

ROUSING HER

RADIANCE

40 DAY FAST

Oct 11th - Nov 19th, 2023

**BRIDEGROOM AND BRIDE. HUSBAND AND WIFE.
LOVER AND BELOVED. JESUS AND CHURCH.**

 **DESERT
STREAM**

'I promised you to one husband, to Christ, so that I might present you as a pure virgin to Him.' (2 Cor. 11:2)

Bridegroom and Bride. Husband and wife. Lover and Beloved. Jesus and Church.

Spousal imagery runs through Scripture like a crystal stream, reminding us of who He is and who we are. Self-discovery requires Another and others. We know ourselves as male and female through the reflection of our sexual counterpart. Though broken, the divine image in humanity still represents our Creator and Redeemer (Gen. 1:26,27). He is preparing His Church to receive Himself (Eph. 5: 26, 27.) That requires the sexual clarity and integrity of every Christian.

Our 40-days of prayer and fasting together will reflect on the meaning of our sexual humanity, the Church's responsibility to guide our understanding, and the perils of misunderstanding.

Most North American denominations have divided over LGBTQ+ rights, and now the Roman Catholic Church (RCC) faces a similar challenge as the 'synod on synodality' (2021-2024) meets throughout October in Rome to discuss, among many things, what 'radical inclusion' of LGBTQ+-identified persons means for the RCC. The global gathering of 370 persons will inform a formal document by Pope Francis, due fall '24.

We will pray daily for churches to be faithful to Jesus. We will especially cry out for global decision-makers who either encourage chastity or sins against it. Daily readings will illuminate how truth, grace and Jesus' transforming power liberate radical wholeness and shed light on how a broken Bride can be faithful to her Bridegroom.

Our impassioned Spouse loves us into chastity. For 40-days, we will cry out for her to blaze radiantly like a torch to the nations (Is. 62:2) in a confusing age.

Please join the DSM staff as we pray together daily at 3pm (CST), starting on October 11th. Sign up to receive a devotional prayer guide sent daily online. Together, we will rouse her radiance and help prepare a Bride fit for her Bridegroom.

'I have posted watchmen on your walls, O Jerusalem, they will never be silent day or night. You who call upon the vLord, give yourselves no rest and give Him no rest, till He establishes Jerusalem and makes her the praise of all the earth' (Is. 62:6,7).