

Blessed Sacrament Parish
Saugus, MA

Saint Margaret Parish
Saugus & No. Revere, MA

*He will be
great and will be called
Son of the Most High...
and of his kingdom there
will be no end. Luke 1:32-33*



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Fourth Sunday of Advent - December 21, 2008

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'Carroll – Sunday Assistant
Deacon Francis M. Gaffney – Permanent Deacon
Martha G. Lecaroz – Parish Secretary
Donna Zinna – Coordinator of Religious Education
781 231 3699

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

Lorraine Perella – Program Coordinator
Phyllis Bunnell - Music Director
Debora Pillsbury - Parish Housekeeper
Nicholas Raftelis – Buildings and Grounds

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

Carl & Frances Buchanan	Memorial Mass	4:00 p.m. Saturday	(12/20/08)
Fred & Carol Hohmann	Memorial Mass	7:30 a.m. Sunday	(12/21/08)
Anne Porter	Memorial Mass	9:00 a.m. Sunday	(12/21/08)
Antonio Losanno	Memorial Mass	10:30 a.m. Sunday	(12/21/08)
Francis Bradlee	Memorial Mass	9:00 a.m. Monday	(12/22/08)
All Deceased Parishioners, Relatives and Friends		9:00 a.m. Wednesday	(12/24/08)
For the People of the Parish		9:00 a.m. Friday	(12/26/08)
Giovanni Martone	Memorial Mass	9:00 a.m. Saturday	(12/27/08)
John Hurley	Memorial Mass	4:00 p.m. Saturday	(12/27/08)
Caroline LaFrazia	Memorial Mass	7:30 a.m. Sunday	(12/28/08)
Harold & Gladys Poole	Memorial Mass	9:00 a.m. Sunday	(12/28/08)
Victor & Gladys Panico	20th Anniversary Mass	10:30 a.m. Sunday	(12/28/08)



Mass Intentions at Saint Margaret

Phyllis & Albert Dello Russo	Memorial Mass	4:00 p.m. Saturday	(12/20/08)
Charles & Helen Swain	Memorial Mass	5:30 p.m. Saturday	(12/20/08)
Joseph Moschella	Memorial Mass	8:30 a.m. Sunday	(12/21/08)
Pauline & Christie Serino	Memorial Mass	10:00 a.m. Sunday	(12/21/08)
Joseph & Rosemarie Orlando	Memorial Mass	9:00 a.m. Monday	(12/22/08)
Edward Fallon	Birthday Remembrance	9:00 a.m. Tuesday	(12/23/08)
Frank Trudeau	Memorial Mass	4:00 p.m. Christmas Eve (up)	(12/24/08)
Geraldine Favuzza	Memorial Mass	4:00 p.m. Christmas Eve (down)	(12/24/08)
Brain Crowell	Anniversary Mass	5:30 p.m. Christmas Eve	(12/24/08)
MaryAnn Frassica	Memorial Mass	8:30 a.m. Christmas Day	(12/25/08)
Raffaele Gerasio	7th Month Remembrance	10:00 a.m. Christmas Day	(12/25/08)
John, Rose Emily & Donald Deon	Memorial Mass	9:00 a.m. Friday	(12/26/08)
Worthy, Burns, & Szymanski Families	Memorial Mass	4:00 p.m. Saturday	(12/27/08)
Philip & Josephine Natalucci	Memorial Mass	5:30 p.m. Saturday	(12/27/08)
Susan LaVacca	5th Anniversary Mass	8:30 p.m. Saturday	(12/28/08)
Nanci Buhlman & Theresa Sears	Memorial Mass	10:00 a.m. Sunday	(12/28/08)



The Pieta Mass

Our Pieta Mass held on Wednesday evening, December 10, was very healing. It was such a wonderful way to memorialize our children with a candle placed on the altar in front of the Pieta statue with our parish community. Our altar had nearly fifty candles; as Fr. Dan said, each one of those candles has a story. We pray that all those who have lost children find peace in their hearts and know Jesus is holding their children in his loving arms. Thank you to all who helped make this evening so meaningful.

