



MARRIAGE, THE SACRAMENT

LIKE THE EUCHARIST, marriage is the giving and receiving of flesh and blood for the life of the world, a literal dying to self so that others may live abundantly.

LIKE BAPTISM, it is a birth into a greater communion, a literal bestowal and revelation of life.

LIKE CONFIRMATION, it is a gradual growth into mutual responsibility, a confirmation of one another's being—body, soul, and spirit.

LIKE RECONCILIATION, marriage is a daily practice and the school of forgiveness par excellence.

LIKE PRIESTHOOD, marriage becomes a ministry of counsel and grace to another.

LIKE AN ANOINTING, as of the sick, it is a repeated giving and receiving of healing touch.

MARRIAGE—here human flesh experiences the wonder of divine love. Here mutual rest becomes Sabbath refreshment, conversation an entrance into the life of the Word, and one another's company a presentiment of the life of the Trinity.

—Patrick Jordan