Blessed Sacrament Parish
Saugus, MA

Saint Margaret Parish
Saugus & No. Revere, MA

The Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time
February 8, 2009

He cured many who were sick with various diseases, & he drove out many demons, not permitting them to speak because they knew him.

Matthew ~1:34

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
Daily Mass: 9:00 am Monday through Saturday

Weekend Masses:
Saturday @ 4:00 pm & 5:30 pm
Sunday @ 8:30 am & 10:00 am
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 Wettherholm – 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

Frederick Quinlan	Birthday Remembrance	4:00 p.m. Saturday	(2/7/09)
Jean Bernazani	Memorial Mass	7:30 a.m. Sunday	(2/8/09)
Edward "Ted" Colbert	Anniversary Mass	9:00 a.m. Sunday	(2/8/09)
Norman J. Gautreau	Memorial Mass	10:30 a.m. Sunday	(2/8/09)
All Deceased Parishioners, Friends and Relatives		9:00 a.m. Wednesday	(2/11/09)
For the People of the Parish		9:00 a.m. Friday	(2/13/09)
Frederick Rossi	Memorial Mass	4:00 p.m. Saturday	(2/14/09)
Marie & James Anderson	Memorial Mass	9:00 a.m. Sunday	(2/15/09)
Baby Carla Vocino	Memorial Mass	10:30 a.m. Sunday	(2/15/09)

Mass Intentions at Saint Margaret

Ivan & Eleanora Allen	Memorial Mass	4:00 p.m. Saturday	(2/7/09)
Pasquale & Fred DiFiore	Memorial Mass	5:30 p.m. Saturday	(2/7/09)
Michael Cronin	11th Anniversary Mass	8:30 a.m. Sunday	(2/8/09)
Blanche Lavoie	Birthday Remembrance	10:00 a.m. Sunday	(2/8/09)
Dennis Hansen	Birthday Remembrance	9:00 a.m. Monday	(2/9/09)
Joseph Sartan	36th Anniversary Mass	4:00 p.m. Saturday	(2/14/09)
Rhonda Szymanski	1st Anniversary Mass	5:30 p.m. Saturday	(2/14/09)
George Woodbury, Jr.	2nd Anniversary Mass	10:00 a.m. Saturday	(2/15/09)

Baptism Preparation: At Blessed Sacrament Church, the Sacrament of Baptism is usually celebrated on the second Sunday of the month. Prior to the Baptism of children Parents and God-Parents are to participate in a Baptism Preparation Program. At Blessed Sacrament, the Preparation Class is held monthly. Upcoming dates are: (no Baptisms during Lent), April 14, May 5, June 9, July 7, August 4, September 8, October 6 and November 3. Call Blessed Sacrament at 781-233-2497 to register for the above. At Saint Margaret, the Sacrament of Baptism is usually celebrated on the third Sunday of the month. The Preparation Class is held every other month, usually on the first Thursday. Upcoming dates are: April 2, June 4, August 6, October 8 and December 3. Call Saint Margaret at 781-233-1040 to register for the above. Baptism Preparation begins at 7:00 p.m. at both Churches.

Operation Troop Support: This weekend we will collect crossword puzzle books, word search books, brain teasers, playing cards, and hand-held electronic games for the troops. As always, your support is appreciated, and any letter of encouragement you wish to send to our troops will also be appreciated. The collection bins are located at the doors of **Blessed Sacrament Church** to receive your donations. Thank you for your continued support.

US Census 2010: Need extra cash? Apply to be a United States Census taker! Work up to 40 hours per week in a temporary, part-time job with the 2010 Census. Enjoy good pay, flexible hours, mileage reimbursement, and the chance to serve your community. Training sessions will be at St. Margaret Parish Hall on Friday, February 13 at 10:30 a.m., Wednesday, February 18 at 4:00 p.m. and Friday, February 27 at 10:30 p.m. Questions? Call Kathy at 781-233-9376.

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.

Penny Sale: Yes, Saint Margaret's is planning its Annual Penny Sale, which some have called the 'best Penny Sale in Town!' Whether this is true or not we don't know but whatever the case, we sure do have a lot of fun. As we prepare the Penny Sale (date to be announced shortly) we need your help as usual. Needed are 200 new items with a value of $5.00 or more. Perhaps that gift you got at Christmas that you don't quite know what to do with. It would be a real attention getter at the Penny Sale! The intermission will feature 'make your own' ice cream sundaes for everyone! For those not familiar with our Penny Sale - it's very simple. Tickets are only $1.00 each and gives you a chance to win 100 items. Winners tickets are returned to the barrel.

