

The Treasure of Marriage

The Act of Succession was laid right before his eyes, and the TRUTH he had defended so prudently over the past several years ***now required him to put his life on the line***. Thomas More was a beloved family man and the Chancellor to King Henry VIII. Unfortunately, TENSION was beginning to mount between King Henry VIII and the Church, and Thomas was stuck in the crossfire.

King Henry was married to Catherine of Aragon, but she was only able to leave him with a daughter and NO SON as an heir to the throne. INTRIGUED by the younger Anne Boleyn and the prospect for better offspring, King Henry sought an annulment from the Holy See but was denied by Pope Clement VII. In a FLURRY OF FURY, the king *drew up and passed through Parliament* the Act of Succession which required ALL of the subjects of the king to declare ***with an oath under pain of high treason*** that his marriage to ANNE BOLEYN—and NOT Catherine—was indeed the TRUE marriage. NOW, the time to defend THE TRUTH OF MARRIAGE had come for Thomas and it was awaiting his DECISION...

Last week, the Supreme Court of Canada had made its DECISION that it is justifiable for the law societies of BC and Ontario to not accredit Trinity Western University's prospective law school. The concern for religious freedom was voiced by many and I agree with that, but the heart of the issue is much deeper than that. The Supreme Court made its decision based on TWU's community covenant and not the sections which talk about respecting the "God-given worth" of others or "the fostering of Christian virtues."

The law societies of BC and Ontario were objecting to the notion that *"sexual intimacy is reserved for marriage between one man and one woman"*; they specifically object to the TRUTH OF MARRIAGE given to us by God.

TWU has now postponed its plans for a law school. That is the price it paid to remain faithful to the biblical view of marriage. Thomas More refused to sign the oath and he paid for it by being beheaded. What price will you pay to defend marriage?

What is at stake here? What is so critical about Holy Matrimony that people are willing to die, institutions are willing to lose programs just to defend marriage as a lifelong union between one man and one woman? ***Is the treasure of marriage something worth putting at the center of our hearts?***

Our God who IS LOVE created us out of love for the sake of LOVE, and at the dawn of creation he inscribed and stamped that call to love in the very bodies of men and women. In the fullness of time, the Father sent his Son to redeem human love with divine love and ***elevated marriage to the dignity of a sacrament.***

What is a sacrament? A sacrament is a sign instituted by Christ to communicate grace, and sacraments effect the grace of what they signify. Just as water cleanses and bread feeds, so the waters of baptism cleanses us from Original Sin and the Eucharist gives us eternal life.

So what does marriage signify and what grace does it bring? The proper ministers of the sacrament of marriage are the husband and wife, and by consenting to a life-long exclusive marriage for the good of the spouses and by their openness to the rearing of children, they make present **the love of Christ for the Church:**

*“For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two will become one flesh.” This is a **GREAT MYSTERY**, and I am applying it to Christ and the church”(Eph 5:31-32)*

To all married people: did you know that by your marital consent and your love for one another throughout their lives, *you are a “permanent reminder of to the Church of what happened on the Cross”* (FC 13)? Did you know that “authentic married love is caught up into divine love and is governed and enriched by Christ’s redeeming power and the saving activity of the Church (GS 48)? That this earthly marriage is meant to reveal and to point to the heavenly marriage where we will all be wedded to him for all eternity in heaven!!!

This is a mystery worth dying for!! This is a treasure worth storing up for in heaven!! But the question for us remains: are we storing up treasure in heaven, are we ***contemplating, defending*** and ***witnessing to the mystery of marriage*** where no moth or rust can destroy Christ’s eternal love for his bride? Or have we lost sight of this vision and stored up treasure on earth? *For where your treasure is there your heart will be also.*