

27th Sunday in OT

Family - Where Life Begins and Love Never Ends!

Wow! These readings come at a perfect time with all that is going on in the world, on the heels of the World Meeting of Families, Pope Francis visit to America and the Synod on the Family taking place at the Vatican.

Marriage is one of the gifts that God has given to us which resembles Him: the ability to love. It is this ability to love that makes us beautiful. The more we learn to love, the more beautiful we become.

When God created us He gave us a spirit, which will live forever. Imagine all of us here in this church will live forever. The people you know who have died are still alive in a different world. We will see them again.

When God created us, we were created in His image and likeness and this means that we have the potential to become more like him. The more we become like Him, the more beautiful we become.

Holy people reflect God best and that is why they attract others like magnets, because they are beautiful. That's why God keeps calling us to holiness, because God wants us to be beautiful as He created us.

Why do you think Pope Francis attracted so many people in his visit to America? Pope Francis embodies a joy, a spirit and a love that is captivating. He remains a dwelling place for God himself and this makes him a human magnet for those who seek the real love that is God.

Pope Francis is convinced that everyone is a child of God, and he loves them all - just as God Loves them all.

He takes life as it is and shows the deepest respect for each person he encounters; no matter how they feel on an issue, or how sinful or wrong they may appear to be.

First he Commends before he recommends anything.

Just as Jesus did with the Woman caught in Adultery.

Jesus said: ~~W~~oman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?+ ... Then Jesus said, ~~N~~either do I condemn you. Go, and from now on do not sin any more.+

First Commends - I do condemn or judge you.

Then Recommends: From Now on do not sin any more.

Imagine if we showed this type of respect to everyone we encounter, in our Families, Parish, and workplace.

God wants us to experience a sense of joy and wonder in our lives, to be in the present, to find surprises around every corner. He offers us unconditional love and acceptance and that can help us to find God in all things.

God made woman as a companion for man, created from man's flesh. The Lord God said: "It is not good for the man to be alone.

The Lord God then built up into a woman the rib that he had taken from the man

There is a beautiful statement by St. Bernardina,

- "God did not make a woman out of a bone of Adam's foot, so that he should trample her,
- nor out of a bone of his head, so that he should dominate her,
- but he made her out of his rib, which is close to his heart, to teach him to love her truly, as his companion

Some say Rib in Old Testament really meant Heart.

God did not create anything by chance . especially man and woman. He breathed His life, Genesis tells us, only into man and woman, not into His other creatures.

Jesus is telling us we must keep our focus on what God has in mind for us when it comes to love and marriage. When He celebrated the Last Supper, the Wedding Feast of the Lamb, He gave us His Body and Blood in an everlasting covenant of marriage.

God presents Himself to us and says: "This is my Body, take it. This is my Blood, mingle it with yours. I am marrying you. I am yours forever."

Perfect families do not exist. This must not discourage us. Quite the opposite. Love is something we learn; love is something we live... through the concrete situations which each family experiences.

This is how we give our children a very good lesson: we make mistakes, yes; we have problems, yes. But we know that that is not really what counts.

We know that mistakes, problems and conflicts are an opportunity to draw closer to others, to draw closer to God." PF

Pope Francis strongly exhorted all families to live lives of communion, not division; love, not impatience. He asked everyone,

"At home do we shout at one another or do we speak with love and tenderness? This is a good way of measuring our love."

Praise be Jesus Christ, Now and Forever, Amen!