



27th Sunday of Ordinary Time

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

Monday Oct. 5
Jonah 1:1 -- 2:2,11
Jonah 2:3-5, 8
Luke 10:25-37

Tuesday Oct. 6
Jonah 3:1-10
Ps 130:1-4, 7-8
Luke 10:38-42

Wednesday Oct. 7
Jonah 4:1-11
Ps 86:3-6, 9-10
Luke 11:1-4

Thursday Oct. 8
Malachi 3:13-20
Ps 1:1-4, 6
Luke 11:5-13

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

Saturday Oct. 10
Joel 4:12-21
Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12
Luke 11:27-28

Have you loved someone who doesn't love you? Have you experienced God's supernatural love helping you love those who are difficult to love?

For those of us who are married, we 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 by our spouse 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 on the beach. Marriages need divine grace to endure with the permanence that God has ordained.



Permanence in marriage is a divine gift. It's the essence of God's relationship with us. 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 the people 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 ordained by God to continue loving the one who abandons the marriage, even if only from afar. This is also true of any God-ordained friendships, priests and their unity with the laity, 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.

In Mark 10:2-16, Jesus explains that the law of Moses permitted divorce (Deut. 24:1) because of the hardness of people's hearts. This is not an approval of divorce. He wants us to have hearts like his own.

In the days of Moses, when a marriage became difficult or unsatisfying, many men abandoned their wives. Although marriage was – *from the beginning* – supposed to be a permanent commitment that united two people, a bill of divorce would allow the women to remarry. It protected them, but it was never intended to be an approval of divorce.