

Reflection for the 27th Sunday of Ordinary Time

“This one, at last, is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; this one shall be called ‘woman,’ for out of ‘her man’ this one has been taken.” That is why a man leaves his father and mother and clings to his wife, and the two of them become one flesh. Genesis 2:23-24

The First Reading this Sunday which is taken from the Book of Genesis, is often selected for the First Reading at a Wedding. The message of two becoming one is very appropriate for the celebration of the Catholic Wedding. In fact, a part of our Gospel Reading today is also listed as an option in the list of readings for a Catholic Wedding, Mark 10:6-9. Our Gospel Reading this Sunday is Mark 10:2-16. The message that we can take from our First Reading this Sunday Genesis 2:18-24, is that God’s plan for man and woman in the marriage covenant, is for two to become one. In Mark 10:6-9, which is one of the options for the Gospel Reading at a wedding, we hear Jesus say, *“From the beginning of creation,”* He goes on to state that a man shall leave his mother and father and will cling to his wife and the two shall become one.

Mark 10:6-9 and Genesis 2:23-24, which are a part of our Readings this Sunday and are options for Readings at Catholic Weddings provide us with a powerful message and image of what a marriage is to be, the couple forsaking all others, clinging to one another, becomes one. This plan was developed at the beginning of creation. Be it the weddings that we had this Summer or the ones that are planned for in the Fall, or even all the married couples that are a part of our Parish, we can find a powerful message for them today in our Readings taken from the Book of Genesis and the Gospel of Mark. What a wonderful message for those who are getting married and couples that have been married for years. The Marriage Covenant that they share with each other was established at the beginning of creation and is the one blessing not forfeited by original sin nor washed away by the flood. In two becoming one, marriage is something that is meant for all humanity, and is a gift that God gives to all married couples

Does Genesis 2:18-22 and Mark 10:2-5,10-16, the verses that do not have a message about two becoming one but are a part of our Readings today have something to say to us on the 27th Sunday of Ordinary Time? I would have to say that we should at least look and Genesis 2:18-22 and Mark 10:2-5,10-16 and see if there is something there for us that can speak to us today and every day of our faith journey. First, we can look at Genesis 2:18-22 and it is in this section of the First Reading that we hear about God creating a suitable partner for man, Adam. God creates out of the ground all types of cattle, birds and wild animals, none prove to be a suitable partner for the man. It was not until God put man to sleep and removed one of his ribs, creating from it a woman, that proved to be a suitable partner for the man. It is interesting to think of the fact that in this creation account God creates all types of animals to find a suitable partner for the man. An all-knowing God would know only a woman would be a suitable partner for the man. But by placing all the animals and creatures in this world, humanity has the ability to live in this world in harmony with all creation. Just as man and woman have the ability to live in harmony with one another as partners in marriage.

We can now turn to Mark 10:2-5 and we hear of Pharisees coming to Jesus to test Him and ask if it is lawful for a man to divorce his wife. Jesus points out that even though Moses permitted divorce, that is not the true intention of God. In verses 10-16 we hear of people bringing children to Him and the disciples try to discourage the children from being brought to Him so He says, *“Amen, I say to you, whoever does not accept the kingdom of God like a child will not enter it.”* Jesus reminds the Disciples and us of the type of openness we need to have to Him. Being open to God can help us to live in harmony with one another and the world. In closing be it in a marriage, in one’s relationship to family, community and the world, God is calling us to embrace and find harmony in the world He has created for us.