 4:15 p.m. On Sundays, when there is Confirmation Class, there is a Mass at 5:30 p.m. All are welcome to attend this Mass.

**Grade 10 (Confirmation Year II):** The next class for students and sponsors will be February 8, 2009 from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. Prior to the beginning of class, there is a 5:30 p.m. Mass.

**Mass:** On Sundays when there is Confirmation Class there will be Mass at 5:30 p.m. to which Parents, siblings, friends, and parishioners are invited



**St. Margaret Breakfast:** A Breakfast buffet is served at St. Margaret's this Sunday, January 18, from 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. The menu includes scrambled eggs, bacon, hash brown potatoes, bagels, juice, and coffee. Donation: Adults only \$6.00 - Seniors only \$5.00 - Children under ten \$4.00.

Please come and bring your families for a wonderful breakfast.

# FAITH FORMATION

## *Drawing Closer to God Through the Church*

Steve Dalton is presenting an excellent Adult Faith Formation course as a complement to the *Arise* program. The course is offered on Saturday mornings until Saturday, February 14 from 9:30 to 12 Noon at Blessed Sacrament Parish Hall. The course will be introductory in nature and should nicely complement the *Arise* program. Thus, the target audience are those who have already participated in the first Season of *Arise*, as well as those who intend to begin *Arise* in February. Of course, everyone from the community -- especially those in active ministry (e.g., Eucharistic ministers, lectors, RCIA leaders, CCD teachers, etc.) are most welcome as well. Here is the Course Outline:

## *Drawing Closer to God Through the Church*

Week 1: "Encountering God's Goodness"

Week 2: "Incarnation: The Word Became Flesh"

Week 3: "Salvation History: Life Really Is Going Somewhere"

Week 4: "Gospel Power: The Message of Jesus"

Week 5: "The Church, Our Home"

Week 6 will be a snow date, just in case one (or more) of our sessions must be canceled due to inclement weather.

Course instruction will be drawn from the Bible, the Catechism of the Catholic Church, and from several key documents from Vatican Council II.

Participating in this course is a wonderful gift you give yourself at the beginning of the New Year. Everyone is encouraged to take full advantage of this faith formation opportunity. Steve is man of deep personal faith and is an excellent teacher. Those who have participated in his previous courses will attest to this. The course is free of charge and all are welcome.



**ST. PAUL CENTER  
FOR BIBLICAL THEOLOGY**

## *Members of the Wedding* *By Dr. Scott Hahn*

According to marriage customs of Jesus' day, a bride was first "betrothed" to her husband but continued for a time to live with her family. Then, at the appointed hour, some months later, the groom would come to claim her, leading her family and bridal party to the wedding feast that would celebrate and inaugurate their new life together. This is the background to the parable of the last judgment we hear in today's Gospel. In the parable's symbolism, Jesus is the Bridegroom (see Mark 2:19). In this, He fulfills God's ancient promise to join himself forever to His chosen people as a husband cleaves to his bride (see Hosea 2:16-20). The virgins of the bridal party represent us, the members of the Church. We were "betrothed" to Jesus in baptism (see 2 Corinthians 11:2; Ephesians 5:25-27) and are called to lives of holiness and devotion until He comes again to lead us to the heavenly wedding feast at the end of time (see Revelation 19:7-9; 21:1-4). As St. Paul warns in today's Epistle, Jesus is coming again, though we know not the day nor the hour. We need to keep vigil throughout the dark night of this time in which our Bridegroom seems long delayed. We need to keep our souls' lamps filled with the oil of perseverance and desire for God - virtues that are extolled in today's First Reading and Psalm. We are to seek Him in love, meditating upon His kindness, calling upon His name, striving to be ever more worthy of Him, to be found without spot or blemish when He comes. If we do this, we will be counted as wise and the oil for our lamps will not run dry (see 1 Kings 17:16). We will perceive the Bridegroom, the Wisdom of God (see Proverbs 8:22-31,35; 9:1-5), hastening toward us, beckoning us to the table He has prepared, the rich banquet which will satisfy our souls.

