



Current Issues in Prayer

June 2021

Welcome! The Pope invites people of good will to come together and pray for young people who are preparing for marriage with the support of a Christian community: may they grow in love, with generosity, faithfulness and patience.



Getting started:

I sit down in a comfortable place and put aside my daily worries and preoccupations as I become aware of God's presence



Short story:

For the past ten years, Tony and Louise have been active members of the Cana Movement, a Maltese Catholic voluntary organisation, which promotes the wellbeing of families.

Tony and Louise's ministry in the Movement is to assist young couples in Catholic marriage preparation. After forty years of marriage, they are not new to the ups and downs of a life in a long relationship. They have a lot to offer to young couples who are at the starting line of a long journey.



During a radio programme, Tony and Louise were asked to share their experience at Cana. "Marriage preparation brings big aspirations for the future. Wedding day, honeymoon, house, career and children", reflected Tony. "But it is also a time of uncertainty, when couples feel like sitting at the edge of a cliff, looking out at a great expanse... At a future which is a mystery". Louise added that marriage is a mission. "Our role as leaders of the group is to make couples realise that marriage is not a fairy tale or a romance in a movie where everyone lives happily ever after. Marriage is about rolling up the sleeves and selflessly working hard for the family".

Tony and Louise concluded by saying that Catholic marriage is a sacrament that goes beyond the contract. "We remind young couples that in the sacrament of matrimony, Jesus gives the strength and grace for a long commitment".



Time to reflect:

Belonging in a family is one of the most precious gifts that we humans have. Do we treasure it like a gift or do we take it for granted? Do we realise that we need to invest our time and effort to make it work better?



Let us pray:

Dear Lord, help our families develop good judgment and seek wisdom. Guide us to live in perfect unity together as families. Teach us to care for our family members and help us forgive others for their mistakes.



Inspiration:

What can you do to promote world peace? Go home and love your family. *Mother Teresa*



Hands on:

In a fast-paced life, many struggle to find time for the family. I try to dedicate time and space with members of my family. It could be a sister, a brother, an in-law or even someone closer, like the husband or wife. I listen carefully to what they have to say and speak to them in an engaging way.