BLESSED SACRAMENT FINANCIAL BLESSINGS

Last Sunday's collection was **$4,295.50.** An additional **$410** was received from mail-in contributions. **$2,723** was received for the collection for the Renovation Fund. Attendance at Mass was **769** people.

ST. MARGARET FINANCIAL BLESSINGS

Last Sunday's collection was **$3,403.00.** Attendance at Mass was **466** people. Thank you for your generosity to the needs of the Parish and to the mission of the Church.

BLESSED SACRAMENT SECOND COLLECTIONS

Renovation Fund - January 31 & February 1
Peter's Pence - February 7 & 8

SAINT MARGARET SECOND COLLECTIONS

Parish Monthly Collection - February 7 & 8
Peter's Pence - February 21 & 22

Grand Annual Collection: We are grateful to those who have generously contributed to this year's Grand Annual Collection. At Blessed Sacrament Parish $34,085.00 has been received, and at St. Margaret Parish $22,795.00 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. In the near future, we will be sending a reminder letter to those who have not contributed as yet.

St. Margaret Annual Gourmet Dinner: Come to this year's Gourmet Dinner, "Taste of Mediterranean," on Sat. Feb. 21. Tickets (at $25.00 per person) and menu are available at Saint Margaret Rectory or after all the weekend Masses.

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 McMorrow, Michael McMorrow, Joseph DePietro, John Scott, Brian & Stephanie Howard, and Kevin Howard, Timothy Perkins, and Alison Perkins, Lt. Maxwell Palumbo**

The Sick **Karen Shirk, Chris McMahon, Kathy Tozza, John Welsh, Lynda Mscisz, Father James Field, Father Thomas Nestor, Kayden Devine, Alexander Mossuto, Debbie Maher, Thomas Kehoe, Michael Doto**

The Faithful Departed **Paul Galvin**

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.

"Be still and know that I am God."

Scripture for the week of February 8, 2009

8	**SUN**	Jb 7:1-4, 6-7/1 Cor 9:16-19, 22-23/ Mk 1:29-39
9	**Mon**	Gn 1:1-19/Mk 6:53-56
10	**Tue**	Gn 1:20—2:4a/Mk 7:1-13
11	**Wed**	Gn 2:4b-9, 15-17/Mk 7:14-23
12	**Thu**	Gn 2:18-25/Mk 7:24-30
13	**Fri**	Gn 3:1-8/Mk 7:31-37
14	**Sat**	Gn 3:9-24/Mk 8:1-10
15	**SUN**	Lv 13:1-2. 44-46/1 Cor 10:31-11:1/ Mk 1:40-45

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 February 21 & 22. The next Food Collection Weekend for Saint Margaret is February 7 & 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.

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 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

Blessed Sacrament

Level 1 – Gr. 8 CLASSES will meet this week for Grades 1-8 at Saugus High School.

Welcome Grade 3! Next Sunday the third graders and their families will be present at the 9:00AM Mass. Immediately after Mass, the children and their parents will gather in the church hall for a special class together with their teachers and moderator. All third grade students will attend this class. There will be no third grade classes at the high school this week.

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 ***next class*** will be held this ***Wednesday, February 11, 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. Feb. 11 Moving Forward in Your Journey of Faith

Wed. Feb. 25 7PM Mass - Candidates and Sponsors. ***Note: Mass will be at St. Margaret's***

Wed. March 4Choosing Confirmation – My Faith Statement (Candidates AND Sponsors)

Sun. March 15Rehearsal – ALL Candidates and Sponsors

Sun. March 22 Confirmation

Parish Safety Program –The Religious Education Program will soon be implementing safety program that will be presented in the religious education classes. These two programs have been chosen by the Archdiocese for use in all grades 1-8 classes in our religious education programs. The coordinator of religious education has been to the training sessions, and this Sunday, February 8, representatives from the Archdiocese will be here to train our catechists(Gr. 1-8) and other persons interested in being a part of this important work – keeping children safe. If you would like more information about the training, please call Donna Zinna at 781-231-3699.

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.