*A service of the St. Paul Center for Biblical Theology  
www.SalvationHistory.com*

**SAVE the DATE! January 28, 2008**  
**Medjugorje visionary—Ivan Dragicevic**  
 will be at St. Mary Church, Lynn  
**Rosary @ 6:00 p.m.**  
**Mass @ 7:00 p.m.**  
**All Welcome!**

**Saugus Community Vigil  
Victims of Domestic Violence**



**A Service of Remembrance and  
Hope will be held.**

**Blessed Sacrament Parish.  
Sunday evening, January 25th  
7:00 p.m.**

**All welcome to support those who have been  
abused and the families of those who have lost  
loved ones due to domestic violence.**

*Sponsored by the Saugus Coalition  
Against Domestic Violence*



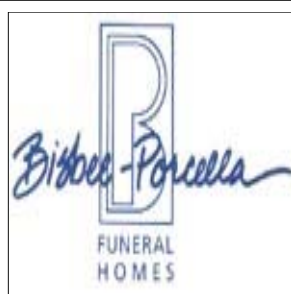
**Holy Hour For Life:** The 2009 Holy Hour for Life will be held throughout the Archdiocese on Wednesday, January 21, at 7:30 p.m. as a Vigil to the National Day of Prayer and Penance. The Saugus Parishes will be hosting their Holy Hour for Life Prayer Service at Blessed Sacrament Parish on the same date and time. This Holy Hour will be prayed simultaneously at parishes, college campuses, hospitals, convents, and on the buses carrying our teens and seminarians to Washington, D.C. All those faithful to the inherent dignity of all human life from conception to natural death are invited to attend.

**Vigil of the National Day of Prayer and Penance:** January 22, 2009, marks the 36th anniversary of the U.S. Supreme Court's decision to legalize abortion in the U.S. This day has been designated by the United States Bishops as a Day of Penance and Prayer. Cardinal Sean encourages all people in the Archdiocese, and parishes in particular, to participate in a Vigil of the National Day of Prayer and Penance on Wednesday, January 21. This is a powerful way to join in prayer with other parishes/individuals for an end to abortion and for healing for those who have been wounded by abortion.

**Holy Hour for Life January 21, 2009:** Sponsored by Boston Deacons For Life in collaboration with the Office for Clergy Support and Ongoing Formation, and the Pro Life Office of the Archdiocese of Boston. Holy Hours for Life will be held across the Archdiocese of Boston on January 21, the Vigil of the National Day of Prayer and Penance, praying in solidarity with thousands of pilgrims going to Washington, DC for the March for Life. The Holy Hours will be held simultaneously at parishes throughout the Archdiocese and on the buses carrying our teens and seminarians to Washington, DC. We will pray together for those who have been wounded by abortion, for respect for the dignity of human life from conception to natural death, and that those who govern us may be guided by justice, truth, and a love for the gift of life. For more information, contact the Pro Life Office at 508-651-1900 or ProLifeOffice@rcab.org.



**Arise Together in Christ** Season Two of Arise will start shortly and small groups will be forming during Lent. Our hope is that the participation of people from both Saint Margaret and Blessed Sacrament Parishes will double! Last fall just about 100 people participated. Let's make this Lent a time of spiritual growth with Arise.



**Our thanks to our friends at Bisbee Porcella Funeral Homes** for the 2009 Calendars for both Blessed Sacrament & St. Margaret parishes. The calendars are published by the Catholic Extension Society, an organization that supports missionary dioceses in the United States. The 2009 Calendar features Cardinal Sean O'Malley and many ministries of our own Archdiocese. If you have not taken a calendar as yet, please do so, and remember: take one to those who are not able to come out to Church.

“Having a [spouse] who is committed for better or for worse, in sickness and in health, makes people happier and healthier.”

Gallagher and Waite, *The Case For Marriage*, p. 77

## What the Church teaches, social science confirms...

# Marriage Is Good for Husbands, for Wives and for Their Children

God is both Creator and Redeemer. So God knows all about our bodies, our hearts, and our relationships. After all, He made them! God invented sex and marriage.

It shouldn't be a surprise, therefore, that His way for marriage is the way that makes us truly fulfilled and happy. But does science back up the Church's teaching?

Yes! The sociological evidence is clear: lifelong, life-giving marriage is good for husbands and wives. It is also the ideal environment for raising children.

### Marriage Is Good for Husbands and Wives

“For richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health”—the marriage vows bind a man and woman together publicly. In an uncertain world, these vows create a rock-solid reality. The husband and wife can set out on the adventure of building a shared life together because of the security of their publicly sworn love.



**More Security.** The marriage bond is invisible, but it exists! In fact, sociology shows that its effects are powerful: marriage makes people healthier and wealthier. In contrast, cohabiting couples (who live together in a sexual relationship outside of marriage) do not have the security of a publicly sworn love.

