

The key of marriage

A translation of <https://campanitasdefe.com/2019/11/30/la-clave-del-matrimonio/>

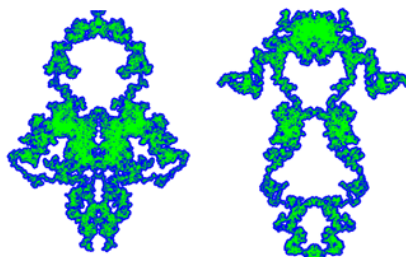
Summary. This little bell presents a reflection on **marriage**, as it happened unexpectedly at a wedding to which we were invited, and includes a song that advocates for the **reconciliation** of marriages in trouble. A fragment of “**A familiar story**” can be heard by the end of the text in Spanish.

The blog **Presentation** provides information about the purpose of these little bells and the blog **Organization** shows how the entries are grouped by categories. This entry belongs to the category “**About marriage**,” “**Jesus the equilibrium, the hypotenuse and $Y = X$** ,” “**Experiential little bells**” and “**Numerical little bells**.”

I know it very well and it is by **my own experience**: the **key** of **marriage** is **Jesus** and without **Him** it simply does not work. This statement is, however, neither a simple cliché nor something trivial, for forming a **holy, dynamic** and **real union** is not something simple.

This achievement of making that spouses become **one**, as **He** said when speaking of the **union** of a man and a woman (Mt 19:4-6), is not easy, since it can only be forged with **divine help**. For, in addition to the good “**positive**” energy of the couple's love, the constant support of the **Holy Spirit** is required so that they do not forget how to become **fruitful** by listening to **Him, the sower** (Mt 13:1-9, 18-23), so that they **fulfill His loving commands**, and, in particular, learn the humble algorithm of “**asking for forgiveness and forgiving**” in order to restore and maintain **unity**.

This little bell contains a chronicle about what happened at a marriage celebration to which we were invited. I include this curious story here — as I have shared encouraging couples in the celebration of their weddings — confident that its universal elements and geometric symbols can be useful to other couples, including those that will make up my daughters, so that their marriages would be truly happy in **Jesus Christ** ...



... It all happened in a flowery field, in the middle of a beautiful purple *lavender* plantation, as if we were near *Avignon* in *France* and not here in *California*. After the civil ceremony, held in a large tent, and once the summer sun had set, the expected moment for dinner and dancing arrived. When the newlyweds settled down at their table, in front of the wooden court located in the middle of a well-kept garden, I looked for the right moment to bring them my gift: my little illustrated book in the form of a parable, *The Hypotenuse*, whose theme has already been cited in other little bells, *here* and *here*.

While congratulating the bride and groom, I was disturbed that their table was identified by a wooden number, which in their case was not the expected number *1*, but rather number *6*. Upon seeing it, I instinctively and emphatically told them that there was a *mistake*, that such a number was never an appropriate one for a couple, especially for newlyweds, since it symbolized the *negative spirals* of nature. I then explained to them, suddenly, how this figure was linked to *natural violence* and how such always traveled from *more to less, inwardly*, as in a *ferocious hurricane*. In telling them this, I added that this was also the universal figure of *diabolical selfishness*, which, by always traveling *inward* from *more to less*, or from *plus to minus*, destroyed *marriages* and many other institutions.

In accordance with my words, I then took the wooden number and placed it inverted on the table upside down, first to show them that the number *9* represented the *positive spiral* opposite to the other, and second to explain to them that said symbol represented the fundamental force of *love*, the same one that, by traveling from *less to more*, or from *minus to plus*, and always *outwardly*, would guarantee them the desired *symphony* in their new *marital relationship*.

The spouses joyfully opened up to the unplanned lessons and both liked the *nine's* connection to the *love* that travels from *one to the other*. Then, fixing my gaze successively on their eyes, I emphasized to them that this was indeed the case, but as long as the *flow*, regardless of the circumstances of their lives, always led from *minus to plus*, so that one thought first about the other, and always traveling from the *negative* to the *positive cross*, that is, towards essential *love*, which they understood well, even if their celebration would not have been religious.

