

Twenty-seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

A 98-year-old man and a 95-year-old woman went to a lawyer to get a divorce. "How long have you been married?" he asked. "75 rough and rocky years," they said. "Then, why have you waited so long to file for divorce?" They replied, "We had to wait for the kids to die!"

Dear Friends,

This month is dedicated to two things. First, it is Respect Life Month, and this month is also dedicated to Our Lady of the Rosary. Additionally, we start faith formation for our children. Let us pray to Our Lady of the Rosary that she intercedes for everyone.

The readings today help us to love and respect every human being, whoever they are. Loneliness is another disease that is growing around the world. Now we have the availability for deliveries to our homes. There is a nature of independency around the corner everywhere you look. Maybe Covid has brought those changes for us to adapt in our day-to-day life.

In the first reading from The Book of Genesis, God makes a single entity, "The human being." In Hebrew, Adam is not a proper name, but is the general term for a human being. Seeing that it is not good to be alone, God resolves to get a suitable partner for the human being. God created everything in pairs, with a suitable partner. It is not about being superior, noble, or significant. Rather, both are equal and created for greater purpose to live together. That is how God respected all human beings. He loves every one of us the same and asks us to love and respect everyone in the same manner. The Genesis text attributes two essential qualities to marriage: unity (the two shall become one), and complementarity or mutual interdependence.

In the Gospel, Jesus talks about divorce and how we need to be united. Humans are social beings. God created us to live and work together, to share our lives, to care about and for each other. Shortly after this story in Genesis, Cain asks the rhetorical question, "Am I my brother's keeper?" The rest of the Hebrew and Christian scriptures answer with a resounding: "YES!" God has created us with love because he has given his image and likeness to us. Hardness of heart turns us away from God. Loneliness and alienation are not good in God's eyes.

In the second part of the gospel, Jesus embraces children. Jesus is indignant and angry that his followers keep the children away from him, that they decide whom he should welcome. Jesus declares that children, who depend on others for life's necessities and

simply accept what is given to them, are models for how to receive and experience life in God's kingdom.

As we remember Respect Life Month, let us be attentive to the needs of others in our families and communities, with love and respect, however they are. It is our duty to the community to support one another.