



## **Understanding the Universal Call to Holiness**

### **Marriage Preparation Class Material**

#### **1. What is the Universal Call to Holiness?**

- The Universal Call to Holiness means that every person is invited by God to live a holy and loving life. It's a call to grow closer to God and reflect His love in everything we do.

#### **2. Why is it Important for Marriage?**

- Embracing this call will help you live a marriage that is not only fulfilling but also spiritually enriching. Holiness in marriage means loving each other deeply, supporting each other's spiritual growth, and being a reflection of God's love to others.

### **Pathways to Sainthood**

#### **1. Vocation**

- **What is a Vocation?**
  - A vocation is a special calling from God. While everyone is called to holiness, God calls us to live it out in different ways. For many, this call is to the vocation of marriage, but it can also be to the priesthood or consecrated life.
- **Marriage as a Vocation**
  - Your marriage is a vocation. It is a unique path to holiness where you both work together to grow in love and faith. Your marriage is a sacrament, meaning it is a special way you'll receive and share God's grace.

#### **2. Vocation of Children**

- **Priesthood and Consecrated Life**

- As you plan for the future, consider how you will support any potential call your children might have. If they feel called to the priesthood or consecrated life, your role will be to nurture their faith and encourage their discernment.
- **Sacramental Marriage**
  - Your children might also be called to the vocation of sacramental marriage. By modeling a loving, faith-filled marriage, you'll provide them with a powerful example of how to live out their own vocation.

## **Practical Steps for Couples**

### **1. Pray Together**

- Make prayer a regular part of your life together. Ask God to guide you in your marriage and in any future decisions about your family's vocation.

### **2. Communicate Openly**

- Discuss your understanding of the Universal Call to Holiness and how you envision living out your marriage. Share your hopes for supporting each other's spiritual growth and nurturing any future vocations of your children.

### **3. Seek Spiritual Guidance**

- Connect with your parish community, seek advice from spiritual mentors, and consider meeting with a priest or spiritual director. They can offer guidance on living out your vocation and supporting your family's spiritual journey.

### **4. Build a Strong Foundation**

- Focus on building a marriage rooted in love, faith, and mutual support. This foundation will help both of you grow in holiness and provide a solid example for your future children.

By understanding and embracing the Universal Call to Holiness and recognizing the various pathways to sainthood, you'll prepare for a marriage that is not only fulfilling but also a true reflection of God's love and grace.