

DATE LOCAL

This month's theme is all about **roots!** Where we come from matters, the roots we put down for our family matter, and what happens to roots in times of turbulence or seasons of change? Let's explore! On the following page you will find links to three short videos and corresponding reflections. Pick one that is pertinent to your stage of life, watch the video and discuss the reflections together. These videos are from Dynamic Catholic's Marriage Preparation and Enrichment program, Better Together. Dynamic Catholic also offer a wonderful (and free!) Marriage Inventory. It just takes a moment to complete the inventory and it can help you identify what areas of your marriage offer room to grow. Keep sending those roots down deep!

Blessed are those who trust in the Lord...They are like a tree planted beside the waters that stretches out it's roots to the stream. It does not fear heat when it comes.

-Jeremiah 17: 7-8

TIME TO GET OUT?

Consider one of these Madison classics, or one of your own favorites!

- [Fromagination](#)
- [The Old Fashioned](#)
- [Vintage](#)
- [Dotty Dumplings Dowry](#)
- [The Great Dane](#)
- [New Glarus Brewery](#)

Honor your Wisconsin roots!
Visit ANY store near you and load up on local cheeses, brats and beer. Enjoy a locally themed meal together.

Sports fans? Schedule your date during an upcoming Bucks or Brewers game. And be sure to check out a local Blessed on the third page!



FAMILY GIVES YOUR LIFE ROOTS



Season 8 Episode 2

Great for those expecting children or raising littles!

OR anyone who wants to more clearly define their parenting goals.

Find out how understanding each other's backgrounds will help you make the best decisions for raising your own family.

- Share your family story with your betrothed.
 - What was your life like growing up?
 - What was your family like?
 - What kind of traditions did your family have?
 - What was important in your family? What was never important?
 - What was it like to be a kid in your house?
 - How was discipline handled?
 - What was your father like? Your mother? Your siblings?
 - What are some things/qualities you definitely want in your family? Definitely don't want?



Season 8 Episode 4

Great for those experiencing a change of seasons such as an empty nest or an increase in responsibilities such as caring for an ill or aging family member?

Sometimes life gets messy. Discover the greatest gift you can give your family so you can weather any storm.

- If your daily life changed drastically tomorrow, do you think your marriage could weather it unharmed?
- What actions can you take today to maintain or strengthen your marriage? List 5 ideas and commit to one of them!
- What shared hobbies or interests need to be rekindled?
- What does your individual and shared prayer life look like? What is the first step in praying together or beginning to again? Write it down, and verbally commit it together.
- Who in your shared life, could you look to for encouragement or support during the storms of life?



NATIVE

Fr. Solanus Casey



*Fr. Solanus gives us hope in God's will & in His desire
for EVERY one of us to become saints...
even in the most ordinary ways.*

Father Solanus Casey, a Capuchin Franciscan friar, was born on November 25, 1870 in Oak Grove, WI. His Irish immigrant parents named him Bernard. He was the sixth child in a family of ten boys and six girls. After he left the farm he worked in Wisconsin and Minnesota as a logger, a hospital orderly, a prison guard and a street car operator. When he was 21 working on a street car he saw someone who was drunk assaulting a woman on the street car's tracks. This created in him a sense of wanting to do something to make the world better. This led him to enter St. Francis High School Seminary in Milwaukee to study for the diocesan priesthood. Since he was an English-speaking Irishman studying in a German-speaking school, he had difficulty with his studies. It was recommended that he leave that seminary to enter a religious order. He was invested in the Capuchin Order at Detroit in 1897 and received his religious name of Solanus.

Unfortunately for Solanus the Capuchins also were German-speaking; this led him to have more difficulties with his priestly studies. His superiors decided, with his acceptance, that he would be ordained but not allowed to hear confessions nor preach dogmatic sermons. Fr. Solanus spent 20 years in the New York City area and another 20 in Detroit.

Father Solanus spent his life in the service of people. At the monastery door, he met thousands of people from every age and walk of life. In time of trouble and sorrow, they sought his prayers and advice.

Many people believed he had the gifts of healing and prophecy; they attributed favors to his prayers. He constantly showed his love of God by loving all of God's people. However, like his models, Jesus and Francis, he would often say: "I have two loves: the sick and the poor." He was always ready and willing to listen to anyone any time of the day or night. In return he asked people to develop their own spiritual lives by growing in love and God and neighbor, especially by their support for the missions.

Slightly adapted from <https://solanuscasey.org/who-is-father-solanus/biography>.