

### Made For Each Other

Today's first reading from Genesis beautifully describes the beginning of the human race. God creates the first human and then realizes how lonely and isolated he is among all creatures. "I will make a suitable partner for him," the scriptures say. The "suitable partner" must be of the same species, another human being. This reminds us that from the beginning, the differences we experience between male and female were intended to be complimentary. In other words, human nature needs both male and female thought processes, energies, and spiritualities. The divine intent is for neither to dominate or be superior to the other. Neither is complete without the other. This tells us that realizing our full human potential lies in complementarity. And one of the clearest expressions of this is in marriage.

In the Gospel, Jesus, appealing to Genesis 1:27 and 2:24, proclaims permanence to be the divine intent from the beginning concerning human marriage. Permanence of complementarity, and permanence in the bond of love. We know that despite our best efforts, we sometimes are not able to achieve this in our relationships and marriages. Anyone who has endured the pain of marital separation and divorce will know that it is among the worst of life's experiences, which brings about guilt, anger, and sadness. However, let us draw strength from the fact of the permanence of God's love for us and strive to apply it in our intimate relationships.

Today, we pray for all couples struggling in their marriages, that our loving God will continue to journey with them and give them the strength and grace they need. Amen.

May the Lord bless you and all your endeavors this week.

*-- Fr. Anthony Ahamefule*