**More Money.** Spouses make more money, pool resources, and reduce expenses to a much greater degree than cohabiting couples do.<sup>1</sup>

**Better Health.** And marriage improves a person's physical health. A wife is significantly healthier, and a husband benefits even more. “Married adults have longer lives, less illness, greater happiness, and lower levels of depression and substance abuse than cohabiting and single adults.”<sup>2</sup>

The difference that marriage makes is only common sense, when you think about it. For example, men are likely to benefit from their wives'

looking after their behavior and diet. (Some sociologists call this phenomenon “the virtue of nagging”!) Single men are much more likely to engage in risky behaviors—to drink and smoke too much, for instance—than married men. Marriage inserts them into the wide world of family networks and social responsibility.

## Increased Sense of Meaning

Marriage and parenthood give a person a **sense of meaning**. We aren’t just living for ourselves. We have other people to think about. That sense of meaning helps our mental health as well.

**Increased Happiness.** Do you want to be happy? Marriage is one of the best predictors of **happiness**. 40% of married people rate their lives “very happy,” compared to less than 25% of cohabiters.<sup>3</sup>

**Better (and More) Sex.** In fact, married sex is much more physically and emotionally satisfying than sex among unmarried people. And husbands and wives have more of it than unmarried people.<sup>4</sup>

Again, this is just common sense. **Sexual intimacy** is much more satisfying when it is experienced in the context of marital love, with its public commitment. Marriage promises a spouse who will be there forever, for better and for worse, in sickness and in health. Who doesn’t want that?

## Life-Giving Marriage

Children want that permanence too. “The spouses’ union achieves the twofold end of marriage: **the good of the spouses themselves and the transmission of life.**”<sup>5</sup> Married love, which is sexual love, creates new life. And children flourish under marriage as God has created it.

“Few propositions have more empirical support in the social sciences than this one: Compared to all other family forms, families headed by married, biological parents are best for children.”<sup>6</sup>

David Popenoe, Rutgers University, February 2006<sup>9</sup>

Children living in low-conflict families with their married biological mother and father are more likely to attend school and graduate, less likely to be depressed and abuse drugs and alcohol, less likely to be physically and sexually abused, and less likely to be sexually active and undergo teen pregnancy.<sup>6</sup>

In addition, children flourish when they have **both their mother and father**. “Studies suggest that men and women bring different strengths to the parenting enterprise, and that the biological relatedness of parents to their children

has important consequences for the young, especially girls.”<sup>7</sup> In fact, exposure to a biological father’s spheromones (chemical signals) seems to delay sexual development and thus sexual activity in daughters!<sup>8</sup>

Of course, many single parents do a terrific job raising their kids, and they need to be supported in their heroic efforts. Still, having both a mother and father is optimal.

**Sociology confirms what the Church has always taught: following God’s plan for sexuality and marriage leads to human fulfillment and happiness!** ☺

<sup>1</sup>The Witherspoon Institute, *Marriage and the Public Good: Ten Principles* (Princeton: The Witherspoon Institute, 2006), p. 22. <sup>2</sup>Witherspoon, *Marriage*, p. 22. <sup>3</sup>Maggie Gallagher and Linda Waite, *The Case for Marriage: Why Married People Are Happier, Healthier, and Better Off Financially* (New York: Broadway Books, 2000), p. 67. <sup>4</sup>*Ibid.*, pp. 78-96. <sup>5</sup>*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, #2363. <sup>6</sup>Witherspoon, *Marriage*, pp. 18-21. <sup>7</sup>*Ibid.*, p. 20. <sup>8</sup>*Ibid.*, p. 21. <sup>9</sup>“The Scholarly Consensus on Marriage,” Center for Marriage and Families Fact Sheet no. 2 (New York: Institute for American Values, 2006).

THE FUTURE  
DEPENDS ON  
**LOVE.**  
*Marriage*  
LIFE LONG. LIFE GIVING.

MASSACHUSETTS CATHOLIC CONFERENCE  
WEST END PLACE, 150 STANIFORD STREET, SUITE 5  
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02114-2511  
PHONE: 617.367.6060 ~ FAX: 617.367.2767  
WEB: MASSCATHOLICMARRIAGE.ORG

Want to Learn More? Watch for *The Future Depends on Love* television series on Catholic TV and on [www.CatholicTV.com](http://www.CatholicTV.com).