

27th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - OCTOBER 7, 2018

SUNDAY'S READINGS - EXCERPTS TO PLACE IN YOUR COMMUNICATIONS

First Reading:

"This one shall be called 'woman,'
for out of 'her man' this one has been taken." (Gn 2:23b)

Psalm:

May the Lord bless us all the days of our lives. (Ps 128)

Second Reading:

For it was fitting that he,
for whom and through whom all things exist,
in bringing many children to glory,
should make the leader to their salvation perfect through suffering. (Heb 2:10)

Gospel:

"So they are no longer two but one flesh.
Therefore what God has joined together,
no human being must separate." (Mk 10:8b-9)

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

The English translation of Psalm Responses from Lectionary for Mass © 1969, 1981, 1997, International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved.

WEEKLY READINGS AND OBSERVANCES - ENGAGE PARISHIONERS IN DAILY MASS AND PRAYER

Readings for the Week of October 07, 2018

Sunday: Gn 2:18-24/Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5, 6 [cf. 5]/Heb 2:9-11/Mk 10:2-16 or 10:2-12

Monday: Gal 1:6-12/Ps 111:1b-2, 7-8, 9 and 10c [5]/Lk 10:25-37

Tuesday: Gal 1:13-24/Ps 139:1b-3, 13-14ab, 14c-15 [24b]/Lk 10:38-42

Wednesday: Gal 2:1-2, 7-14/Ps 117:1bc, 2/Lk 11:1-4

Thursday: Gal 3:1-5/Lk 1:69-70, 71-72, 73-75 [69]/Lk 11:5-13

Friday: Gal 3:7-14/Ps 111:1b-2, 3-4, 5-6 [5]/Lk 11:15-26

Saturday: Gal 3:22-29/Ps 105:2-3, 4-5, 6-7 [8a]/Lk 11:27-28

Next Sunday: Wis 7:7-11/Ps 90:12-13, 14-15, 16-17 [14]/Heb 4:12-13/Mk 10:17-30 or 10:17-27

Observances for the Week of October 07, 2018

Sunday: 27th Sunday in Ordinary Time; Respect Life Sunday

Monday: Columbus Day

Tuesday: St. Denis, Bishop, and Companions, Martyrs; St. John Leonardi, Priest

Thursday: St. John XXIII, Pope

Next Sunday: 28th Sunday in Ordinary Time

GOSPEL MEDITATION - ENCOURAGE DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE

October 07, 2018 27th Sunday in Ordinary Time

"Whoever does not accept the kingdom of God like a child will not enter it." This verse is part of a beautiful reflection on childlike faith. We're reminded of the innocence of children, how eager they are to experience life and how quick they are to trust. Rarely do we hear it with the story that immediately proceeds it. The Pharisees question Jesus on the lawfulness of divorce! Hardly the sort of thorny moral conversation one typically has in front of children. Yet here we are.

Jesus' response goes further back than the Mosaic law. "From the beginning, God made them male and female ? the two shall become one flesh ? what God has joined together, no human being must separate." Jesus cites a particular set of passages from Genesis 1 and 2, before the Fall in Genesis 3. Adam and Eve possessed original innocence. How eager they were to encounter one another and to explore the garden! How immediate their initial trust in God. We no longer live in Eden. As we age in our fallen world, our childlike trust is wounded and betrayed. We become hardened to the

beauties of life. We're quick to find a way around difficult moments.

In brief, things become complicated as we lose our innocence. The teachings of Christ and the Church on sexuality become more challenging or more objectionable. Jesus recognizes this in today's Gospel. His invitation is not to compromise with our broken reality. It is a return to beauty, to the fullness of life as it was meant to be. We can affirm our trust in God. We can view life with gratitude. We can experience healing of our lost innocence. This is possible today -- now! -- by grace. Indeed, "the kingdom of God belongs to such as these."

LIVE THE LITURGY - INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK

As a disciple, an extremely important question must always take precedence in decision making. What does God want me to do? In discerning answers to life's questions and difficulties, it doesn't matter what humans permit or even what popular choice dictates. It is what God says that matters. God's will is often dismissed, even by those who claim to believe in Him. We discern God's will by developing a strong and mature prayer life, listening to Scripture and church teaching, consulting church tradition, paying attention to the rhythms of life, and seeking His presence in all we experience and observe. As Jesus realized in his final hours, it is "not my will but yours be done." Are we ready to follow his example and give ourselves over to what God wants?

EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP - RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS

People can spend their entire lives looking for their most suitable partner. Some have an unattainable ideal in their minds that makes the search impossible. Others may choose a different partner over and over again without any real discernment, leading to a long series of breakups and heartache. Perhaps the greatest obstacle for people lies in their assumption that the most important criteria for choosing a partner is that the person they choose to love needs to be devoted to them and be faithful to them above all others. The truth is that if you want to have a suitable partner who you find yourself drawing ever closer to as the years go by, then the focus of both people involved needs to be on a much more important being than the two of you.

When I was a teenager, I remember seeing a triangle used as a visual aid in explaining how true love works. God is the top point and the two lovers, friends, or family members involved are the bottom points. If the two involved in the relationship love God more than each other, than in time it will be their love for the Divine that will bring them ever closer, like how a triangle narrows at the top point.

The more I give of myself to my God, the greater I find my love is for my wife, my children, and my friends. A stewardship way of life will eventually strengthen all our relationships, for a surrender to the One who is love means an increase in the love we have to give to others. For those who continue to search for the "one," pause, pay attention, and see the One who has always loved you and will do so forevermore.

--Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK - INVITE PARISHIONERS TO REFLECT AND RESPOND TO SCRIPTURE

First Reading

We hear in the creation account how man's search for a "suitable partner" led to the creation of woman and that God's intention for marriage was "the two of them become one flesh." Why do you think this idea of marriage is still a debate within our larger culture today?

Second Reading

The author of Hebrews asserts that Christ and believers are "brothers" in our common experience of suffering and death. How does this revealed truth help you in your spiritual journey?

Gospel Reading

In the Gospel, the Pharisees set out to trap Jesus on the question of marriage and divorce. What would many modern Christians find challenging in Jesus' response to the Pharisees?

CATHOLIC QUOTES - WORDS TO INSPIRE THE FAITHFUL

"The Church does not offer to the [people] of today riches that pass, nor does she promise them a merely earthly

happiness. But she distributes to them the goods of divine grace."
--St. John XXIII

WHY DO WE DO THAT? - CATHOLIC LIFE EXPLAINED

Question:

What is the story behind the rosary?

Answer:

The rosary is a sacred and popular Catholic devotion, but its origins are mysterious. Prayer beads to facilitate meditation began in the early ages of the Church. In the early medieval period, bead strings were used to count Hail Marys or Our Fathers. A tradition has developed that the rosary in its current form was given to St. Dominic by the Blessed Mother. However, the earliest biographies of the saint do not include this story. In the Middle Ages, the prayers were grouped into 50 Hail Marys with verses from the Psalms and vignettes from the lives of Jesus and Mary. By the 16th century, the Joyful, Sorrowful, and Glorious Mysteries were established.

The rosary rose to prominence in the late 1500s. The Turkish Empire was spreading across eastern Europe and pirates were raiding Christian ships. The Christian nations of Europe rallied for a great battle at sea. Pope St. Pius V urged all Christians to pray the rosary for victory. While vastly outnumbered, the Christian fleet was victorious at the Battle of Lepanto. The pope established October 7th as the feast of the Holy Rosary. Later, all of October would come to be known as the Month of the Rosary.