As they were paying attention, I proceeded to tell them about other subtle and loving facts. I pointed to the round plate in front of the groom and asked him if he saw a number. He told me, "*I think it's a zero*," and I agreed. So I took the plate and placed it on top of his head and asked the bride if she saw anything. Seconds later she said, hesitantly, "*is it an angel?*" to which I replied, "*no, but rather a saint*," a concept that they both understood at the same time. Noticing that they liked the image, I also placed the plate on top of her head and

proceeded to tell them that, if they both practiced the **love** embodied in the **9** without **selfishness**, then they too could satisfy themselves becoming **saints** and that such was truly wonderful for them as a couple.

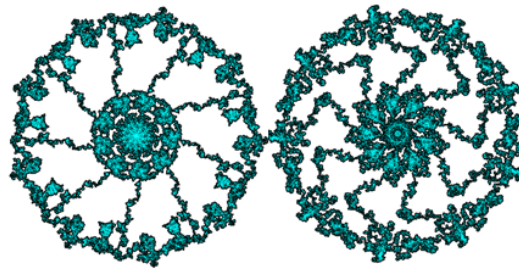
In the midst of this peculiar dialogue, truly unexpected and at the same time welcome, I asked them a “**mathematical**” question: “**and, how much is the husband raised to the zero power?**” They both laughed surprised at my occurrence and tried to respond. The wife said it must be **zero**, but when I told them that such was not correct, the husband said, “**then it must be infinity!**” We laughed a lot at such an extrapolation of **holiness**, and then I reminded them that **any number** (except a limiting zero, in some cases) raised to the **zero power** was simply **one**. I told them then, “**the husband raised to the power of zero is one**” and “**the wife to the power of zero is one**” and then argued how such a **mystical unity** related us to **God** and **His truth** and how the concept reminded us — in the **power of zero** — the need for **humility** and **abandonment** in our relationships, and certainly in **marriage**.

As my unexpected disciples were happy, I continued asking them, “**and, how much is one plus one?**” In unison they stated the obvious, that it was **two**. So, I took their knives from the table and, placing them one following the other vertically, convinced them that, using not **arithmetic** but **geometry**, **one plus one** was rather another **one**: a **bigger one**. They loved the metaphor, and so I continued telling them that this was the definition of a **Holy Marriage** given by **Jesus Christ** (Mt 19:5), that the man and the woman were no longer **two** but **one**, **1 + 1 = 1**, a **unity** that could also be expressed through the infinite equation **1 = 0.999...**, which shows, in a graphic way, that the reiteration of **love**, and only that of **positive divine love in the 9**, achieves the desired **unitive** miracle.

When it was time to leave because there were other people who wanted to greet the bride and groom, I asked them one last question, “**and, how much is zero plus zero?**” Again, they both agreed, “**nothing**”. But then I joined their plates and asked them again. Suddenly, aided by her point of reference, she said “**eight!**” and I responded, “**and what else?**” There was silence until I followed with one finger the path of the two zeros stuck from top left, bottom, bottom right and top, etc., over and over again, until it became clear to the husband that I was drawing his before mentioned **infinity**. Then I made them repeat several times “**zero plus zero equals infinity**,” “**zero plus zero equals infinity**” and, when the message became clear, I proceeded to repeat to them — and perhaps teach them — that when two **zeros** or more (when their family grows) agree, there is **Jesus** in their midst and we can ask **Him** (through **His blessed cross** in the **+**) **anything**, because the **holy love** of two little ones adds up, by virtue of the “**positive**” sacrifice of **Jesus**, **everything**, that is, understood in once again a **geometric** fashion, **0 + 0 = ∞** (Mt 18:19-20).

