

*Host or designated reader/leader begins the Upper Room prayer hour by reading this message from Fr. David:*

### **Message for July 2018**

Dear Friends in Christ;

This month: Marriage, the Sacrament which brings a man and a woman (under God) together for two purposes: unity and procreation. Most of you in the Upper Room are or have been married and so experience will guide your answers and the virtue of wisdom may inspire you to add to the realized dignity of the Sacrament of Love. I hope this Upper Room challenges you to go a little deeper.

Fr. David

*Open with Sign of Cross and **Prayer to the Holy Spirit***

**L: Come, O Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of Your faithful, and enkindle in them the fire of your love. Send forth Your Spirit, O Lord, and they shall be created.**

R: And You shall renew the face of the earth

**L: Let us pray – God our Father, pour out the gifts of your Holy Spirit on the world. You sent the Spirit on Your Church to begin the teaching of the Gospel; now let the Spirit continue to work in the world through the hearts of all who believe. Through Christ our Lord.**

R: Amen

**L: You, O Lord, will open my lips.**

R: And my tongue shall announce Your praise.

**L: Incline unto my aid, O God.**

R: O Lord, make haste to help me.

**L: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.**

R: As it was in the beginning is now and ever shall be world without end. Amen

*Read CCC 1625 - Give examples of what might affect one's freedom to be married within the Church.*

*Read CCC 1626-1628 - If "consent makes marriage," how would you look at the marriage of two people with serious intellectual abilities?*

*Read CCC 1621 – Is it ok to have a wedding mass if the marriage to be is a mixed faith marriage? Why or why not? Is it ok to have unity symbols used (candle, cross, ropes, sand) at a wedding mass? Why or why not?*

*Read CCC 1623 – Therefore, the only Sacrament which is conferred by "the people," not the priest, deacon or bishop is which one.... Discuss why you think that this is the?*

*Read CCC 1623 – Is sex really **that** important in a marriage? Can you name things that are more important to the life of marriage? What is at the foundation of an authentic, wholesome, life-giving, sex life? (opinion question)*

*Read 1649 – How many divorced or separated couples are in your immediate family? Briefly share why they broke up. Can a divorced Catholic receive communion? Can a divorced and remarried Catholic receive Communion? How is this reconciled? What do you know about the annulment process? Did you know that Pope Francis decreed that all marriage Tribunals offer the annulment process at no cost?*

*Read 1652 – Do you agree with the statement that "Children are the supreme gift of marriage"? What would your marriage look like without children? (Can you imagine?) Discuss the weight or gravity of CCC 1653.*

*Read CCC 1655-1658 Agree as a group which sentence is the most key in understanding that paragraph.*

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*Next month's UPPER ROOM is on the Sacrament of Holy Orders*

*Pray the...*

**Litany of St. Joseph**

Lord, have mercy on us.

Christ, have mercy on us.

Lord, have mercy on us.

Christ, hear us.

Christ, graciously hear us.

God the Father of Heaven, *have mercy on us.*  
God the Son, Redeemer of the world,  
God, the Holy Ghost,  
Holy Trinity, One God, *have mercy on us.*

Holy Mary, *pray for us.*  
Saint Joseph,  
Illustrious Scion of David,  
Light of Patriarchs,  
Spouse of the Mother of God,  
Chaste guardian of the Virgin,  
Foster-father of the Son of God,  
Watchful defender of Christ,  
Head of the Holy Family,  
Joseph most just,  
Joseph most chaste,  
Joseph most prudent,  
Joseph most valiant,  
Joseph most obedient,  
Joseph most faithful,  
Mirror of patience,  
Lover of poverty,  
Model of workmen,  
Glory of home life,  
Guardian of virgins,  
Pillar of families,  
Solace of the afflicted,  
Hope of the sick,  
Patron of the dying,  
Terror of demons,  
Protector of Holy Church, *pray for us.*

Lamb of God, who takest away the sins of the world, *spare us, O Lord.*  
Lamb of God, who takest away the sins of the world, *graciously hear us, O Lord.*  
Lamb of God, who takest away the sins of the world, *have mercy on us.*

V. He made him lord over his house,  
R. And the ruler of all his possessions.

*Let us pray.*

O God, who in Thine ineffable providence didst vouchsafe to choose blessed Joseph to be the spouse of Thy most holy Mother: grant, we beseech Thee, that we may have him for an intercessor in heaven, whom we venerate as our protector on earth. Who lives and reigns world without end. Amen.