Scripture for the week of December 21, 2008

21	SUN	2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Rom 16:25-27/Lk 1:26-38
22	Mon	1 Sm 1:24-28/Lk 1:46-56
23	Tue	Mal 3:1-4, 23-24/Lk 1:57-66
24	Wed	Morning: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Lk 1:67-79
25	Thu	Vigil: Is 62:1-5/Acts 13:16-17, 22-25/Mt 1:1-25 or 1:18-25 Midnight: Is9:1-6/Ti 2:11-14/Lk 2:1-14 Dawn: Is 62:11-12/Ti 3:4-7/Lk 2:15-20 Day: Is52:7-10/Heb1:1-6/Jn1:1-18or1:1-5, 9-14
26	Fri	Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59/Mt 10:17-22
27	Sat	1 Jn 1:1-4/Jn 20:1a, 2-8
28	SUN	Sir 3:2-7, 12-14 or Gn 15:1-6; 21:1-3/Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17 or Hb 11:8, 11-12, 17-19 /Lk 2:22-40 or 2:22,39-40



Christmas Mass Schedule

At Blessed Sacrament Church

Christmas Eve: 4:00 p.m. (upstairs)
 4:00 p.m. (downstairs)
 5:30 p.m.
 12:00 midnight
 Christmas Day: 9:00 a.m.
 10:30 a.m.

At Saint Margaret Church

Christmas Eve: 4:00 p.m. (upstairs)
 4:00 p.m. (downstairs)
 5:30 p.m.
 Christmas Day: 8:30 a.m.
 10:00 a.m.

There is only one Collection taken on Christmas Eve and Day. It is for the benefit of the retirement and health needs of the Priests of the Archdiocese of Boston. Your generosity to this collection is very much appreciated. In the name of all our brother priests who are blessed by your generosity, we thank you very much. Thank you.

Father George & Father Dan

New Year's Eve & Day Masses: Masses for the Feast of Mary the Mother of God, a Holy Day of Obligation are as follows:

At Blessed Sacrament Church

December 31 at 4:00 p.m.
 January 1 at 10:30 a.m.

At Saint Margaret Church

December 31 at 4:00 p.m.
 January 1 at 10:00 a.m.

BLESSED SACRAMENT FINANCIAL BLESSINGS

Last Sunday's collection was **\$4,245**. An additional **\$241** was received from mail-in contributions. **\$3,208** was received for the Retired Religious. **\$710** was collected as a good will offering for the Christmas Concert. Attendance at Mass was **950** people.

ST. MARGARET FINANCIAL BLESSINGS

Last Sunday's collection was **\$3,301** and the Parish Monthly Collection was **\$2,050.00**. Attendance at Mass was 664 people. 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

Retired Sisters - December 20 & 21
 Parish Monthly Collection - January 10 & 11
 Church in Latin America - January 24 & 25 2009

New Sweaters Needed: Once again My Brother's Table is in need of **new** sweaters to distribute to their guests as presents. The greatest need by far is for unisex sweaters, particularly large and extra large sizes. Unwrapped **new** sweaters can be dropped off at My Brother's Table, 98 Willow Street, Lynn, by December 19. Also needed are **new** gloves, mittens, hats, and long underwear for the cold months ahead. They are also in great need of Christmas wrapping paper.



New Year's Bulletin: Any information for the bulletin for the weekend of December 27-28, 2008, must be received in rectory **no later than Friday, December 19, 2008**, as the bulletin must be received by the printer no later than noon, Monday, December 22, 2008.



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**.

The Sick **Karen Shirk**, **Chris McMahan**, **Kathy Tozza**, **John Welsh**, **Lynda Mscisz**, **Father James Field**, **Father Thomas Nestor**

The Faithful Departed **Theresa George**, **Theresa Carfagna-Carmody**, **Arthur Cook**, **Daniel Maestranzi**



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. **Please note there will be no adoration on Christmas Eve, Wednesday, December 24 and New Year's Eve, Wednesday, December 31.**

"Be still and know that I am God."



TV Mass: Father Dan is scheduled to be the celebrant of the TV Mass at Boston Catholic Television on Tuesday, December 23 at 9:30 a.m. If there is anyone interested in joining him for this Mass, kindly give him a call at 781-233-2497.



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 December 27 and 28. The next Food Collection Weekend for Saint Margaret is January 10 and 11.** 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.



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 781-233-1040

Blessed Sacrament 781-233-2497

Our Parishes have wonderful Ministers of Holy Communion who would be glad to visit on a regular basis during the year.

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.



Religious Education

For Blessed Sacrament

Level 1 – Gr. 8 Classes will be held today from 10:15am-11:15am at Saugus High School.

First Reconciliation – Over the past two weeks, 86 children from our parish celebrated the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time. Please keep these youngsters in your prayers as they prepare to receive their First Holy Communion this spring.

