

**Fr. John Sassani**  
**Homily Given on October 7, 2012**  
**Twenty-seventh Sunday of Ordinary Time**  
**Liturgical Year B**

I've just returned from giving a retreat to Deacons preparing for ordination. The retreat was held at a Jesuit retreat house in Maryland, where we had slushy snow and unusually cold temperatures. This made those who went running every morning extremely cautious. One seminarian kept slipping and falling on his run, then getting up again. Then he discovered that there was someone who was running just out ahead. So he ran in his footsteps, getting better traction.

This serves as an important backdrop to a Gospel in which Jesus sets a high moral threshold for marriage. Jesus routinely sets a high moral threshold, not only for marriage but throughout our lives. We have high aspirations, but our capacity to follow them and attain our high aspirations is limited. It sometimes seems like Jesus raises the bar without any sense of our real capacity.

But His experience is like ours. He was tempted as part of His suffering. He experienced many of the daily struggles from which we suffer. The cross was His ultimate suffering. Then His Father raised Him up to new life.

AND, gratefully, as the author of the Letter to the Hebrews says clearly today, He is not ashamed to call us brothers and sisters. He is the forerunner. We can run after Him in His footprints. He runs beside us to encourage us. He offers that help to those who are married, divorced, single, celibate, widowed, young and old, good and bad, so that with more sure footing we can run behind and beside Him.

How do you envision His companionship in your life journey? As we come to the Eucharist, let us ask Him to help us always to live through, with and in Him.