

## REFLECTION FOR THE TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

The liturgy for today reveals God's plan for man and woman: God created them to love each other, called them to walk hand in hand, challenged them to build a common project of happiness based on total surrender to each other and the full communion of their lives.

Thus, the first reading tells us, with images full of color and poetry, that it was God who invented love. God created man and woman and placed them next to each other to love each other, to share life, to help each other, to help and complete each other. It is in the love that unites them that they will find their vocation and their full fulfillment. Each one, in their masculine or feminine identity, is called to love, one complementing the other. God created them male and female to live for each other, to be one, and, loving each other, to share with God in the gift of life.

In the Gospel, Jesus, confronted with the Jewish law of divorce, reaffirms God's ideal plan for man and woman: they have been called to form a community of love and to fulfill themselves through love. For this reason, the plan for the creation of man and woman naturally excludes everything that is a negation of love: self-centeredness, the domination of one over the other, attitudes and gestures that hurt the dignity of the other, or the selfish use of the other. In God's *vision*, true love does not have a deadline; it has the mark of eternity. No one accepts a love with deadlines. As the Song of Songs from Solomon says: love is eternal, nothing can extinguish love. This is why Jesus replied to those who questioned him: “*what God has united; man must not divide.*”

The second reading reminds us of the quality and greatness of God's love for humanity. God loved people so much that he sent his only Son into the world “*for the benefit of all.*” Jesus, the Son, showed solidarity with people, shared their weakness and, in fulfillment of the Father's plan, accepted that he would die on the cross. This was so that people would know that true life lies in the love that is given up to the ultimate consequences. God's love must be the model for our human “*loves.*” With God, we must learn to love to the end, to love by giving our lives for one another, as Jesus Christ did, who gave his life for us.

May the Lord sow his love in our hearts and may our families be true schools of love, where we love and learn to love. May God bless our families with his love and may they be an expression of God's plan of life and love.

Amen.