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PETITION & THANKSGIVING LETTERS
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‘Therefore what God has joined together, no human being must separate.’

Many of us might agree that the Sacrament of Marriage is in crisis. Many marriages end in separation and divorce, the Church is trying to see how we can include the remarried in the sacraments, and now, the idea that marriage is only between a man and a woman is questioned. It would seem that the Sacrament of Marriage is in crisis.

The teaching of Jesus and the Catholic faith seems clear in today’s Gospel: ‘Therefore what God has joined together, no human being must separate. Whoever divorces his wife and marries another commits adultery.’

This vision of marriage comes from the Book of Genesis. Marriage is the union of one man and one woman, joined together in faithfulness for life. That is what God intended marriage to be.

That’s beautiful. But the reality of our human condition and society is far more complex. Marriages do break up, for many reasons. Sometimes, one or both of the partners lack maturity. They are incapable of being faithful and are irresponsible. Sometimes, one partner or the children are victims of physical abuse. Abandonment, addictions, unfaithfulness, there are so many reasons why marriages do not work out. Sometimes, separation is the wise course of action for the well-being or even safety of the spouses.

Moses was the leader of the Israelite community. He saw the difficult human situation before him and he allowed divorce. Jesus understands that, but Jesus also reminds us that our human weakness is not an excuse to forget what God intended marriage to be. We must continue to strive for it.

Jesus’ preaching was often demanding. Yet at the same time, he had a tremendous compassion for people who in human weakness, fell short of the ideal. Jesus teaches us to balance the demands of God’s Law with mercy and compassion.

It is very difficult to live in an imperfect world. As much as we want every marriage to last forever, this ideal is sometimes beyond many people. They are so broken that they simply do not know how to love or be faithful. They need us to challenge them – but also to teach them. They need our compassion and understanding.

Most of all, they need the witness of our lives. We cannot force others to live the ideals of Jesus, but we can make a commitment to live it ourselves. Every family is a witness to what God intended marriage to be.

We are not born perfect – we grow slowly to what God created us to be. And we cannot get there by ourselves. We trust in the mercy and the grace of God.

Reflection by Gerard Louis, CSSR

Novena notes



27th Sunday of Ordinary Time
Year B
7th October 2018

Readings & Responses for the Week

Sun, 7 October	Gen 2:18-24; Hebr 2:9-11; Mk 10:2-16 May the Lord bless us all the days of our lives.
Mon, 8 October	Gal 1:6-12; Lk 10:25-37 The Lord keeps his covenant ever in mind.
Tue, 9 October SS. Denis, Bishop, Companions, Martyrs. St. John Leonardi, Priest	Gal 1:13-24; Lk 10:38-42 Lead me, O Lord, in the path of life eternal.
Wed, 10 October	Gal 2:1-2, 7-14; Lk 11:1-4 Go out to all the world; proclaim the Good News.
Thu, 11 October St. John XXIII, Pope	Gal 3:1-5; Lk 11:5-13 Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel! He has visited his people.
Fri, 12 October	Gal 3:7-14; Lk 11:15-26 The Lord keeps his covenant ever in mind.
Sat, 13 October	Gal 3:22-29; Lk 11:27-28 The Lord remembers his covenant for ever.

WEEKDAY MASS (MON – FRI)
Time: 6.30am, 12.15pm, 6.30pm
Confession: Half an hour before Mass

SUNSET MASS (SAT)
Time: 6.30pm

SUNDAY MASS
Time: 8am, 10am, 12noon, 5.30pm

PUBLIC HOLIDAY
Time: 8am, 6.30pm

SATURDAY MORNING MASS
Time: 7am

SATURDAY NOVENA DEVOTION
English: 8am, 9.30am, 11am, 1pm, 4pm, 5.30pm
Mandarin: 2.30pm
Confession: After every Novena Service except after the 11am service.

DAYS OF OBLIGATION
Time: 7pm (Eve of Day of Obligation)
6.30am, 12.15pm, 7pm

Novena notes

Our Lady of the Rosary

On October 7, the Roman Catholic Church celebrates the yearly feast of Our Lady of the Rosary. Known for several centuries by the alternate title of "Our Lady of Victory", the feast day takes place in honour of a 16th century naval victory which secured Europe against Turkish invasion. Pope St. Pius V attributed the victory to the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary, who was invoked on the day of the battle through a campaign to pray the Rosary throughout Europe.



Pope Leo XIII was particularly devoted to Our Lady of the Rosary, producing 11 encyclicals on the subject of this feast and its importance in the course of his long pontificate.

He echoed the words of the oldest known Marian prayer when he wrote, "It has always been the habit of Catholics in danger and in trouble times to fly to Mary for refuge."

*Mother
Mary,
Pray for
us.*

Praying The Rosary

There will be the praying of the Rosary immediately after the 6.30pm evening Mass from Monday to Friday in the month of October.



Donations for our new pews

The pews give us the place to sit in silence, pray and worship. Your gift would be etched on a plaque affixed to the side of the pews.

Brochures can be obtained from the Reception Office.

Recruitment for Choirs

1). The St. John Neumann Choir (8am, Sunday) is recruiting projectionists to man the AV system at masses.

For those interested or in need of more details, please call Susan at 9664 7900.

2). The St. Alphonsus Choir (10am, Sunday) is recruiting the following:
Choir (Singers), Projectionists, Violinist, Cellist and Flautist.

For those interested, please approach the Church Reception for the recruitment leaflet.

Maintenance of the new church

Now that our building fund target has been met, all further donations will go towards our Church Maintenance Fund.

You can donate by cheque. You can now also donate via GIRO.

Kindly issue your cheque payable to:

Redemptorist Fathers Maintenance Fund.

Those who wish to donate via GIRO, please obtain the GIRO Form from the Reception desk.

Our credit card machine can now accept donations to the Maintenance Fund via Pay Wave.

Thank you very much for your generous support.

No Eating and Drinking inside the Church, please.



Tagalog Mass

Please take note there will be Tagalog Mass on 14th October at 12 noon.