

## THE WAR AGAINST MARRIAGE: How Should We Begin?

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Sr. Lucia dos Santos, who was the primary visionary with Our Lady of Fatima—*primary*, because she was the only one of the three Fatima children who could actually see *and* speak with Our Lady—once spoke with Cardinal Carlo Caffarra of Bologna, telling him the following:

*The final battle between the Lord and the reign of Satan will be about **marriage and the family**. Don't be afraid, because any one who operates for the sanctity of marriage and the family will always be contended and opposed in every way, because this is the decisive issue. However, Our Lady has already crushed its head.*

So, on the one hand, from the standpoint of WHO has already won the spiritual war, we must of course admit, our Lord Jesus Christ, and remotely, the Blessed Virgin Mary, as the *indirect* co-operator in the Redemption of man. And on this point—since we are Christians—we should never worry or be afraid of what is to come.

On the other hand, it belongs to our epoch of life that **we are nevertheless living in the very midst of this battle NOW**, contending with it both *within* our own homes, and from without; for we are tempted every day to be discouraged or even despair about the state of our marriage, as well as the rapid rate at which so-called “same-sex marriage” has spread throughout the world.

Regardless of which issue concerning the truth or falsity of marriage we are actively concerned with, what many of us may feel compelled to do, is to **lash out** at those who have differing opinions about this, or who are living in an objective state of sin, against the truth of marriage. And while we may have many reasons for reacting in this way, one very common reason is **FEAR**—fear of what might happen if no one else speaks out against such falsities, or perhaps, fear of being caught in a web of rhetorical demagoguery, and not being properly equipped, intellectually, to find one's way out of the web of lies.

What then is one to do? What we must NEVER do, is to react uncharitably against our neighbor; for we must love even the greatest of sinners with the very Love of God. No sin is so great as to justify our being devoid of love for our fellow man, who though may not be an adopted son or daughter of Christ *now*, may in the future become one. But what if the only reason they do not, was because of how **you**—a Christian—treated them? Therefore, I would like to offer each of us a couple of steps to prepare ourselves for this spiritual battle.

FIRST of all, we must “**Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil**. For we are not contending against the flesh and blood, but against the principalities, against the powers, against the world rulers of this present darkness, against the spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places” (Ephesians 6:11-12). We must ensure that **we ourselves are living a holy life**: praying incessantly, offering sacrifices, going to confession regularly, attending Mass daily, and never losing one's sense and actions of obedience to Christ and His Church.

After having done this spiritual preparation, we must then equip ourselves *intellectually*. This is the part which many of us either fall into the **sin of presumption** (i.e., thinking one knows enough to get by, or knows it all), OR we think ourselves **not smart enough to understand** a theology of marriage that has more depth than what secondary school or RCIA catechesis gave us.

Therefore, I challenge all of us to neither overestimate nor underestimate our knowledge of the marital covenant, and the essential properties which belong to it. Let us re-examine what we thought we knew! As God told St. Augustine of Hippo: **Tolle Lege!** - Take (up)! Read!

May God be with all of you!

In Christ through Mary,  
Mr. Andrew M. Steele