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

Reminders

- Parents, accompany your children to the restrooms at all times. Why not make a visit before Mass begins to avoid disruption?
- As a courtesy to others, turn your cell phones off and other paging devices.
- Out of respect to the Sacrament we celebrate, as a courtesy to your fellow parishioners and the priest, and to give good example to our children and young people, please arrive for Mass on time and do not leave early.
- Out of respect for the Real Presence of Jesus in the Eucharist, prepare for Mass in prayer and silent adoration. Save your conversations for after Mass.

Married Couples: *"If today you hear His voice, harden not your hearts."* When we hear about ways to enrich our marriage, do we harden our heart so that we do not have to listen? The next Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekends in new England are February 13-15, March 6-8, March 20-22, and April 17-19. For more info, call Ralph & Jane Becker at 1 -800-710-WWME or visit www.wwmeMA.org.

Repairs Needed to the Rodgers Electronic Organ: We are told that if something is not done soon the Organ at Blessed Sacrament Church may soon be inoperative! It is in serious need of repair. There are four issues: First, the eight speakers that provide the sound for the instrument are over twenty years old and are in a state of disintegration. There are other related issues with the speakers such as the proper power levels that will be needed with new more powerful speakers. Second, the main motor bearing on the organ's blowers which generates wind for the pipes is about the same age as the speakers and needs to be replaced. It make more noise than the pipes! Third, the organ console itself needs normal maintenance, such a cleaning all contacts, replacement of light bulbs, replace all foam and felt guides, re-tensioning of the pedal keys, etc… Fourth, the organ pipes used to be centered on the rear wall of the Church, under the circular window. They were moved at some point to the side of the choir loft. The move was not it the best interest of the pipes or the quality of sound in the Church. They are off-center. To correct the sound issue and to make the appearance of the pipes more pleasing, as in the past, an apron will be built along the balcony railing. This apron will also house the speakers, removing them from the back wall. It should look better and sound better. The proposal for the work to be done by Marshall Ogletree Associates, Inc. (the same company that installed the organ originally) at a cost of $20,850.00 was discussed and approved by the Finance Council of the Parish. Of course we had not planned for this major repair at this time. But it must be done. Hopefully it will be complete in time for Easter and the Parish celebration of First Communion, Confirmation and the wedding of the springtime.

Part-time Custodian Needed: St. Margaret Parish is looking for a part-time custodian: usually 4 hours on Monday to clean up after the weekend and 4 hours on Friday to prepare for the weekend. Job includes the Church, the Parish Hall, the Church grounds (no lawn maintenance and no snow shoveling) and the Parking Lot. For more job details please call the Rectory (781-233-1040) for an interview. The pay is not great but the benefits are out of this world!

ST. PAUL CENTER FOR BIBLICAL THEOLOGY

Raised to Serve *By Dr. Scott Hahn*

In today's First Reading, Job describes the futility of life before Christ. His lament reminds us of the curse of toil and death placed upon Adam following his original sin (see Genesis 3:17-19). Men and women are like slaves seeking shade, unable to find rest. Their lives are like the wind that comes and goes. But, as we sing in today's Psalm, He who created the stars, promised to heal the brokenhearted and gather those lost in exile from Him (see Isaiah 11:12; 61:1). We see this promise fulfilled in today's Gospel. Simon's mother-in-law is like Job's toiling, hopeless humanity. She is laid low by affliction but too weak to save herself. But as God promised to take His chosen people by the hand (see Isaiah 42:6), Jesus grasps her by the hand and helps her up. The word translated "help" is actually Greek for *raising up*. The same verb is used when Jesus commands a dead girl to arise (see Mark 5:41-42). It's used again to describe His own resurrection (see Mark 14:28; 16:7). What Jesus has done for Simon's mother-in-law, He has done for all humanity - raised all of us who lay dead through our sins (see Ephesians 2:5). Notice all the words of totality and completeness in the Gospel. The *whole* town gathers; *all* the sick are brought to Him. He drives out demons in the *whole* of Galilee. *Everyone* is looking for Christ. We too have found Him. By our baptism, He healed and raised us to live in His presence (see Hosea 6:1-2). Like Simon's mother-in-law, there is only one way we can thank Him for the new life He has given us. We must rise to serve Him and His gospel. Our lives must be our thanksgiving, as Paul describes in today's Epistle. We must tell everyone the good news, the purpose for which Jesus has come - that others, too, may have a share in this salvation.

