

27TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YR.B

October 4, 2009

QUEEN OF PEACE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY
GAINESVILLE, FLORIDA
Rev. Jeff McGowan

1ST READING: GENESIS 2:18-24

The Lord God said: "It is not good for man to be alone."

PSALM 128

May the Lord bless us all the days of our lives.

2ND READING: HEBREWS 2:9-11

He who consecrates and those who are being consecrated all have one origin.

GOSPEL: MARK 10:2-16

The Pharisees approached Jesus and asked: "Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife?"

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Several years ago, the comedian Joan Rivers said, "I hate housework. You vacuum, mop the floors, you clean the kitchen and baths, you change the sheets and six months later you have to do it all over again." We all laugh because we know that we have to invest time and energy in maintaining our homes or they will become a disaster.

Today we consider the relationships in our lives; especially marriage. Just like our homes, unless we invest our time and energy, they will be a disaster.

Relationships are the heart and soul of our lives. Our God, the only true God there is reveals Godself as a relationship of Father, Son and Holy Spirit. That love of Divine parent, sacrificing sibling and breath of life is generating the entire stratosphere of all creation. This is the love that gives us life. Our mom's give 26 chromosomes and our dads give 26 chromosomes and that integration brings us into being as human persons. At that instant of conception, God already knows and loves us. I've read that even as we are forming inside the womb we recognize our mom's voice and our dad's voice. We feel our mom's anxieties and our family's joys. We're born into a family of origin that will be the foundation for every other relationship our whole lives. Either we will build on those loving relationships or we will spend the rest of our lives working to

transcend them. So, it should be clear that if our homes require time and energy the relationships in our lives also require time and energy or they will become disastrous.

Couples come to us to prepare for marriage at various levels of intimacy. Some arrive because they have such a great time and so much fun together. They don't need to talk because they know they were created for each other or they wouldn't feel so great about their time together. Some talk incessantly about everything. They talk about their work, their teachers, their friends, movies, music, sports, you know, everything. They know they were created for each other because they communicate all the time. Some arrive sharing their deepest concern, anxieties, dreams, hopes, fears and struggles with their own selves. They are working on understanding why they do the things they do and feel the feelings they feel. They have their struggles, alright, but they believe they were created for each other because no one else would accept and love them so generously.

I can't tell you who will have the best marriage. Love is a mystery to me. I try to live it but admit that I don't understand it. I do know that some marriages thrive and some become so burdensome the human beings just cannot make it. That's reality as it is not as we'd wish it were. One thing for sure though, love requires an investment of time and energy and a lot of work or it's likely to be a disaster.

A couple was married 43 years. The wife drove to the train station to pick up her husband after his daily commute. When she got there she discovered he had driven his own car to the station that day. So she followed him home. On the way she heard him beep his horn three times. Then she flashed her lights three times. A policeman saw her flashing her lights and pulled over beside her. He asked if everything was alright. She said, "Oh yes, officer, my husband and I have little signals we use and I just flashed my lights to let him know I love him. The officer said, "You have no idea the awful things I've seen today and I want you to know you made my day turn bright. I can't wait to get home and tell my wife."

My friends, we live because we live in the relationships of our lives. They take time and energy and the good news is that they are worth it.