



27th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

He said to them in reply, "What did Moses command you?" They replied, "Moses permitted a husband to write a bill of divorce and dismiss her." But Jesus told them, "Because of the hardness of your hearts he wrote you this commandment. But from the beginning of creation, God made them male and female." - Mk 10:3-6

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OUR LADY OF PEACE CHURCH Sunday, October 3, 2021

FROM THE DESK OF FR. STAN

May dear friends,

God's creative intention: "and the two shall become one flesh"

In the opening pages of the Bible, in the book of Genesis, we find material that is "pre-historical"—material that is different from the historical accounts beginning with the story of the ancient patriarch, Abraham. In the first part of the Bible we find stories that present a very ancient faith about creation, the beginnings of humanity, the development of culture and the differentiation of the world's languages. In the first two chapters of Genesis we actually find two accounts about creation, the first by word (God said, "Let there be..."), and the second by work (God formed the human from the clay of the ground). It is from this second creation account that our first reading for this Twenty-Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time, Genesis 2:18-24, is taken.

In the accounts of creation we learn about God's original creative intention. God saw that everything created was good. God gave humanity an ideal situation in which to live (the Garden of Eden) in which there was harmony—harmony with God, with each human being to the other, and between humans and the world. It is only later, with the appearance of sin, that the original harmony no longer exists. Our passage is a beautiful account about God's solicitude for every aspect of humanity's happiness. It begins, "The Lord God said: 'It is not good for the man to be alone. I will find a suitable partner for him.' So the Lord God formed out of the ground various wild animals and various birds of the air, and he brought them to the man to see what he would call them; whatever the man called each of them would be its name. The man gave names to all the cattle, all the birds of the air, and all wild animals; but none proved to be the suitable partner for the man." Notice that humanity thus shares in creation and is given the task of caring for all that God has made.

Now, our passage goes on to reflect on the compatibility and harmony of male and female. "So the Lord God cast a deep sleep on the man, and while he was asleep, he took out one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. The Lord God then built up into a woman the rib that he had taken from the man. When he brought her to the man, the man said: 'This one, at last, is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; this one shall be called "woman," for out of "her man" this one has been taken.'" Ancient commentators found significance in the fact that the compatibility is reflected in the choice of a rib, not from the head or the foot so that woman should either dominate or be subservient to her mate. Likewise, the rib is close to the heart, which makes the relationship one rooted in love and tenderness. The search for a suitable mate is a matter of heart speaking to heart and, more specifically, the right heart, once the suitable companion is found.

Finally, the reading establishes a permanence to the relationship, which then serves as a stable basis for love and family. "That is why a man leaves his father and mother and clings to his wife, and the two of them become one flesh." It is as if the missing rib meets the one who fits perfectly, the "suitable partner," so that neither man nor woman should "be alone."

Of course, we know that, as the story continues, the sin of pride enters the picture, with the devil, symbolized by the serpent, convincing both woman and man that they know better than God and should be able to make their own rules, rather than living in harmony with the original intention of the Creator. With sin, the harmony is bruised. Relationships of love and trust have to be worked at, constantly tended, and protected.

All of this serves as a background for our gospel reading, Mark 10:2-16, which presents a dialogue, a theological debate really, about marriage and divorce. Thus, "the Pharisees approached Jesus and asked, 'Is it lawful for a husband to divorce his wife?' They were testing him." Then, following the rules of the debate, Jesus responds, "What did Moses command you?" The Pharisees present the teaching of the Mosaic Law: "Moses permitted a husband to write a bill of divorce and dismiss her."

One of the theological "rules" for these debates was that a Scripture that is earlier in the text has more weight than a later one. And so Jesus responds, "Because of the hardness of your hearts he wrote you this commandment. But from the beginning of creation, *God made them male and female. For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.* So they are no longer two but one flesh. Therefore, what God has joined together, no human being must separate." Jesus then equates divorce with adultery, but adds something new. According to the Mosaic Law, only the husband could divorce, often without any serious grounds. Jesus, however, states, "and if she divorces her husband and marries another, she commits adultery."

