

VERAPOLY ARCHDIOCESAN GAZETTE


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## CIRCULAR - 8

## HOLY CHILDHOOD DAY

Reverend and dear Fathers,
The Holy Childhood Day falls this year on February 9 ${ }^{\text {th }}, 2014$. You are hereby requested to announce it in our Churches and Institutions. Children shall be enrolled on that day in the Holy Childhood Association.

The usual collection shall be made during the Holy Masses and those collections and subscriptions should be sent to the Archdiocesan Curia before the end of February 2014.

Emakulam
19.01.2014

* Francis Kallarakal

Metropolitan Archbishop of Verapoly

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## ARCHDIOCESAN SYNOD

CASUS-IV<br>January 2014

## Marriage and its Preparation

It is observed that the marriage nullity cases are on the rise in our ecclesiastical tribunals. Though there is a residential marriage preparation course conducted by our Archdiocese, we have the impression that our youngsters are not prepared enough to receive the Sacrament of Marriage. In dealing with marriage cases it is noted that our young couples do not have a clear vision of catholic marriage. They do not understand the ends of the sacrament of marriage. They do not have any idea about the properties of marriage. Some of our parish priests and their assistants do not prepare well the couples before they join in the Holy Matrimony. During the "NamaskaramKelkal", some priests stick on examining the couples whether they know some elementary prayers like the Creed, the Act of Contrition, Ten Commandments etc. They do not take it as an opportunity to make aware the couples of the essential things that they should know about the sacrament of marriage. The moment of "NamaskaramKelkal" should not be a moment of mental torture to the couples but it should be a moment of catechesis and an immediate spiritual preparation to receive the sacrament of marriage. It is not allowed to threaten the couples saying that they will not be given no-objection certificate to marry in the Church unless they learn some essential prayers. We should also take into consideration the educational qualification, the catholic faith formation and the intellectual capacity of the couples who are going to marry. Some priests are found very rigid during the "NamaskaramKelkal", and they unnecessarily create confusions and worries to the couples. According to Can. 1058, all persons who are
not prohibited by law can contract marriage. Therefore, the right to marry and to marry freely must be respected by both civil and ecclesiastical authority. The following questions will help us to understand the importance of giving good catechesis and preparation for marriage to our youngsters who wish to join in the Holy Matrimony.

## Questions:

1. What kind of catechesis and preparation of marriage should precede the celebration of marriage? (Ref. Can. 1063)

Ans: Can. 1063: Pastors of souls are obliged to take care that their ecclesiastical community offers the Christian faithful the assistance by which the matrimonial state is preserved in a Christian spirit and advances in perfection. This assistance must be offered especially by:
1/ preaching, catechesis adapted to minors, youth, and adults, and even the use of instruments of social communication, by which the Christian faithful are instructed about the meaning of Christian marriage and about the function of Christian spouses and parents;

2/ personal preparation to enter marriage, which disposes the spouses to the holiness and duties of their new state;
3 /a fruitful liturgical celebration of marriage which is to show that the spouses signify and share in the mystery of the unity and fruitful love between Christ and the Church;
4/ help offered to those who are married, so that faithfully preserving and protecting the conjugal covenant, they daily come to lead holier and fuller lives in their family.
The marriage preparation should be remote, proximate and immediate. Remote preparation takes place in infancy, childhood, and adolescence, in the family, in school, and in formation groups. Effective marriage preparation must begin in Childhood. Children
and young people who learn what the obligations of marriage are and who lean to appreciate the importance of the sacrament, will be able to apply those teaching to their own life whey they marry. The Proximate preparation takes place in marriage preparation courses offered by the dioceses. This preparation should include: instruction regarding the natural requirements of the interpersonal relationship between a man and a woman in God's plan for marriage and the family, awareness regarding freedom of consent as the foundation of their union, the unity and indissolubility of marriage, the correct concept of responsible parenthood, the human aspect of conjugal sexuality, the conjugal acts with its requirements and ends, and the proper education of children. Immediate preparation is the final stage before the wedding ceremony. Through the immediate preparation couples should review all they have learned and receive spiritual and liturgical preparation.
2. What is the obligation of the local ordinary to provide Marriage Preparation? (Ref. Can. 1064)

Ans: Can. 1064: It is for the local ordinary to take care that such assistance is organized fit-tingly, after he has also heard men and women proven by experience and expertise if it seems opportune.
3. What kind of spiritual preparation should precede the celebration of marriage? (Ref. Can. 1065)
Ans: Can. 1065 §1: Catholics who have not yet received the sacrament of confirmation are to receive it before they are admitted to marriage if it can be done without grave inconvenience.
§2: To receive the sacrament of marriage fruitfully, spouses are urged especially to approach the sacraments of penance and of the Most Holy Eucharist.
4. What are the other things should be verified by the Parish Priest before taking place the wedding ceremony?

Ans: Can. 1066: Before a marriage is celebrated, it must be evident that nothing stands in the way of its valid and licit celebration.

Can. 1067: The conference of bishops is to establish norms about the examination of spouses and about the marriage banns or other opportune means to accomplish the investigations necessary before marriage. After these norms have been diligently observed, the pastor can proceed to assist at the marriage.
Can. 1068: In danger of death and if other proofs cannot be obtained, the affirmation of the contracting parties, even sworn if the case warrants it, that they are baptized and are prevented by no impediment is sufficient unless there are indications to the contrary.
Can. 1069: All the faithful are obliged to reveal any impediments they know about to the pastor or local ordinary before the celebration of the marriage.
Can. 1070: If someone other than the pastor who is to assist at marriage has conducted the investigations, the person is to notify the pastor about the results as soon as possible through an authentic document.

Can. 1071 §1: Except in a case of necessity, a person is not to assist without the permission of the local ordinary at:
1/a marriage of transients;
2/a marriage which cannot be recognized or celebrated according to the norm of civil law;

3/ a marriage of a person who is bound by natural obligations toward another party or children arising from a previous union;

4/a marriage of a person who has notoriously rejected the Catholic faith;
5/ a marriage of a person who is under a censure;
6/ a marriage of a minor child when the parents are unaware or reasonably opposed;
7/ a marriage to be entered into through a proxy as mentioned in can. 1105.
§2: The local ordinary is not to grant permission to assist at the marriage of a person who has notoriously rejected the Catholic faith unless the norms mentioned in can. 1125 have been observed with necessary adaptation.
Can. 1072: Pastors of souls are to take care to dissuade youth from the celebration of marriage before the age at which a person usually enters marriage according to the accepted practices of the region.
5. How do you evaluate the present marriage preparation course conducted by our Archdiocese?
6. Do you have anything to say about the "NamaskaramKelkal"?


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