Grade 8 Mass Next Sunday, December 21st, we will welcome our 8th grade students, parents and teachers to the 9:00am Mass. After Mass, the students and their parents will gather in the church hall for a class with their teachers and moderator.

Confirmation Preparation

First Year Candidates – This week, we are happy to welcome our First Year Confirmation Preparation Students to the 9:00 Mass. The students are collecting gifts for the young men at the Youth Detention Center in Tewksbury. They will gather with their teachers and families in the church hall after Mass for Coffee and pastry.

Second Year Candidates-Our *first class* will be held on *Wednesday, January 14, 2009* at 7:00pm in the lower church. A letter with a schedule of class has been mailed to each *registered* candidate. 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 10th graders must register in the parish for Confirmation prep. Any questions, please call Donna Zinna at 781-231-3699.

Coming Soon! Beginning next week, there will be a basket available at the main entrance to the church with a selection of children's religious books for families with young children to borrow while at Mass. We ask that after Mass, you return your book to the basket for the next family to borrow.

For Saint Margaret's

Grades 1 through 6: Classes are held on Sunday mornings from 8:30 to 9:45 a.m. at the Belmonte Middle School. Classes will resume on Sunday, January 11.

Grades 7 & 8: The next class is Friday, January 9, 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. There is Class tonight, December 21.

Grade 10 (Confirmation Year II): The next class for students and sponsors will be January 11, 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 Epiphany Pageant:

The Epiphany Pageant is a living presentation of the Gospel account of the Birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

Epiphany is January 4, 2009. Rehearsal times will be on Friday, January 2, from 3:00 p.m. until 5:00 p.m., and the Dress Rehearsal will be Saturday, January 3, from 11:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. followed by a cast Pizza Party!! If your child has not signed up and want to participate in the Pageant, please call Corinne Riley at 781-231-7995. All children are welcome, and all ages are needed. It is an event your child will always remember! And please join us on Epiphany Sunday at the 10:00 a.m. Mass for the 11th Anniversary presentation of our Epiphany Pageant. All welcome.

SAVE the DATE ! January 28, 2008

Medjugorje visionary – Ivan Dragicevic
will be at St. Mary Church, Lynn
Rosary @ 6pm; Mass @ 7pm
All Welcome!

Grand Annual Collection: We are grateful to those who have so generously contributed thus far to this year's Grand Annual Collection. At Blessed Sacrament Parish, \$25,680.00 has been received and at Saint Margaret Parish, \$15,215.00 has been received. All monies collected through the Grand Annual Collection will be used entirely for the programs and property needs of each respective Parish. Thank you for your generosity. If you have not as yet donated to the Grand Annual, may we suggest an end of the year gift to your Parish. We appreciate your consideration.

**Shaw's Cash Register Receipts Program:**

Since July 1, 2008 Saint Margaret Parish

has received \$749.98 through the Shaw's Cash Register Receipts Program. Please keep those cash register receipts coming because the Parish receives 1% back of all the receipts we return to them. Collect them from family, friends and neighbors and return them to the special basket in the front vestibule of Saint Margaret's Church. Thank you.

Blessed Sacrament Parish has recently applied to participate in this program also. We will let you know when it will begin.

12 Days of Christmas Calendar: Both Blessed Sacrament Parish & St. Margaret Parish are having their own separate 12 Days of Christmas Calendars. Beginning December 24 and continuing for the 12 days of Christmas there will be a daily drawing for cash prizes ranging from \$100.00 to \$500.00. If you have not returned your calendars as yet or if you want more of them, act soon and be part of this fundraiser. Extra calendars are available at the church entrances. All proceeds realized will be used totally for the designated Parish, its programs and its properties.



Arise Together in Christ: Both Blessed Sacrament and Saint Margaret Parishes have recently completed the First Season of the Arise Together in Christ Pro-

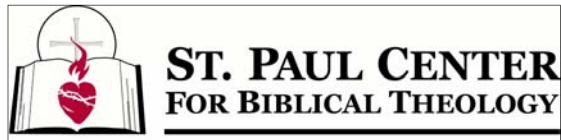
gram. By all indications, it was a wonderful spiritual process and most participants look forward to the next season which will begin the first week of Lent, toward the end of February. We are pleased that for the First Season, there were 10 groups that were formed with a total participation of 94 people. In the near future, the leadership of the Arise Program will be meeting to evaluate the past season and to see how program participation can grow. We will keep you informed and encourage you to participate in the next season of Arise Together in Christ. We ask the Lord to bless this effort because we believe the He is doing something new, calling His people to holiness of life and strengthening our Catholic Community in Saugus.

