

2021 October 03

## Twenty-seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

### Readings:

**First:** Genesis 2.7, 15, 18-24, "This at last is the bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh" (23a)

**The Psalm:** 128, "The Lord bless you from Zion." (5a)

**Second:** Hebrew 2.9-11, "For the one who sanctifies and those who are sanctified are all from one." (11a)

**The Gospel:** Mark 10.2-16, "So they are no longer two, but one flesh." (8b)

### *Created to be together*

The main message from the scripture today is that humans are created to be together and be in love. When the first man saw the first woman a smile for the first time blossomed on his lips and he was delighted at her sight. God too was happy that the first man and woman had a companion for each other. God's design is that humans need companions, that they are created to be together, to care for and bear with one another, that man and woman complement each other landing them into an inseparable marital union. The primary fruits of this union are the children and the delights of a loving and caring family.

God liked this design. In their life of companionship and original life of innocence God was a constant and visible companion for the first couple on earth. They had dominion over all creatures. However, God did not give them power to satisfy greed. The moment they pursued after greed to become like God, entrapped by the devil, they fell from grace, and God disappeared from their vision, but not from their life. In and through Jesus God finally forgave humanity. However, the consequences of sin and disobedience to God follow humanity, in the form of pain, suffering, the miseries of earthly life, and death. Jesus promised resurrection, and his resurrection is the guarantee for our resurrection.

The dispute of the Pharisees today on divorce and separation is one consequence of sin in pursuit of greed and refusal to take the consequences of sin. A one-to-one and lifelong relationship with another person, to the exclusion of all others, which marriage is, is a difficult task after humans decided to sin and pursue greed. The life of togetherness has its joys, happiness, contentment, mutual support and love along with its miseries. Living together in love with children, and an extended family, is joyful only if each one in the combination wills it and works toward it. When that willingness is gone because of selfish ambitions and greed, thoughts of divorce and separation crop up with promptings to run away from the inherited consequences of sin. This flight does not necessarily land one in joy and happiness. Often the opposite happens. And the devil is actively involved herein also.

The only path for redemption Jesus/God could figure out was suffering and death, which is highlighted today in the letter to the Hebrews. Jesus in his resurrection was '*crowned with glory and honour because of the suffering of death; God made the pioneer of human salvation perfect through suffering.*' (Hebrews 2.9-10) In family life we come across occasions of suffering and death as Jesus went through for the redemption of human race. When each human accepts such and other sufferings willingly, and accepts the other as he/she is, they compliment the suffering of Jesus, which will lead each to participate in his resurrection.

Fr. George