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

"Help us … Lord, to work for that day when nation shall not lift up sword against nation, when tanks will be beaten into tractors, when every man and every woman shall sit under his or her own vine and fig tree, and none shall be afraid; when justice will roll down like waters and righteousness as a mighty stream."

Excerpt from Rev. Lowery's Inaugural Benediction

World Marriage Day: Today, February 8, is World Marriage Day. Married Couples will have the opportunity to renew their vows at the 10:30 a.m. Mass at Blessed Sacrament Church. Information regarding Marriage Encounter, a weekend designed for couples who have a "good working" marriage, and Retrouvaille, a weekend designed as a lifeline for troubled marriages, will be available in the vestibule at Blessed Sacrament Church.

Patrick McMorrow: For the past 12 years, Saint Margaret's has been blessed to have Pat McMorrow as it's part time custodian. Pat recently sold his home and he and his wife, Annette, are relocating to Belchertown, MA, to be closer to their sons. Because of the economy, it took a while to sell the house. Pat used to ask for prayers so that his house would sell. I told him I didn't like praying for that because with his house sold, he would move and leave us. We will miss Pat and are appreciative of his faithful, dedicated, dependable and consistent care of Saint Margaret Church and grounds. It would be hard to describe all that he did and it would be a very long list if it were written down, but I think if you look around you notice that the Church, the Parish hall and the grounds including the parking lot are all in good order and clean. Pat is also a man of deep faith and a faithful participant at the 4:00 p.m. Saturday afternoon Mass at Saint Margaret's. I know that Pat has a special prayer request (and this one I do wholeheartedly join with him in praying), and that is that his son, Patrick McMorrow and his grandson, Michael McMorrow will return home safe and sound and soon from their tours of duty in the Armed Services of our country. And we will also miss seeing you walking the streets of Saugus. Never one to drive a car, Pat gets around mostly the good old fashioned way - he walks. You are an example to all of us and no wonder you are so healthy. Annette and Pat, God bless you in your new home and God bless your family with safety and good health and deepening love. From a grateful Parish,

Thank you.

The Living Rosary Pilgrimage: The next Living Rosary Pilgrimage is Sun. Feb. 8, St. Joseph Church, 115 Union St. Lynn at 2:00 p.m. and will be a Eucharistic Holy Hour. Come and bring your families and friends.

Communion to the Homebound: Do you know someone who is unable to come to Mass and who would appreciate receiving Holy Communion on a regular basis? **If so, call either Rectory: St. Margaret at 781-233-1040 and Blessed Sacrament at 781-233-2497.** Our Parishes have wonderful Ministers of Holy Communion who would be glad to visit on a regular basis during the year.

St. John the Baptist Parish Scrabble Tournament: St. John the Baptist Parish, 17 Chestnut Street, Peabody, is sponsoring a ***Scrabble Tournament*** to benefit the St. Vincent de Paul Society and its many ways to help those in need. This will be held in the lower church hall on Saturday, February 21, 2009, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Admission is $10 (includes lunch). Registration is at 9:30 a.m. For more information or to register, please contact Marie O'Brien, 978-531-2896.

Daily Mass: Both Blessed Sacrament and Saint Margaret have daily Mass Monday through Friday at 9:00 a.m. Blessed Sacrament also has Mass at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday. In addition to daily Mass at 9:00 a.m. there were 130 Funerals celebrated at the two churches last year. Families usually request a Funeral for 10:00 or 10:30 a.m. And there are Masses in local Nursing Homes once a month (Hammersmith, Hallmark Health and Anne Mark) as well as Mass at Laurel Towers. Father Dan and Father George would like to organize a small group of people who attend daily Mass from both Parishes to discuss the possibilities for greater collaboration in this area of daily Mass. Please let us know if you are interested.

"Christian faith and ethics are not meant to stifle love, but to make it healthier, stronger and more truly free."

Pope Benedict XVI, Fifth Meeting of Families, Valencia, Spain, 7/8/2006

marriage: God's Loving Plan for Sex

The Jeweler's Shop

In a play entitled *The Jeweler's Shop*, Anna, an unhappily married woman, goes to a jeweler and tries to sell her wedding ring. The jeweler places the ring on his scales. But nothing happens. "This ring does not weigh anything," he tells her. Without her husband's ring, her own ring had no weight or meaning.