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!



**ST. PAUL CENTER
FOR BIBLICAL THEOLOGY**

The Mystery Kept Secret By Dr. Scott Hahn

What is announced to Mary in today's Gospel is the revelation of all that the prophets had spoken. It is, as Paul declares in today's Epistle, the mystery kept secret since before the foundation of the world (see Ephesians 1:9; 3:3-9). Mary is the virgin prophesied to bear a son of the house of David (see Isaiah 7:13-14). And nearly every word the angel speaks to her today evokes and echoes the long history of salvation recorded in the Bible. Mary is hailed as the daughter Jerusalem, called to rejoice that her king, the Lord God, has come into her midst as a mighty savior (see Zephaniah 3:14-17). The One whom Mary is to bear will be Son of "the Most High" - an ancient divine title first used to describe the God of the priest-king Melchizedek, who brought out bread and wine to bless Abraham at the dawn of salvation history (see Genesis 14:18-19). He will fulfill the covenant God makes with His chosen one, David, in today's First Reading. As we sing in today's Psalm, He will reign forever as highest of the kings of the earth, and He will call God, "my Father." As Daniel saw the Most High grant everlasting dominion to the Son of Man (see Daniel 4:14; 7:14), His kingdom will have no end. He is to rule over the house of Jacob - the title God used in making His covenant with Israel at Sinai (see Exodus 19:3), and again used in promising that all nations would worship the God of Jacob (see Isaiah 2:1-5). Jesus has been made known, Paul says today, to bring all nations to the obedience of faith. We are called with Mary today, to marvel at all that the Lord has done throughout the ages for our salvation. And we too, must respond to this annunciation with humble obedience - that His will be done, that our lives be lived according to His word.

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



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.

Watch CatholicTV Live



**CatholicTV®
Christmas Programming**

It's that time of year again! **CatholicTV®** will intersperse Advent and Christmas programming with their regular schedule throughout December and especially from Monday, December 22 until New Year's Eve. Then, all day Christmas eve, Christmas Day and December 26, Boston CatholicTV will become **ChristmasTV** for 72 hours of non-stop specials.

You can always watch all of the fine CatholicTV programming live and on-demand at our easy to navigate website: **www.CatholicTV.com**.

Join Father Reed, Jay Fadden and the whole CatholicTV staff for the best in Christmas programming. As Christmas draws near, **WATCH CatholicTV**. It's all for YOU!



Next week, at all the Christmas Masses, our only collection will be to support the retirement, medical, and financial needs of priests of the Archdiocese of Boston. Each one of us can remember fondly those priests who have baptized your child, witnessed your marriage, or brought the anointing of the sick to a loved one that was dying. We ask that you give generously on behalf of the priests that have devoted their lives to God and the good work of the Archdiocese of Boston. On behalf of all of our priests, thank you in advance for your generosity.

“It is only the rock of total, irrevocable love between a man and a woman that can serve as the foundation on which to build a society that will become a home for all mankind.”

Pope Benedict XVI, 5/11/2006

marriage: At the Heart of Social Justice

What matters more than children? The French poet Charles Péguy gets at this truth, describing a father's thoughts concerning his sons (though this clearly applies in similar ways to mothers and daughters as well):

It's never the child who goes to the field, who tills and who sows, and who reaps and who harvests the grapes and who trims the vine and who fells the trees and who cuts the wood.

For winter.

To warm the house in winter. But would the father have the heart to work if he didn't have his children. If it weren't for the sake of his children.

His children will do better than he, of course. And the world will go better. Later. He's not jealous of it. On the contrary.

Nor for having come to the world, as he did, in an ungrateful time.

And to have no doubt prepared for his sons a time that is perhaps less ungrateful.

What madman would be jealous of his sons and of the sons of his sons.

Doesn't he work solely for his children.¹

The future depends on love because the future depends on children. Without children, cultures die, nations die, the human species dies. Nothing is more fundamental to the common good than children. And nothing matters more for the well-being of children than the health of marriage and family life.

The struggle for the common good is more urgent than ever: the inno-

cence of our children is threatened by the hook-up culture, which is reinforced by Planned Parenthood-style sex ed. Abortion and embryo-destructive research are destroying the most powerless human lives, whom Blessed Mother Teresa called “the poorest of the poor.”

