

I Will Love You and Honor You All the Days of My Life

Marriage is a vocation. A **vocation** is a way of life people choose in response to God's call to live out their faith. Pope Benedict XVI called vocation "God's task for each one of us" (papal greeting, March 25, 2007). Some people's vocation calls them to join a religious group of brothers or sisters and serve the Church as a member of a religious community. Some men are called to become deacons, priests, or bishops. Other people are called to serve the Church through the Sacrament of Marriage. Some remain single, living their faith through deep friendships. All these, except being single, are vocations for life.

Because marriage is a lifelong vocation, it is permanent by its very nature. Divorce attempts to separate what God has joined together through marriage. Those who get divorced and marry other spouses go against God's law or plan. Their actions contradict our faith. This is why the Church asks those who have been divorced and remarried not to receive Holy Communion. Yet the Church still loves them and still calls them to share in her liturgical worship. Those who are divorced are called to live out their faith by attending Sunday Mass and continuing to educate their children in the Catholic faith.