

Promoting the Dignity, Unity, and Respect of Marriage and Family Life

Today, the first reading and the gospel center on the institution of marriage and the invitation to promote the dignity, unity, and respect for marriage and the family. The truth is that not all of us are in the vocation of married life, but we are directly or indirectly products of marriage and family. Thus, these readings invite us to reflect on aspects of marriage and family that concern us. The background to the first reading is that God created both man and woman in his image. So, likewise, every human being is made in the image of God, and nothing takes it away from us.

We are called to respect and recognize the image of God in each other, which invariably will sustain any relationship, be it in the family, marriage, or worshipping community- the Christian family. The story of the creation of a woman to be a helpmate to the man reminds us that God created us to be there for one another and help one another make the best meaning out of life. God started by pointing out that “It is not good for the man to be alone.” Life is not meant to be lived alone because nobody is an island. To live is to live for the other. We are the stewards of God’s gifts.

Marriage is not a bed of roses. It has sweet and sour because no two persons are the same. We need tolerance, patience, love, forgiveness, and understanding to make a marriage work. These are the ingredients that turn houses into homes where people long to go back. Home is not where bickering and blames are the order of the day, but where peace and love reign. We need patient endurance to make the best of our married vocation. God calls us through this vocation so that through them he would bring us to his glory, as the second reading reminds us. The love and peace that exists between husband-and-wife flows into their kids, and they grow to become instruments of God’s love and peace.

Don’t be discouraged and see it as the end of your life to those who are going through divorce or already divorced. Learn the lessons of the divorce and move on with your life. Another aspect of the gospel we are called to reflect on is the issue of putting asunder in marriages. Our effort as a Christian community is to pray and support family unity, especially through good words of advice and encouragement. It is good to ask ourselves the advice we give to people going through crises in their marriages and relationships. Is it advice that uplifts or brings more divisions and confusion? We are called to promote marriage and family’s dignity, unity, and respect. We pray that the good Lord will help us to do this now and always. Amen.