

Twenty Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

My beloved brothers and sisters, one of the fundamental problems in the Church today that is fundamental to the scandals now unfolding in the Church throughout the world, is the failure to take seriously the revelation of God in the Old Testament and the New Testament, about the extraordinary Holiness of Holy Marriage. St. John Paul the Great called this mystery: "The Primordial Sacrament;" the means by which God was revealing the very internal mystery of the Divine Trinity to man and woman. Marriage has been called a great mystery; and no doubt, some of you who are married may be saying to yourselves: "Yep, you got that right father, it's a great mystery to me!" But the mystery I am speaking about, is not something hidden; rather, In its original meaning, it is the unfolding of the Holy Mystery of God Himself, within Himself and in His created creatures, man and woman made in His Divine Image and Likeness!

In Old Testament, nothing except the worship of God, was more important than family. It was the same within the Church until the so-called sexual revolution in 1968; but the distortions of that time do not change the fundamental holiness and plan of God that He has intended for our lives. Indeed, it is essential to the reality of my priestly ministry and my call to Holiness of Life and celibacy. That is why by ancient tradition, Priests are called: Father.

Jesus teaches us today, in the Gospel, that in Holy Marriage, a man and woman come together in their one flesh union, and that this one flesh union is so real, that each becomes a part of the other. Indeed, this is true, not only in the marriage bed, but spiritually and physically as well. This was the original intention of God in the Genesis story, when God takes a rib from the side of Adam and shapes it into the Woman. We know from modern science, that both husband and wife begin to share in each other's genetics.

All of us have encountered couples who have been married for eons, who look like one another, talk like one another and know each other's minds and thought before they are spoken. Your relationship as man and wife make visible to all of us in the Church, the very inner nature of God as a radical self-giving in love and a radical reception of the other's love. In marriage, mama loves papa and papa

loves mama, and nine months later, by God's intervention and Grace, they hold that love in their arms in their tiny little child! Not even death can break this bond!

In its origin, the mystery of their marriage is a call and a blessing in which God has called a couple together so that they could be complete, fulfilled in their loving of one another. Indeed, the very best thing you can do for your children and grandchildren, is not: things, sports, money, etc.; rather, the greatest thing you can do for your children is to love one another according to the original plan of God! So great is this call, that God, in your Holy Sacrament, promises every help to you with every spiritual grace in your living sacrament. You give to each other, the very mystery of God Himself!

Never, never, allow anything, anything to pull this love apart! In the difficult moments of your marriage and family, remember that God is a partner in your marriage, and He Himself will help you remain united, provided that you remain in His love. Remember, that it is God who has forged this bond between you, and if He has called you into this mystery, He will sustain it. That is why He gives you and wants you to remain in His Sacraments, especially in Holy Confession and in Holy Eucharist, and in Holy Prayer together, as a family, most especially the Holy Rosary! Remember, that you are no longer two people, so work very hard to be of one heart, one mind, and one prayer, one life together. Remember, when you do this, your marriage and your lives, your families become a mirror of the Holiness of God Himself!