



## Roman Catholic Diocese of Portland

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### Office for Promotion and Defense of Marriage

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### *"Year of Faith" - Defense of Marriage Prayer*

"Pray without ceasing."  
-1 Thessalonians 5:17

*The promotion and protection of marriage begins with prayer and is nourished by prayer.*

God our Father,  
we give you thanks for the gift of marriage:  
the bond of life and love,  
and the font of the family.

The love of husband and wife  
enriches your Church with children,  
fills the world with a multitude  
of spiritual fruitfulness and service,  
and is the sign of the love of your Son,  
Jesus Christ, for his Church.

The grace of Jesus flowed forth at Cana  
at the request of the Blessed Mother.

May your Son,  
through the intercession of Mary,  
pour out upon us  
a new measure of the Gifts of the Holy Spirit  
as we join with all people of good will

to promote and protect  
the unique beauty of marriage.

May your Holy Spirit enlighten our society  
to treasure the heroic love of husband and  
wife,  
and guide our leaders to sustain and protect  
the singular place of mothers and fathers  
in the lives of their children.

Father, we ask that our prayers be joined  
to those of the Virgin Mary,  
that your Word may transform our service  
so as to safeguard the incomparable  
splendor of marriage.

We ask all these things through Christ our  
Lord,  
Amen.

*Saints Joachim and Anne, pray for us.*

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