Thus, Jesus takes the debate back to the ideal that was God's original intention for humanity, a relationship between man and woman that was loving, harmonious, equal and stable. This should be the aim for anyone getting married. Of course, sin has entered the story and the Church is forced to struggle with relationships that do not reach the ideal of permanence and stability, relationships that fall short of God's high standards. And the Church needs, in its pastoral practice, to reflect the compassion and mercy of God in a world that is far from ideal. The challenge is finding the balance between the ideal and the real.



Saturday, October 2-Rosary at 3:15P
 4:00P *Health & blessings for Bill & Mary Forbes*
 by Joyce Phillips

Sunday, October 3
 8:00A *Deceased members of the Richotte family*
 by their family
 10:00A *Barbara Sevene*
 by her family

Saturday, October 9-Rosary at 3:15P
 4:00P *Deacon Albert Routhier*
 by Mary & family

Sunday, October 10
 8:00A *The Hamelin/Paul families*
 by Bob & Yvette Bissell
 10:00A *Sandy Weller*
 by Steve & Marcia Caloon

DAILY MASS

Monday, October 4
 8:00A *Sean Connelly*
 by Steve & Marcia Caloon

Tuesday, October 5
 8:00A *The James Kiley family*

Wednesday, October 6
 8:00P *No intention*

Thursday, October 7
 8:00A *Carolyn Prunier*
 by Paul

Friday, October 8
 8:00A *Holy Communion Service*

Our Lady's Window

October 9
Grace Wikowski
 by Gladys Lapinski

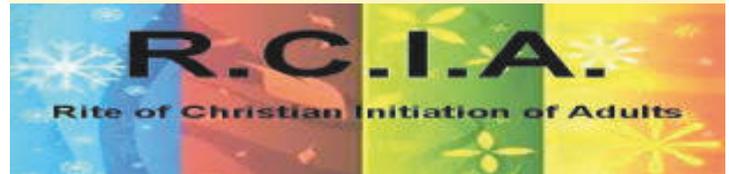


DONATIONS to the Community Meals program in memory of *Manny Flores* by the family of Manny Flores; donation to the Justice & Peace Commission in memory of *Sean Connelly* by Paul Prunier; in memory of *Sean Connelly* by Jack Wileden, Andrea Leibson, Alexander Wileden, Lydia Wileden, Neil & Susan Johnson, John & Laura Martin, Sharon Lamonakis, James Whalen, Mary Choleva, Steve & Jan Adam, Richard & Sandra Mailloux, Michael & Mary Lou Herrmann, McCarthy Funeral Home, Donald & Rita LaPierre, Janice Fuller, Jim & Mary Gene Devlin, Jeffrey & Louise Watrous, Marilyn Pelis, 701 Kelly Holyoke LLC, Francis Cataldo, Jr. and Kevin Jennings.



Please Support Montague Catholic Social Ministries Today!

Our parish donations of non-perishable food and goods will now be given to stock the food pantry at MCSM and help the many families in need in our community.



INTERESTED IN BECOMING A CATHOLIC?

The RCIA process is for anyone interested in learning about Catholicism, becoming a Catholic or receiving the sacraments of baptism, First Communion and Confirmation. We will meet Sunday, **October 3** at 9:00A in the rectory. We will not meet Sunday, **October 10** due to the holiday weekend There is no pressure or commitment. For more information, call Marguerite 863.2585 ext. 103.



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION All classes for 2021-2022 will begin on Sunday, **October 3** at 9:00A in the church hall. If parents or new families have any questions, call Carol at 863.4015.

THE WOMEN'S GROUP will meet on Tuesday, **October 5** at 6:00P for a brief meeting followed by craft night.



Join in praying the rosary each Saturday beginning at 3:15P. All are welcome!

PARISH COLLECTIONS

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