

Twenty-seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

A young man went to meet the Pastor to fix the date for his Wedding Mass. The Pastor was a bit curious to find out whether the young man knew the Bible well. So, he put forth a question: "Did Jesus say anything about marriage? If so, what did He say?" The young man thought for a while and brightened up. He said, "Yes, Father, I know what Jesus said about marriage." The Pastor was eagerly awaiting what the young man would say. The young man went on: "Jesus said: 'Father, forgive them; they know not what they do.'"

Dear Friends,

It is easy as well as tough to talk about marriages. We all know this quote "Marriages are made in heaven and celebrated on earth." Today's readings invite us to reflect about our relationships mostly in the sacrament of marriages and other elements around it.

The first reading from Genesis gives us a glimpse of God's original plan for human relationships. In it, we see the creation of woman from man, not as a sign of subordination, but as a symbol of unity, partnership, and complementarity. "This one, at last, is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh," Adam says, recognizing Eve as his equal and companion. God instituted marriage as a union that reflects His love, a communion where man and woman become one flesh.

The Gospel from Mark takes this understanding even further. When the Pharisees approach Jesus to ask about divorce, they do so not out of genuine interest, but to trap Him. However, Jesus takes the opportunity to remind them—and us—of the true meaning of marriage. He quotes the very passage we heard from Genesis, affirming that in the beginning, God intended for marriage to be permanent: "What God has joined together, let no one separate."

Jesus doesn't deny that there are difficult and painful situations in marriage, but He emphasizes that the hardness of our hearts often leads to brokenness. The Pharisees' focus on legal grounds for divorce misses the point. Marriage, as a sacrament, is meant to reflect God's unwavering, faithful love. It is a covenant, not merely a contract. Contracts can be dissolved when conditions aren't met, but a covenant is about enduring faithfulness, even when times are tough.

At the same time, Jesus' teaching on marriage is not meant to condemn those who have experienced divorce. We know that relationships can break down, and God's mercy and healing are always available. But Jesus challenges us to aim higher, to strive for the ideal of love that is self-giving, patient, and enduring—the same love that He has for His Church.

Today's readings invite us to reflect on our own relationships. For those who are married, it's a call to renew your commitment to love your spouse with the selfless, enduring love that Christ shows to His Church. For those who aren't married, it's a reminder of the importance of supporting and encouraging married couples, recognizing the beauty of marriage as a reflection of God's love.

It also talks about the community aspect of our life. We need each other, whatever status we are. God is communion of persons; still one God. Building our relationship needs independence and dependency. God created a suitable partner for the animals, and other creatures. Let us build up the relationships.

Let us reflect these questions: How do I view my relationships—especially marriage—as a reflection of God's love? How do I support other people in my life?

Let us pray: Let us pray for the grace to live out our relationships with the love, trust, and faithfulness that Christ teaches us. May we always see God's image in others and strive to live in unity, as He intended from the beginning. Amen.