These days it's common to hear that marriage doesn't have a special place among other types of adult relationships. But *The Jeweler's Shop* points out that marriage does indeed have a unique weight and power.

The rings exchanged in a wedding ceremony are not just pretty ornaments. They symbolize something very real. They symbolize the commitment that the husband makes to his wife and the wife makes to her husband. With God's grace, that commitment has the power to change each spouse and to transform the world.

Why? Because it is only in giving ourselves away generously and totally that we find fulfillment. Most people are used to thinking of the Church's teaching on sex and marriage as a list of rules. But here's a great secret: **God's plan for sex is to make you happy.** All of the "rules" are meant only to protect sex from selfishness. When sex is about generous **self-giving**, then it has the power to make us happy.

Self-Giving Love

Of course, our culture is full of temptations to live otherwise. We are told that sex outside of marriage, including living together in a sexual relationship while unmarried (cohabitation), is a way for adults to become fulfilled personally. Actually, the sociological evidence tells a different story: married couples are far happier and healthier than unmarried and cohabiting couples. (You can read about some of this evidence at www.MassCatholicMarriage.org.)

The reason is simple: **marriage is the only place where sex can express self-giving love, and it is only in giving ourselves away that we can find ourselves.**

Self-giving love in marriage has the power to make us happy here on earth. But ultimately Jesus wants even more for us: He wants us to be unspeakably happy with Him in a life beyond death. We can't fathom what that joy must be like. But we can begin to taste that joy here and now by pursuing **holiness** (doing the Father's loving will in all our actions) within the sacramental life of the Church. By grace, Christ's total self-giving love heals and perfects our loving, leading us to a happiness without end.

God has made everything about us to reflect this truth about holi-

ness and self-gift. **In fact, the truth of sex and self-gift is written in our bodies.** Have you ever thought about the fact that the sexual differences between men and women don't make much sense on their own? Clearly, man and woman are fitted physically for each other. Our bodies allow us to give ourselves to a person of the opposite sex in a face-to-face embrace.

God's Love Creates

Our bodies reveal still more. They show us that sex is oriented toward **new life**. Self-giving in marriage is meant to be fruitful, the way God's love is always fruitful. God's love creates. It brings new life! And human married love is meant to serve the creation of a new human being. Everyone, even non-Christians, can understand that marriage should be lifelong and life-giving.

So, if everything about us—even the human body—is made for self-gift, why is it sometimes so hard to be married? Why did Anna want to sell her wedding ring?

The **cross** at the front of the church may help to answer this question. Our Lord died on the cross to save us from sin and bring us into the embrace of God's eternal love. Each one of us is called to be a saint, but most of us are not there yet. Sin often makes our relationships difficult. Fortunately, God doesn't expect us to fix things on our own! That's why He gives us his grace through the Church.

> "Man cannot live without love. He remains a being that is incomprehensible for himself, his life is senseless, if love is not revealed to him, if he does not encounter love, if he does not experience it and make it his own, if he does not participate intimately in it."
>
> Pope John Paul, II, *Redemptor Hominis*, #10

In particular, He gives us grace in the **sacraments**, which make God's grace present. Marriage between baptized Christians is a sacrament, a very special one that injects God's own love into the deepest rhythms of the world.

Sacramental marriage expresses the self-giving love of God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit through the bodies of the husband and wife. In *The Jeweler's Shop*, when Anna catches a glimpse of Jesus, He has her husband's face.

Your Vocation

Is marriage your **vocation**? Is it how God wants you to become holy and happy? Only you can perform your particular God-given mission. No one else can do it for you.

Are you ready to transform the world? Some have already embraced their unique world-transforming mission by giving themselves away totally in the priesthood or religious life. Most of us will transform the world as married persons. Pope John Paul II pointed out, ***"The future of humanity passes by way of the family."***

All of us—married or single, clergy or religious or lay—can support the family in our society. We can evangelize about God's plan for marriage. We can support family-friendly laws. Most importantly, we can strive to live a life of self-giving love, whatever our vocation.

The Jeweler's Shop presents an engaged couple who fears for the future, but each reassures the other by saying, "The future depends on love." Years later, *The Jeweler's Shop*'s author—Pope John Paul II—would exclaim, "Be not afraid! Do not be afraid to love!"

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

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Want to Learn More? Watch for *The Future Depends on Love* television series on Catholic TV and on www.CatholicTV.com.