

Balitang Nagbibigay Buhay

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Archdiocese of Vancouver



Mass Wedding for civilly married couples held at Our Lady of Good Counsel pre-pandemic

THE SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE

A reflection on The Greatest Love Story Ever

by: Marie Pacheco

"Don't delay it any longer, get married in the church. It is easy!"

I chanced upon this line from a brochure sent by Deacon Greg Barcelon on the Archdiocese of Vancouver's mass wedding this June. It's a call out for married couples who married outside the Catholic Church, and therefore an invitation for them to come back to their Sacramental life.

I smiled at the memory of my own church wedding. My marriage was not off to an ideal start. My husband and I were college sweethearts and were thrust into being parents at a young age. We had a civil wedding in December of 1998; and against all practical reasons facing a young and struggling couple, we worked towards a simple church wedding in October of 2000.

Our budget was small. At a time when intimate wedding ceremonies were not the trend, we had our wedding at a church in Paranaque where both my husband and I had our first Holy Communion. We saved up for our rings and catering; everything else was either a DIY project or a gift from a family relative or friend. From the invitations, give-aways, flowers, cake, wedding gown and dresses—it all happened thru God’s grace.

It will always be one of my favorite stories to share about God’s many gifts to our family. And yes, it was easy.

Deacon Greg recently shared some secrets of happy, lasting marriages which he gave during a Filipino couple’s 25th wedding anniversary celebration.

The first secret- we are part of the GREATEST LOVE STORY EVER. He said whether we realize it or not, the ultimate reality is God loved us first. When we start recognizing that reality and become grateful for all that it means to us, we cannot help but participate in that love.

Our God emptied himself, took the form of a slave and became man. As a human, he humbled himself and became obedient unto death, even if that meant dying on the cross. As Deacon Greg puts it, that is LOVE AT ITS CRAZIEST!

This kind of crazy love starts with inviting God to be part of your marriage; not just on your wedding day but growing and walking with Him every step of the way.

But many Catholics who are married civilly are not able to participate in the Sacramental life of the Church. That is why the Archdiocese of Vancouver is inviting baptized couples, who have been married once in a civil ceremony, to have their marriage in a special mass celebrated by the archbishop.

The Mass Wedding is on June 11, 2022; but there are documentation requirements needed by April 22, 2022.

There will be a nominal fee to participate in the event. Only one official photographer/videographer will be allowed to cover the Mass Wedding at no cost to the participants. Couples may arrange their own private reception after the mass if they wish to do so.

So, meet up with your pastor, or pick up your phone and call Deacon Greg at the Filipino Ministry office 604-683-4288 ext. 50231 or cell 604-771-2975. You can also email Deacon Greg at gbarcelon@rcav.org.

Make a donation to Sto. Niño



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NOVENA TO ST. JOSEPH

We ask you to individually reflect and pray the novena for the intercession of St Joseph from March 10-18, and to attend mass on March 19 to celebrate his feast day. You are also invited to join the Knights of Columbus at St Monica Parish (Richmond) as they receive the pilgrim icon of St Joseph on March 30 at 6:30pm. Let us all come together in mass and prayer (to be followed by a sharing by Deacon Wilbur Victoria).

