

***The Joy of Love***  
***Chapter Four: “Love in Marriage”***

The fourth chapter of Pope Francis’ exhortation on Marriage and the Family is the key to understanding the entire document. In this chapter the Pope provides us with a profound reflection on Saint Paul’s discussion of love in 1 Corinthians, *as it applies to marriage*. If you don’t have time to read the entire document, be sure to read this chapter since it will enrich your spiritual life and the spiritual life of your marriage.

The chapter has three parts. In the first part, the Pope speaks of the daily love that marriage requires of spouses. And so, drawing upon St. Paul’s teaching on love in 1 Corinthians, the Pope expands upon the following aspects of love: Love is patient. Love is at the service of others. Love is not jealous. Love is not boastful. Love is not rude. Love is generous. Love is not irritable or resentful. Love forgives. Love rejoices with others. Love bears all things. Love believes all things. Love hopes all things. Love endures all things.

In the second part of the chapter the Pope describes what it means to grow in conjugal love. He talks about the following: Love as a lifelong sharing, the joy and beauty of conjugal life, what it means to marry for love, a love that reveals itself to the other and so increases day by day, the dialogue between spouses that love entails. The Pope writes: “Take time, quality time. This means being ready to listen patiently and attentively to everything the other person wants to say.”

In the third part of this chapter, the Pope describes “passionate love.” Here he speaks about our emotions, the manner in which God loves us when we are filled with joy, the erotic dimension of love, the dangers of violence and manipulation in love, and the relationship between marriage and virginity. The Pope writes: “Sexuality is not a means of gratification or entertainment; it is an interpersonal language where in the other is taken seriously, in his or her sacred and inviolable dignity. Next week, I will discuss chapter four, which is entitled “Love Made Fruitful.” *Father Matera*

Join Deacon Art and Father Matera

Tuesday, May 17 and Monday, May 23

as they team up to discuss the Pope’s Exhortation,

*The Joy of Love,*

Parish Center, 7:00 PM