

## **Catechetical Moments**

### **The Sixth Commandment**

March 20, 2022

Elizabeth Barrett Browning's Sonnet 43 begins, "How much do I love you? Let me count the ways."

In today's culture, it sometimes seems like the question is, "How much do I not love you? Let me count the ways."

- With another person
- With a job
- With a TV
- With a casino
- With pornography
- Shall I go on...?

"**T**hou shall not commit adultery."

Committing "adultery" violates God's call to a loving covenant of **Faithfulness** with your spouse. At its core, adultery is one spouse making a victim of the other.

When we took up the Sacrament of Marriage last year, we highlighted a number its characteristics; "**Faithful**" was firmly on that list. All the other characteristics support "**Faithfulness**:

- **Freely** preparing for and marrying, rather than being forced or coerced, is step one to being **Faithful**.
- **Full**, being "all in," holding nothing back gives God and your spouse the space to fill you up with love, the best motivation to be **Faithful**.
- Your vow of **Forever** says that you won't bail-out at the first hiccup.

- A **Fruitful** marriage is a life-giving marriage. The **Fruit** of new life feeds the ever-blossoming love in your marriage's **Faithful** relationship.
- Being able to **Forgive** and being able to ask for **Forgiveness** allows us to remain **Faithful** – even if we aren't able to forget
- A **Faith-filled** relationship brings forth special grace - Sacramental grace - uniquely suited for the journey of **Faithfulness**

And finally, the **Freedom** acquired through self-discipline enables us to conform our sexual desires to God's plan for the beautiful expression of love in marriage. This is Chastity.

God calls married couples to grow continually in **Faithful** love that unifies. A couples' **Faithful**, mutual self-giving is strengthened and blest by Jesus Christ in the Sacrament of Marriage for the good of each spouse and the family.

**Next Time:** The Seventh Commandment