

#### 4. THE IMMEDIATE FAMILY

**Family life. The significance of sacramental marriage. Small and big families. The role of mothers. Loss and grief in the family.**

1. What is the role of the family in society?
  2. What is the role of Christian families in these difficult times?
  3. What is the importance of sacramental marriage?
  4. What are the traditional family roles?
  5. How have these roles changed in the past century?
  6. Why do Catholics venerate Mary?
  7. What is grief?
  8. What are the main stages of grief?
  9. What does the Bible say about overcoming grief?
  10. What help can be given to grieving people?
- 

##### 1. What is the role of the family in society?

The family is the basic unit of society, and remains the deepest bond between a man and a woman. It should provide a unit of personal love and care, sensitive child-raising and sincere communication. No other forms of social organization have proven to be more effective or stable than the monogamous relationship of a man and woman. In those times when families work well, societies will work well, too. On the contrary, when families start to weaken, societies also become unstable. Over the past several decades the family - as a unit - has been under serious attack. The values of the traditional family model have been extremely undermined. Though the reasons for the current crisis in the family structure are many and complex, some of the major causes are the following: both parents working outside the home, the increasing unemployment rate, the spread of consumerism, the prevailing influence of cultural liberalism, including the promotion of the rights of homosexuals as well as many other causes.

a bond	kötélék
child-raising	gyermeknevelés
to prove to be (proved, proved/ proven)	valamilyennek bizonyul
monogamous	monogám, egynejú
stable	stabil
unstable	bizonytalan, ingatag
to be under attack	támadások érik
value	érték
extremely	rendkívüli módon
to undermine	aláás
classical	klasszikus
current	a jelenlegi
unemployment rate	a munkanélküliség aránya
consumerism	fogyasztói szemlélet
prevailing	általánosan elterjedt, domináns
cultural liberalism	kulturális liberalizmus

##### 2. What is the role of Christian families in these difficult times?

Christian families are called to live and convey gospel values both in society and in their immediate surroundings. They are called, in other words, to be God's light to the whole world. In the present times, when traditional moral values are so much discredited, Christian families must continue to love and teach these values. Just as children learn by imitation, so

do adults. Christian families must present a good and authentic model, so that other families can base their lives on them. In the context of marriage love presents itself in different ways – in the love for children, in the love found between the husband and wife, and in the love instilled by the parents in their children for Christian values.

In addition, Christians must show that in a fruitful, sacramental marriage, there is no place for extramarital relationships and that abortions are treated as anti-life because they take innocent lives.

to convey	közvetít
immediate surroundings	közvetlen környezet
to discredit	lejárát
imitation	utánzás
authentic	hiteles
to base one's life on	valakinek a példáját követi
to instil (Am.: instill)	belenevel, belecsepegtet
fruitful	gyümölcsöző
sacramental	szentségi
an extramarital relationship	házasságon kívüli kapcsolat
innocent	ártatlan

### 3. What is the importance of sacramental marriage?

The sacramental marriage of a man and a woman represents the model of love between Christ and his Church. The image of marriage is used all throughout Scripture. First it is used in the story of creation and then culminates in the New Testament, in the marriage between Christ and his bride, the Church. Christ loves his Church with the deep and abiding love of a bridegroom for his bride so much, that he was willing to sacrifice His life for her. As Christ continues to love the Church, so should a husband love his wife and, following the same logic, so should a wife love her husband. The spouses' mutual love, which involves both in a total gift of self, must be renewed day by day, and be based on a constant spirit of sacrifice. This unique relationship is depicted throughout the Old-Testament (see CCC 1611 and the footnote referencing to Hosea, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekial), but perhaps most strikingly in the 'Song of Songs', a part of the wisdom literature of the Old-Testament which puts before the reader's eyes two lovers who are in perfect harmony. Besides the literal meaning though, there exists a deeper allegorical one: the lovers' relationship symbolizes the love between God and his People, the Church.

Because the safest guarantee for general social stability can be found in the strong Christian family model, it should be seen as a priceless legacy that should both be guarded and handed down from generation to generation.

to represent	képvisel, jelképez
abiding	tartós, maradandó
a spouse	hitves
a total gift of self	teljes önjárandékozás
a spirit of sacrifice	áldozatos lelkület
to depict	ábrázol
striking	feltűnő, szembeszökő
literal	szószerinti
allegoric	allegorikus
a priceless legacy	felbecsülhetetlen értékű örökség