

- Today the influences of secularism and individualism are obstacles to developing a spirit of service in marriage.
- Couples can combat individualism by staying connected through simple habits such as eating meals together, making time for each other, going on dates, socializing together, going to Mass together, and giving thanks to God in prayer for all the gifts they have received.

Key Points

- Review what Catholics believe about the sacraments of Holy Orders and Marriage.
- In parenting, spouses collaborate in a special way with God to give life to the next generation through which God's love story will continue.
- Christian marriage is a call to serve one another, God, and society.

Meeting at a Glance

Content/Action	Duration	Mentor Guide	Couple's Book
The content for this meeting is drawn from chapter 6 of the <i>Couple's Book</i> .	5 min.	p. 101	
Welcome and Opening Prayer	10 min.	p. 103	p. 114
Setting the Stage: Our Topic in Focus Video 6.1: <i>Joined to Serve</i>			

The Sacraments of Marriage and Holy Orders Call Us to Serve <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What Catholics Believe about Marriage and Holy Orders • What the Sacraments of Service Teach Us about Marriage • How the Sacramental Graces of Marriage Help Couples 	15 min.	p. 104	p. 116
Serving Each Other and Together Serving God Video 6.2: <i>Sacramental Calling</i>	15 min.	p. 106	
Couple Exercise 1: Love Is Life-Giving	10 min.	p. 107	
Group Sharing	10 min.	p. 107	
Segment 1: Total minutes	65 min.		
Break	10 min.		
Common Obstacles to Serving with Love Video 6.3: <i>Kids</i>	15 min.	p. 108	p. 126
Couple Exercise 2: Attitudes and Behaviors	15 min.	p. 109	
Tools for Building a Strong Marriage Video 6.4: <i>Families, Friends, and Role Models</i>	20 min.	p. 109	p. 128
Takeaways and Next Steps	5 min.	p. 112	p. 133
Segment 2: Total minutes with break	65 min.		
Total minutes for the meeting	130 min.		

1) Welcome and Opening Prayer (5 minutes)

You can again assume the roles of leader and reader, or if any of the engaged couples are willing to lead, invite their leadership. Light a