Twenty Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time — October 3, 2021

From the Desk of Fr. Leo

A happy marriage is a pleasing sight: father and mother deeply in love with each other and with their children, each one enjoying the other's presence and benefiting from it. Christian marriage moreover is a holy calling, fraught with many blessings from on high, and a mutual means to reach fulfillment and happiness.

It is well known that today many marriages are on the rocks in many countries. Young people often marry hastily and divorce or separate a few years later. But they are not the only ones in question. The divorce rate among many middle-aged people is constantly on the rise. Broken homes and tragic experiences of the children are the results. Some will not even bother anymore to have a marriage at all, but live together and separate as they please. How contrary all this is to the plan of God given in the first reading of this weekend. Marriage is the divinely established institution for man and woman at the very outset. The union of man and wife is even more intimate than that of parents and children. Monogamy is emphasized in the words of Genesis: one man and one woman, and man is to cling to his wife, our Lord Jesus added: "What God has put together, let no man put as under". Yet all over the world the plan of God for humankind is flaunted, to give way to humankind's caprice. And the consequences are appalling.

In the Gospel, Jesus points out that divorce was only tolerated in the Old Covenant, because of the stubbornness of the Jews who were practicing it as they wished to. But Jesus restored marriage to its pristine beauty and purity. He will not tolerate those who divorce and re-marry. They are living in adultery; he says very clearly.

The case is different with those who separate because of eventual incompatibility, but do not re-marry. Though this life is not an easy one, a goodly number prefer to live apart than live with constant quarreling. To continue living their Christian commitment, they need frequent prayer and the sacraments. It is wise for them to occupy themselves with reaching out to help the needy, such as teaching children, assisting the incapacitated or the sick, or some occupation in which they can manifest their love and expend their energy.

Jesus was right at home with happy married people. He himself raised marriage to the level of a sacrament, whereby both man and wife mutually impart help to each other and are instrumental in bestowing necessary graces on each other, graces which are needed in the long years of labor and struggle. They are to mutually help each other in reaching the eternal goal.

There are many unhappy marriages today. That is why in many dioceses, there are marriage counselors who can listen patiently to the problems of married couples and endeavor to restore them to peace and harmony.

Fr. Leo Alban Asuncion

Mass Intentions for the Week

Tues.	**October 5**	**11:00AM**
Nemesco Francisco †		Gloria
Wed.	**October 6**	**11:00AM**
Reyna C. Labesores†		Ed & Mae
Thur.	**October 7**	**11:00AM**
Special Intentions		
Fri.	**October 8**	**11:00AM**
Jason Cleto †		Robert Banaga & Family
Sat.	**October 9**	**4:30PM**
Chritina Quiapo		Mom & Dad
Sun.	**October 10**	**9:00AM**
Elliott (birthday)		Lolo & Lola
Port Costa		**11:00AM**
People of the Parish		

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