

27th Sunday of Ordinary Time

Genesis 2:18-24
Ps 128:1-6
Hebrews 2:9-11
Mark 10:2-16

Monday October 4 St. Francis of Assisi

Jonah 1:1 -- 2:1-2,11
Jon 2:3-5,8
Luke 10:25-37

Tuesday October 5

Jonah 3:1-10
Ps 130:1b-4,7-8
Luke 10:38-42

Wednesday October 6

Jonah 4:1-11
Ps 86:3-6,9-10
Luke 11:1-4

Thursday October 7 Our Lady of the Rosary

Malachi 3:13-20b
Ps 1:1-4,6
Luke 11:5-13

Friday October 8

Joel 1:13-15; 2:1-2
Ps 9:2-3,6,16,8-9
Luke 11:15-26

Saturday October 9

Joel 4:12-21
Ps 97:1-2,5-6,11-12
Luke 11:27-28

Do you love someone who isn't loving you back? Have you experienced God's supernatural love helping you love those who are difficult to love?

Those of us who are married expect to be loved by our spouses as much as we need to be loved. And we assume that it's always going to be mutual: We will always be loved with the same passion as we love them.

However, most marriages enter difficulties that require supernatural love as well as supernatural persistence. That's why we need the Sacrament of Matrimony instead of just a civil ceremony at the courthouse or beach. Marriages need divine grace to endure with the permanence that God provides.

Jesus explained that the law of Moses permitted divorce because of the hardness of people's hearts. This is not an approval of divorce. He wants us to have hearts like his

own, which never stops loving anyone.

In the days of Moses, when a marriage became difficult or unsatisfying, many men abandoned their wives. Although marriage was, from the beginning (Genesis Chapter 1) supposed to be a permanent covenant that united one man with one woman, a bill of divorce would allow an abandoned or rejected woman to remarry for her protection. It was never intended to be an approval of divorce.



Marriage is a reflection of God's faithful union with us. Permanence in marriage is a divine gift from God so that we can reflect him well. If

we don't believe in the permanence of love within marriage, how can we believe that God is always in love with us – including when we don't deserve it? And how can children who watch us believe?

Remember, sometimes the lover goes to the Cross for the beloved. The vocation of marriage ordains the spouses to be a reflection of Christ's passion for all.

God never forces us to stay "married" to him. He loves us even when we turn away from him. Likewise, an unloved spouse is called by God to continue loving the one who abandons the marriage, even if only from afar. This is also true in any God-ordained friendships, and between priests and the laity they serve, and parents with their children.

Reflect & Discuss:

1. Have you ever quit a relationship because it was too hard? Did you really stop loving that person?
2. How is the way you handled it like or unlike the heart of Christ?
3. How has God helped you love someone who quit loving you? How did you open yourself to receive his divine help?
4. Describe how this reveals to others what God's love is really like.