After effusive hugs, I finally gave them my gift that includes, although in a different way, these explanations and a little more and returned to my table identified by a number **4**, in case you want to know. There I calmly shared what had happened during my visit with my wife **Marta** and with the two previously unknown couples with whom we were seated, and everyone rejoiced with my explanations, including the fact, not mentioned to the **bride** and **groom**, that when **Jesus** was crucified there was **darkness** precisely from the **sixth** hour to the **ninth** hour (from twelve o'clock in the day to three in the afternoon), just as there is universally **no light** if **selfishness** guides us and not **love**.

When it was time for the exquisite dinner, we distinguished ourselves from the other guests by joining our hands in **unity** and making a prayer to **God** for the newlyweds by making a **zero**, which, as can be understood from what was said, was also a significant **infinity**. **Long live the newlyweds!** ...



... To end, this little bell includes a song that came to me trying to heal a **marriage** in trouble, that is, one that began with vital joy, but then lost it. The composition did not achieve its goal, but fortunately it did later serve to heal another **marriage**. I hope this tune would sound soon with the help of the **root of two** and becomes useful to achieve improbable reconciliations.

May the love of the soon-to-be-born child **Jesus** reign in all **marriages**! And may the **Virgin Mary** be our example and guide!

A FAMILIAR STORY

Oh what a problem!

Go away selfishness...

*I am going to tell you
a familiar story...*

A couple like those,
one quite lovely,
oh found a problem
and grew grumbles,
didn't go forward,
and silence came,
that angel entered,
and stopped loving.

Oh God!

Oh what a problem
it makes me sad,
such lovely couple,
with all ahead,
forgot the vows,
there came rudeness,
oh how very sad
and stopped loving.

Oh my God!

And now they live apart
and argue for pennies,
with a tired heart
forgot they dreamed.

And now live indignant
with friends lined up,
determined to discredit
ended up in litigation.

*I don't love you anymore,
what you did is unforgivable!*

And now they live in a hurry
trying dancing and singing,
fleeing from their lies

they deepen their wounds.

And now they live in spite
blaming oh one another,
oh my God, what nonsense,
they reap their cowardice.

And for that, oh I tell you...

Puente de Paz...

Seriously, you can...

With God you can...

**Ask for forgiveness, don't hesitate,
ask for forgiveness, oh oh oh oh,
practice love, don't postpone,
oh heal your heart. (2)**

Listen to advice my friend
oh, confront your reason,
for love sprang conscious
inside your heart.

**Ask for forgiveness, don't hesitate,
ask for forgiveness, oh oh oh oh,
practice love, don't postpone,
oh heal your heart.**

Only love that is brave
conquers misunderstanding,
and that's why I tell you
oh ask, ask for forgiveness.

**Ask for forgiveness, don't hesitate,
ask for forgiveness, oh oh oh oh,
practice love, don't postpone,**

oh heal your heart.

This song is sincere,
and therefore with reason,
hey look, don't postpone
go and heal your heart.

**Heal your heart, be brave,
oh heal your heart, oh oh oh oh,
ask for forgiveness, be aware,
oh, accept your own portion. (2)**

Only love can do it all
you know it, it is love,
oh, apply this chorus now
and heal, heal your heart.

It's the best!

**Heal your heart, be brave,
oh heal your heart, oh oh oh oh,
ask for forgiveness, be aware,
oh, accept your own portion.**

Oh don't say it doesn't matter,
oh don't fake your value,
for only eternal forgiveness
gives oneself all reason.

**Heal your heart, be brave,
oh heal your heart, oh oh oh oh,
ask for forgiveness, be aware,
oh, accept your own portion.**

Oh how it hurts, it hurts,
the uneasiness is stale,
oh don't leave him, don't leave her,
go, go and ask for forgiveness.

**Ask for forgiveness, don't hesitate,
ask for forgiveness, oh oh oh oh,
practice love, don't postpone,
oh heal your heart.**

**Heal your heart, be brave,
oh heal your heart, oh oh oh oh,
ask for forgiveness, be aware,
oh, accept your own portion.**

Hey listen, did they forgive each other?

Really!

And they had many grandchildren...

Holy utopia, for God's sake!

(May 2001)



A fragment of the song a cappella in Spanish may be heard [*here*](#).