

**10.07.2018 – 27<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**Gn: 2:18-24, Heb 2:9-11, Mk 10:2-16**

Questioning the children before Confirmation, the Bishop asked one nervous girl, “What is matrimony?” She answered, “A place where souls suffer for a time on account of their sins.” “No, no,” said the Parish Priest, “that is purgatory,” “Let her alone,” said the Bishop. “She may be right. What do you and I know about it?” Where there is love, there is pain and it is more true of marital love. The course of this love never did run smooth for any couple. We are told that marriages are made in heaven. I suppose that is why there are thunder and lightning in marital life.

Dear Brothers and Sisters, There is a great deal that is beautiful in the world. We are deeply moved by the beauty of art and music and delighted by beautiful nature. However, there is still greater beauty in the form of man and woman in marriage. It is the love, which unites man and woman and leads them to be two but one in marriage. That love is not only beautiful but joyful because it satisfies a person’s irresistible desire to be desired irresistibly, which is best seen in marital love. Love is not only joyful it is also powerful for it rules without rules and that is why when marital love oils the machinery everything in the household runs smoothly.

Why is it that marital love is so beautiful, joyful and powerful? Because it is the reflection of God’s own love for us. The springs of love are in God. God’s love is unselfish, unconditional and enduring.

That is why the ideal of God for Humanity is “From the beginning of creation God made them male and female. This is why a man must leave father and mother, and the two become one body. They are no longer two, therefore, but one body. So then, what God has united, man must not divide.” This is what it means to be created in the image and likeness of God. In God, there is complete unity in diversity, one being in three

persons. When we are able to love each other, although we are different, we truly participate in the Trinitarian love of God. It is the highest form of love because loving someone exactly like us is easier than to love and appreciate someone who is different from us. The greater the diversity, the higher the intensity of love. Consequently, the Church has always seen Marriage as a Sacrament of God's perfect love.

So the Love in Marriage as Sacrament of God's perfect love, is so beautiful, joyful and powerful, Yet you can look at the fact that with fifty percent of all marriages ending in divorce, that it is because of these broken marriages, and as a result their broken homes that have played a large role in this broken society.

Why it is because the husband and wife forgot as the time passed by the qualities of Love, which is the success of a Christian marriage.

1. They forgot "Love is never rude" for it respects each one's individuality. When people marry, they do not possess their partner as they possess a fridge or a car; each one must be allowed to keep their identity, like the pillar in a temple where the pillars stand-alone but because of that they carry the beautiful ceiling.
2. They forgot "Love is not selfish" for love seeks to make happy rather than to be happy. Those who enter marriage for purely selfish motives are like the blind leading the blind, both falling into matrimony.
3. They forgot "Love never broods over injuries" for it forgives. A happy marriage is a union of two forgivers
4. They forgot "Love is patience" for human love of any sort is often the encounter of two weaknesses
5. They forgot "Love is trust" for nothing makes marriage rust like distress.
6. They forgot "Love never fails" for marriage may be inspired by music, soft words and perfume, but its security lies in the couples' determination to be united to the end as "one flesh"

7. *We read in the Book of Genesis “And the man and his wife were both naked, and were not ashamed”.*

- a. They were naked and vulnerable, but they didn't see the other in a shameful way. Nothing was hidden. There were no secrets. They were dependent upon one another. Everything was out in the open, and it was beautiful. There were no barriers, no walls put up – just two partners, two who came from one, who became one again.
- b. This is what marriage is supposed to be. This is how our families are supposed to be. Husband and wife need to share their joys and concerns, and problems and struggles, and everything in between. Because when you do keep secrets, when you do hide things, when you don't let your spouse into your very being to help to carry the burden and support – then that's when the walls go up.
- c. That's when the barriers are formed. That's when the darkness creeps into our individual lives, and it soon follows into your marriage and into your families. You must be naked before each other in that sense, and not cover your problems up. You must truly see each other for who you are, and be willing to carry the other. Think about how much this world, our society would change if we simply opened up and pulled down the barriers in marriages, in the families, and simply let yourselves be helped – and let yourselves be loved. There is no shame in this openness, in this nakedness.
- d. In fact, it's the only way you can truly live. It's the only way you can truly love your spouses, and raise your families, It's the only way you can truly grow.

So dear brothers and sisters indeed all Marriages are happy; it is the living together afterwards that causes all the trouble. But of this we are sure; God has made available in Christ the necessary means for Christian couples who are set on the way to successful marriage.

Besides the Sacrament of Confirmation, which gives strength to live one's vocation, and the Sunday Eucharist, which gives further power, Jesus made matrimony also a Sacrament, of which the couples themselves are ministers, so that not only on the wedding day but on each day they can be ministers of God's grace to each other.

Without constantly receiving God's grace through Sacraments and Prayer, Christian marriage is unthinkable. But if God becomes a third party in marriage, it will not be a year of flames. On the contrary, the couple's love each other, like God its author; will go on and on intensifying the joy of being two in one.

### **Let us pray like this**

Lord Jesus, I thank You for Your countless gifts. Inspire the married couples to trust in your plans and remember your faithfulness. Let them put their sufferings and fears, their hopes and dreams, into your hands. Make their family, like the Holy Family, a place of prayer and love—and a refuge for others who suffer. Mother Mary, help them to ponder, as you did, the meaning of their experiences, especially when they don't fully understand the circumstances in their lives.

**Jesus I trust in you. Amen**