

**The Twenty-Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
October 7, 2018

**Reading 1: Genesis 2: 18-24**

The LORD God said:  
"It is not good for the man to be alone.  
I will make a suitable partner for him."  
So the LORD God formed out of the ground  
various wild animals and various birds of the air,  
and he brought them to the man  
to see what he would call them;  
whatever the man called each of them would be its name.  
The man gave names to all the cattle,  
all the birds of the air, and all wild animals;  
but none proved to be the suitable partner for the man.

So the LORD God cast a deep sleep on the man,  
and while he was asleep,  
he took out one of his ribs  
and closed up its place with flesh.  
The LORD God then built up into a woman the rib  
that he had taken from the man.  
When he brought her to the man, the man said:  
"This one, at last, is bone of my bones  
and flesh of my flesh;  
this one shall be called 'woman, '  
for out of 'her man' this one has been taken."  
That is why a man leaves his father and mother  
and clings to his wife,  
and the two of them become one flesh.

**Responsorial: Psalm 128**

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

Blessed are you who fear the LORD,  
who walk in his ways!  
For you shall eat the fruit of your handiwork;  
blessed shall you be, and favored.

Your wife shall be like a fruitful vine  
in the recesses of your home;  
your children like olive plants  
around your table.

Behold, thus is the man blessed  
who fears the LORD.  
The LORD bless you from Zion:  
may you see the prosperity of Jerusalem  
all the days of your life.

May you see your children's children.  
Peace be upon Israel!

**Reading 2: Hebrews 2: 9-11**

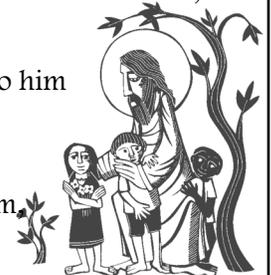
Brothers and sisters:  
He "for a little while" was made "lower than the angels,"  
that by the grace of God  
he might taste death for everyone.

For it was fitting that he,  
for whom and through whom all things exist,  
in bringing many children to glory,  
should make the leader to their salvation  
perfect through suffering.  
He who consecrates and those who are being consecrated  
all have one origin.  
Therefore, he is not ashamed to call them "brothers."

**Gospel: Mark 10: 2-16**

The Pharisees approached Jesus and asked,  
"Is it lawful for a husband to divorce his wife?"  
They were testing him.  
He said to them in reply,  
"What did Moses command you?"  
They replied,  
"Moses permitted a husband to write a bill of divorce  
and dismiss her."  
But Jesus told them,  
"Because of the hardness of your hearts  
he wrote you this commandment.  
But from the beginning of creation,  
*God made them male and female.*  
*For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother*  
*and be joined to his wife,*  
*and the two shall become one flesh.*  
So they are no longer two but one flesh.  
Therefore what God has joined together,  
no human being must separate."  
In the house the disciples  
again questioned Jesus about this.  
He said to them,  
"Whoever divorces his wife and marries another  
commits adultery against her;  
and if she divorces her husband and marries another,  
she commits adultery."

And people were bringing children to him  
that he might touch them,  
but the disciples rebuked them.  
When Jesus saw this  
he became indignant and said to them  
"Let the children come to me;  
do not prevent them,  
for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these.  
Amen, I say to you,  
whoever does not accept the kingdom of God like a child  
will not enter it."  
Then he embraced them and blessed them,  
placing his hands on them.



# The Twenty-Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

October 7, 2018

## All Are Welcome

Let us build a house where love can dwell  
And all can safely live,  
A place where saints and children tell  
How hearts learn to forgive.  
Built of hopes and dreams and visions,  
Rock of faith and vault of grace;  
Here the love of Christ shall end divisions:

*All are welcome. All are welcome.*

*All are welcome in this place.*

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## Psalm 128 (alternate refrain)

*Blest are those who love you, happy those who follow you,  
blest are those who seek you, O God.*

## All Creatures of Our God and King

All creatures of our God and King,  
Lift up your voice and with us sing: Alleluia! Alleluia!  
O burning sun with golden beam  
And silver moon with softer gleam.

*Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!*

O rushing wind an breezes soft,  
O clouds that ride the winds aloft: Alleluia! Alleluia!  
O rising morn, in praise rejoice,  
O lights of evening, find a voice.

O ev'ry one of tender heart,  
Forgiving others take your part: Alleluia! Alleluia!  
All you who pain and sorrow bear,  
Praise God and cast on God your care.

### “Ground Rules” for Small Group Faith Sharing

Maintain confidentiality – “Whatever happens in small group stays in small group.”  
Judgment-free zone – You don’t have to agree with every one, but you have to have respect for everyone.  
No “shut downs” or “put downs” – See Christ in one another, BE Christ to one another.  
Don’t be a “discussion hog” – Be sure that everyone that wants to gets a chance to share.  
Leave room for the Spirit – Silence is OK! Not everyone has to share.  
Practice active listening – Avoid interrupting, fidgeting, criticizing, lecturing, or thinking of what you’re going to say while another person is speaking.  
Questions are a guide - You do not have to answer all of them or go in order.  
Be open – God is doing amazing things!

### Petitions

Our response: “Lord, hear our prayer.”

**Closing Prayer:** Creator God, in Christ you call man and woman to the fullness of glory for which you created them in your image. Heal our hardened hearts, renew our obedience to your spoken will, and conform our lives to your gracious design. Grant this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God for ever and ever . Amen.

### Questions for Reflection

1. What word or phrase from the Gospel resonated with you?
2. Consider the First Reading. Do you think the culture from which this story comes values women the same as men? Why or why not? What would you say to a person who thinks the superiority of men over women is divinely revealed in this text? What would you do if you encountered a situation where a woman and a man were not being treated equally?
3. In the Second Reading, we hear that “He who consecrates (Jesus) and those who are being consecrated all have one origin.” Jesus calls us sisters and brothers. How should this inform our attitudes toward one another? Do we treat the homeless person on the street and the CEO the same way—as kin?
4. In the Gospel, Jesus warns that “whoever does not accept the kingdom of God like a child will not enter it.” In what ways can your faith life benefit for a more child-like attitude? What can we learn from children?
5. In Mark’s Gospel the Pharisees and the disciples ask Jesus about divorce. In the light of family problems that still exist, Pope Francis called a Synod on the Family. Read the portion of Francis’ address at the conclusion of the Synod, below. What are the challenges in today’s world to which we should respond with boldness and mercy?

### Words from our Holy Father

And this is the Church, the vineyard of the Lord, the fertile Mother and the caring Teacher, who is not afraid to roll up her sleeves to pour oil and wine on people’s wound; who doesn’t see humanity as a house of glass to judge or categorize people. This is the Church, One, Holy, Catholic, Apostolic and composed of sinners, needful of God’s mercy. This is the Church, the true bride of Christ, who seeks to be faithful to her spouse and to her doctrine. . . The Church that has the doors wide open to receive the needy, the penitent, and not only the just or those who believe they are perfect! The Church that is not ashamed of the fallen brother and pretends not to see him, but on the contrary feels involved and almost obliged to lift him up and to encourage him to take up the journey again and accompany him toward a definitive encounter with her Spouse, in the heavenly Jerusalem.

-Pope Francis, Synod of Bishops, 18 October 2014