

THE MYSTERY OF MATRIMONY

1. Christ Makes Everything New in the Church

- a) He renewed the human nature with all its aspects
 - * in Revelation 21, 5 Jesus promised to make all things "new"
 - * Jesus "made new" our human nature with all its aspects
- b) Matrimony was designed by God as an essential aspect of human life
 - * because He made everything about human life "new",
Jesus renewed Matrimony

2. The Biblical Basis For The Mystery of Matrimony

- a) The Mystery of Matrimony was instituted at creation
 - * Genesis 1, 26 tells us that:
 - + the Holy Trinity, Three in One with:
 - the eternal life
 - the life of true love between the Three
 - the life of true communion resulting from the true love
 - + the Holy Trinity, the Eternal Agape
 - the love that gives without expecting in return
 - the kind of love that is holy, set aside
 - + created the man in "His image and likeness",
He created two in one with:
 - the seed of eternal life
 - the seed of true love between the two
 - the seed of true communion resulting from the true love
 - + the Agape create two in one with the seed of agape
 - the seed of love that gives without expecting in return
 - * Genesis 1, 27 tells us that God the Holy Trinity created the man in a state of CO-EXISTENCE
 - * Genesis 2, 7 tells us that:
 - + man is of "the earth", which means:
 - he has profound ties with the rest of the created world
 - his harmony has implications on the harmony of the universe
 - + man is of "the Spirit", for:
 - God "breathed spirit"
 - through His "breath" God "woke up" creation to the sharing of Divine Life
 - * Genesis 2, 18 points out the final step of Creation
 - + not good to be alone
 - + the two are distinct, not separate
 - * Genesis 2, 21-22 presents the mystery of the "rib":
 - + to point out the union of the two in one
 - + to point out the distinction of the two in one

- + a mystery fulfilled in the Church
 - see Ephesians 5, 32
 - the Lord's "rib", His Side "bleeds the Church"
 - the Church is within and from Him
- * Genesis 2, 25 shows us the consequences of dwelling in "agape", in true love: "they were not ashamed"
 - + in Genesis 2, 23 Adam says "words of true love"
 - + those words are echoed in Ephesians 5, 28 as a reminder of the love of Christ for His Church which is the foundation of the true love between man and woman
- * Genesis 1, 28 shows us that:
 - + God called man to multiply
 - + according to some patristic sources children are "an angelic invasion"
 - the love of two becomes "ETERNAL IN TIME"
 - through procreation man participates in God's creative love
- * Genesis 3, 10 shows the man becoming aware of his "nakedness" after the original fall and its corruption
 - + the original agape which man had was
 - + degenerated, corrupted into eros, which is:
 - love outside of union with God
 - the passionate corruption of lust
 - thus, the Mystery of Matrimony was spoiled
- b) Genesis 24, 7 shows God interested and involved in a righteous relationship between Isaac and Rebekah
 - * a sign of His care for the Mystery of Love and Matrimony
- c) The Mystery of Matrimony is restored by Jesus Christ
 - * the Mystery of the Wedding in Cana of Galilee
 - + Jesus attended, pointing out importance in God's eyes
 - + Jesus changed the water into wine
 - the "water" of eros
 - = water spoils with time
 - = water is not as precious as wine
 - the "wine" of agape
 - = wine gets better with time
 - = wine is precious
 - + see John 2
 - * Jesus reaffirmed the Mystery of the TWO IN ONE
 - + restored love, agape, makes the Two in God's likeness
 - + see Matthew 19, 4-6

- * Jesus pointed out that sin brought about the situation dealt with by Moses
 - + the "hardness of heart" was that degradation of agape into eros
 - + the "letting go of wife" according to Moses was only a temporary measure which was based on the "hardness of heart"
- * On the Cross Jesus restored our human nature and the conditions for that restored human nature continue in the Church
 - + Jesus died for His Bride, the Church
 - + Matrimony can be restored on the foundation of the union between Christ and the Church
 - the Mystery of Matrimony is an imitation of Jesus's love for the Church
 - in Christ, following Christ, the groom is the king of the family and bride is the queen of the family

3. The Service of the Mystery of Matrimony

- a) developed in time
 - * initially a civil ceremony, which was fulfilled in the Church
 - * the end of persecution brought the entire ceremony in the Church
- b) the main parts of the service
 - * the BETHROTAL
 - + the prayers: presenting righteous examples
 - + the rings, reminders of:
 - the Prodigal Son
 - Joseph in Egypt
 - more than the infinity of "circle"
 - * the CROWNS
 - + the prayers: presenting the origin and goal of the Mystery
 - + imitation of Christ:
 - King and Queen
 - Martyrs
 - + Salvation is the ultimate goal of Matrimony
 - + the reminders of Victory of:
 - life over death
 - righteousness over sin
 - communion over individualism
 - * the EPIKLESIS
 - + the invocation of the Holy Spirit
 - the grace of the Holy Spirit transforms the water of eros brought by the two into the wine of agape
 - grace works initiating, but man must respond

* the LORD'S PRAYER

- + dialogue with God will keep the miracle going
- + the Church prays with us, setting us up for a prayerful life
- + prayer together is essential for survival

* the COMMON CUP

- + should be the Holy Communion
- + reminder that worship is the life-support of the marriage
- + reminder that family is the "small church", the training ground for the people of God