

Homily
32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time
November 6, 2022

Show of hands: how many husbands do we have? How many married men?

I'm a married man, but I wasn't for about ten years from the time I moved out on my own. During that time, I developed some very independent habits. I became very self-sufficient. I bought a house. I cooked and I cleaned. I mowed my lawn. I bought my own clothes. I paid my own bills. I took very good care of myself.

Then I met this country girl. The first thing she did when she came over to my home was walk in my kitchen, opened my microwave, gasped, then proceeded to clean it.

A year and a half later we were married. But I didn't need anyone to take care of me. She could cook really well, but I didn't need anyone to cook for me. She cleaned, washed, folded, dusted and kept house better than anyone, but I didn't need anyone to do that for me. I was independent; I was self-sufficient. I didn't need anyone for that stuff.

She didn't care about that; she took care of me anyway. She loves me in spite of my independence. She loves me in spite of my flaws. She loves me in spite of myself. And I'll bet your wives are like that, too.

Sound like someone else we know? Jesus loves us, in spite of our independence. Jesus loves us in spite of our flaws. Jesus loves us in spite of ourselves.

It has taken me years, decades to understand that, in spite of my independence, in spite of me being good at cooking, cleaning, paying the bills, she and I both bring skills to the relationship. It has taken me years to go from independent as an individual to interdependent as a couple.

I'm still trying to learn that lesson when it comes to my God.

I'm not telling you guys anything you don't already know, but it is a lot easier when we, Donna and I, work together, sharing the responsibilities of the household, of the family. I take care of her and she takes care of me. We take care of each other.

She cooks the food; I eat the food. She cleans and folds the clothes, I wear the clothes. She changes the sheets on our bed; I sleep in the bed. Seriously, I do things around the house, too. (looking at Donna) Don't I, honey? If she were up here, she would tell you all the things I do. We make a great team.

God doesn't need us to take care of Him, but we need to let go of our independence and lean on God. We must let go and let God take care of us. And the best way to do this is through the Sacraments.

The Sacrament of Matrimony takes two of God's creatures, a man and a woman, and binds them, sacramentally, into one new creation, just as the Sacrament of Baptism repairs the bond between God and man that Adam severed in Original Sin. In the Sacrament of Baptism, we die to ourselves and are raised to new life, born again as one in the family of God, the Body of Christ. We are all many parts; we are all one body.

This is the underlying message in today's Gospel. In this world, we marry, we have children, they marry, they have children, building up the kingdom of God. In the world to come, we neither marry nor are given in marriage. There is no need. We partake in the most intimate way in the Marriage Feast of the Lamb. We, the Body of Christ, become one with Him, the Bridegroom, the One Who yearns for us, the One who gave of Himself as the One and Only True Sacrifice.

Just as we give of ourselves to the other in the Sacrament of Matrimony, we join together and give of ourselves in sacrifice to one another from the gifts God has given us. We do this without counting the cost. We do this without expecting anything in return. We do this at every Mass in the Sacrament of the Eucharist.

In a few moments, our gifts of simple bread and wine will be offered on this altar. In a few moments, Fr. Jason will pray over these gifts that the Holy Spirit will come down upon them and make them truly the Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ. In a few moments, we will come forward and receive Jesus, Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity into our very own bodies, transforming each and everyone of us into Jesus. We truly become what we eat. We become one with Him and one with one another; the True Presence of the Body of Christ; truly present in each and everyone of us. This is the same feast we will experience in heaven, the Wedding Feast of the Lamb.

It's very hard for me to yell at my wife when I know that I'm yelling at myself. It's even more difficult to yell at my wife when I realize that I'm yelling at Jesus. Yet I sometimes do.

I realize I'm preaching to the choir, but how often do we think about those times when we are impatient with a friend or coworker and realize, "that's Jesus." How often do we treat someone in an unkind way and recognize Christ in the other?

You've heard it said that it is important to smile at someone we are just passing by because it may be the only smile they see today. It is so important to remember to be Christ for one another because we ARE Christ for one another.

We are many parts; we are one Body. This week, we remember the gifts God has given us, we remember to use those gifts that make us happy and we offer those gifts to God because it makes Him happy. He loves us any way, but this is how we show our love for Him.