

Marriage: Unique for a Reason

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During the summer months of June, July and August, the churches in our community are very active with weddings.

While marriages take place throughout the year, the summer season seems to be the busiest.

This explains why the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) decided to unveil their newest initiative—*Marriage: Unique for a Reason*.

The USCCB's Ad Hoc Committee for the Defense of Marriage has created a series of new videos regarding marriage and will soon be launching a new website specifically addressing nuptials.

The first in a new series of videos is just one part of the overall priority on strengthening marriage and complements the many resources already available through the bishops' National Pastoral Initiative on Marriage.

Marriage: Unique for a Reason provides resources to assist with the catechesis and education of Catholics on why marriage is unique and why it should be promoted and protected as the union of one man and one woman.

The initiative will eventually include five videos—four in English and one in Spanish—with companion viewer's guides, resource booklets and an interactive website.

The videos also serve as a tool for priests, deacons, catechists and teachers in communicating the importance of marriage as a cornerstone of family life.

While the materials are primarily intended for a Catholic audience, *Marriage: Unique for a Reason* can also be of assistance to all those who seek to understand the truth and beauty of marriage.

From generation to generation, the teachings of the Catholic Church on the meaning of marriage has had a positive influence on society.

Through this new medium, the USCCB has sought to make the authentic teaching of the Church on marriage and the family more available to everyone.

While we promote the teaching on marriage, the bishops also seek to protect the institution of marriage.

Marriage: Unique for a Reason assists in countering the contemporary proposals to redefine marriage.

To many, the definition of marriage has become the great question of our time. The answer is simple. Marriage is a lifelong, exclusive union between one man and one woman.

This, and many additional topics, is addressed in the four-part series of *Marriage: Unique for a Reason*. The next three English-language videos focus on the subjects of the good of children and the important role of mothers and fathers; the

good of society and the false claim of discrimination; and the impact on religious liberty.

In the very near future, a Spanish-language video will also address issues particular to a Latino/a audience.

The second video on the good of children is currently in production and is set for release by the end of the summer.

And the website will be launched later this Fall.

Everyone can utilize these resources so that couples can continue building strong, healthy and holy marriages whose foundation is formed — *Todo Con Amor*.