

Divine Mercy Summer Faith Series

July 29 – 31, 2018

St. Mary's Church Social Room, Sleepy Eye
~Come to any or all~

Featuring Mark & Patti Armstrong of Bismarck, ND

Sunday, July 29 – 6:30 PM

The Shroud of Turin

"It is the image that everyone can see, and yet no-one can explain." – St. John Paul II

Mark Armstrong will present on the "history and the mystery" of the Shroud of Turin including current scientific findings, statements by Church officials over the centuries, as well as the inexplicable mysteries of this famous icon believed by many to be the burial cloth of Christ. All are welcome to this presentation.

Monday, July 30 – 6:30 PM

"Put God in the Driver's Seat and You'll Go Places You Never Dreamed"

Mark and Patti will share their personal story of meeting in the Peace Corps, the ups and downs of raising 10 children, and how they were transformed learning what it means to be Catholic and putting God in charge.

Tuesday, July 31 – 6:30 PM

Our Lady of Guadalupe

"Trust in me: I am your mother." – (Our Lady of Guadalupe to St. Juan Diego)

All are welcome to the final night of our Summer Faith Series as Mark Armstrong shares the exciting story of the appearance of Our Lady of Guadalupe to the Aztec Indian Juan Diego in December of 1531 and the tilma of the miraculous image of Our Lady of Guadalupe, which has survived for centuries. Mark will be showing a life size replica of the image which was blessed by St. John Paul II during Juan Diego's canonization ceremony.

Presenters

Patti Maguire Armstrong is a correspondent for Our Sunday Visitor newspaper and the National Catholic Register and works in marketing for Teresa Tomeo Communications. She is an award-winning author and was the managing editor and co-author of Ascension Press' bestselling *Amazing Grace* series. She has appeared on EWTN, Catholic TV, Fox & Friends, and numerous radio programs across the country.

For the past 15 years, **Mark Armstrong** has served as the Communications Liaison for North Dakota Workforce Safety and Insurance, the state's workers' compensation agency. Prior to that, he worked in radio broadcasting in six different states in a career that spanned over 45 years. He also gives talks and writes about Our Lady of Guadalupe and the Shroud of Turin and has traveled to both locations with family members.



ONE FLESH

USCCB Nationwide Bulletin Insert

Summer 2012

The desire to love and be loved is the deepest need of our being. We long to be known, accepted, and cherished by another. Yet, the ability to fully give or receive this love is unattainable on our own. As Catholics we believe Jesus Christ has entered our broken world to conquer sin and restore us to new life. Throughout every age he continues to invite all women and men to follow him through his Church, to whom he has entrusted his teaching authority, so that all can know and follow him.

Only God can give us the unconditional love and acceptance that we desire. Yet, he has created marriage, a holy union, to mirror this supreme love on earth. At the heart of their married love is the total gift of self that husband and wife freely offer to each other. Because of their sexual difference, husband and wife can truly become “one flesh.” Through the language of their bodies, their sexual union recalls their vows: giving themselves to one another in love that is total, faithful, and life-giving.

This call to love is to follow Christ himself, who handed himself totally over for his bride, the Church. Spouses imitate him by giving the entirety of themselves to one another, including the gift of their fertility and their openness to new life. Contraception and sterilization, which deliberately suppress fertility, reduce the sexual act so that

husband and wife withhold the completeness of their total gift to each other. This changes the meaning of their sexual union so that it no longer expresses the fullness of their love.

God our Father loves us and wants our lives to be full and rich! He has given his Church the task of bringing women and men to the fullness of truth which leads to our happiness in this life and in the life to come. Jesus gives us the power and strength of the Holy Spirit—the Spirit of Love—so that we, particularly husbands and wives, can truly love one another.

The teaching on the use of contraception and sterilization may seem challenging, but it is to preserve the true, complete self-gift between husband and wife, the kind of love that brings real, lasting joy and peace. If we have failed to live this in the past, we need not be discouraged. Our loving Father is always calling us back through the Sacrament of Reconciliation and wanting to strengthen us in the Sacrament of the Eucharist.

When we embrace the Church’s teaching on human sexuality and marriage and follow Jesus, we invite the Holy Spirit into our lives in a powerful way. When we trust in the Lord’s desire for our happiness, he can transform our love in a way that can transform the world.

There has been much news lately about the Church’s teaching on contraception and sterilization. As Catholics, we may be asking thoughtful questions or struggling to understand this teaching.



To learn more, or to see questions others have asked, visit www.usccb.org/love-and-sexuality.