We are made for love, so we must seek social justice, which is to have the common good as the horizon of all our actions. And social justice requires above all that we safeguard and strengthen marriage and family life.

Promote Peace by Promoting the Family

When Mother Teresa received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1979, she was asked what people can do to promote world peace. Her answer was profoundly countercultural: “Go home and love your families.” Justice can only arise from the human heart, and habits of the heart are first learned in the family.

Pope Benedict XVI has repeatedly pointed to the same truth. His Message for the World Day of Peace 2008 emphasizes the irreplaceable role of the family in “humanizing” indi-



viduals: “Indeed, in healthy family life we experience some of the fundamental elements of peace: justice and love between brothers and sisters, the role of authority expressed by parents, loving concern for the members who are weaker because of youth, sickness, or old age, mutual help in the necessities of life, readiness to accept others and, if necessary, to forgive them. For this reason, *the family is the first and indispensable teacher of peace.*”² Who can replace a mother's care in teaching her child to be unselfish? Or a father's concern to see his children treat one another

fairly? Without healthy family life, selfishness and injustice will corrode society.

As a result, the pope has strong words for those who would undermine the family: **“everything that serves to weaken the family based on the marriage of a man and a woman, everything that directly or indirectly stands in the way of its openness to the responsible acceptance of a new life, everything that obstructs its right to be primarily responsible for the education of its children, constitutes an objective obstacle on the road to peace.”**

Sex and the Common Good

In marriage, love and life transform the world. The nobility of the vocation to true love must be communicated in a compelling way to our children, who are being drawn away by the dehumanizing hook-up way of life. “Friendship with benefits” destroys the happiness of everyone involved, but our young girls are especially victimized. With innocence destroyed, our children are finding it harder and harder to grow up to love with that openness of heart necessary to welcome the future in lifelong and life-giving marriage.

Intimate relationships between adults can also be unjust, even when the people involved consent to being treated badly. Pope John Paul II never tired of reminding us that sexuality is meant to express lifelong and life-giving love. Anything less is lying with our bodies. We owe it to other people to respect their dignity, which is inseparable from how we treat their bodies. We must not exploit them for our own pleasure. And we are owed the same respect.

Conversely, when sexuality is an intimate expression of lifelong, life-giving married love, it serves the

“Peace and war begin at home.

If we truly want peace in the world,
let us begin by loving one another in our own families.”

Mother Teresa⁴

common good of all. The weakest among us—the elderly, the disabled, the unborn—are cared for in stable and loving families. Mother Teresa said, “The greatest destroyer of peace is abortion,” because it injects violence into the most intimate human relationships, that between parents and children. The loving commitment of marriage opens the spouses to the children that result from their union. Just and loving relationships flow outward from the family into the larger community and serve the common good.

Love and Money

In our individualistic culture of consumerism, with its focus on the economic calculation of private advantage, it is very difficult for us to act always with the common good of society as our horizon—to treat family values as more basic than economic values. It is very countercultural indeed to point out that sex is not a private matter.

Even economically speaking, how-

ever, marriage must be recognized as crucial. Marriage is a wealth-building institution. If we want to raise the economic status of the disadvantaged, we need to promote marriage. Minorities have suffered from the breakdown of marriage and the family disproportionately. The lifelong commitment of a husband and a wife is one of the most significant factors in the economic health of the individuals involved, especially women and children. As one sociologist puts it, the sociological data indicate that **“the preferential option for the poor begins in the home.”**³

We are the ones that must communicate this social sensibility to our children, pointing out, for example, why cohabitation not only causes broken hearts but also damages the common good. It all begins in the home: in marriage and family life. Whatever attacks the integrity of love in the home undermines society and social justice at its root. The future depends on the lifelong and life-giving love of marriage. ☪

¹Charles Péguy, *The Portal of the Mystery of Hope*, trans. David Louis Schindler, Jr. (Grand Rapids, Mich.: Eerdmans, 1996), pp. 12, 18. ²Pope Benedict XVI, Message for the World Day of Peace, January 1, 2008, www.vatican.va.

³B. Wilcox, *The Facts of Life & Marriage*, Touchstone, Jan/Feb 2005, cited at <http://www.usccb.org/laity/marriage/societyeng.shtml>. ⁴Mother Teresa, *In My Own Words*, ed. Jose Luis Gonzalez-Balado (Liguori, Mo.: Liguori Publications, 1997), p. 47.

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

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WEB: MASSCATHOLICMARRIAGE.ORG

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