



ARCHDIOCESE OF PALO-CATECHETICAL MINISTRY
Module 57 (October 3, 2021) 27th Sunday in Ordinary Time- Cycle B
Theme: God calls us to relate with each other in love
Mark 10:2-12



INTRODUCTION

Talk about Filipino values on marriage and family life?
 When two young persons marry, how do we look at it?
 What makes us happy about our family?

Marriage and family life are considered as one among the highest Filipino values in our culture. Marriage is not only the concern of two persons who intend to bond together but there is also the bond between two family groups. In marriage, our family becomes even bigger because of two families coming to know each other. Most of us find support, strength and security in the family. We are ready to make sacrifices for the good of the family.

Sad to say that such Filipinos values are gradually fading. Many families are separated. Husbands and wives could no longer bear to live together. We know that divorce has become part of the law in some countries. While divorce is not allowed in our country, many Filipino families are much affected by the separation of parents.



OPENING PRAYER

Prayer to the Trinity

God the Father, our Creator
 You created us into your likeness.
 You fill us with joy for the many beautiful things.
 You created the world and everything in it,
 Out of love for us.

Jesus, our savior
 Your life in the Gospel
 Fill us with awe and wonder
 You love for us is so great
 That you offer yourself to us on the cross,
 because you love us.

Holy Spirit
 You make us strong and brave
 to follow the way of God
 Make us walk in your light
 For we know that true happiness
 is found in the loving embrace
 Of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.
 Amen



PHASE ONE
REMEMBER THE STORY OF JESUS

Proclamation of the Gospel Story Mk 10:2-16 or 10:2-12
(Enthroned the Bible on a table with lighted candle)

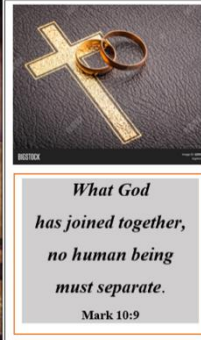
A moment of prayerful silence
We will not be able to understand the Word of God unless God himself opens our hearts. Let us now welcome Jesus as he speaks to us through his Word

Alleluia
 1 Jn 4:12
 R. Alleluia, alleluia.
 If we love one another, God remains in us
 and his love is brought to perfection in us.
 R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Reader: A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark (9:38-43, 45, 47-48)
 All: Glory to you, O Lord

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."



*What God
 has joined together,
 no human being
 must separate.*
 Mark 10:9

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."

Reader: *The Gospel of the Lord*
 All: *Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ*

1.2 Brief Guided silent Meditation / Personal Prayer Text in Context

For the past three Sundays, we have been hearing Mark's story on conversations between Jesus and his disciples. Jesus uses these private moments to teach his disciples in greater detail about the Kingdom of God. The first verse of chapter 10 of Mark's Gospel tells us that crowds gathered around Jesus, and he taught them, as used to do.

- 1. Who came to Jesus? What did they ask him?** The Pharisees came to Jesus. They knew the law very well. But they still had to ask Jesus: "Is it lawful for a husband to divorce his wife
Why did they have to ask Jesus? They wanted to put him to test.
- 2. What was Jesus' reply?** "Moses permitted a husband to write a bill of divorce.
- 3. Why do you think that Moses, a man of God, had to allow divorce, separation of a husband and wife?** Moses knew that God wants that man and woman stay together in marriage. But people's heart had become hard that they did not follow what God wants. So, Moses issued the a bill of divorce.
- 4. What does Jesus say about the marriage relationship in today's Gospel?** (God joins man and woman in marriage who become one. What God has brought together may not be separated by human beings)
- 5. The disciples question Jesus further about this teaching. Why do you think they ask Jesus about this again?** (Perhaps they find Jesus' teaching challenging because Jesus is being more strict than the Pharisees.



Looking into the details related to places mentioned

The Gospel today begins with these lines which are not included in the given text.

He (Jesus) set out from there [Capernaum] and went into the district of Judea across the Jordan. Again crowds gathered around him, and as was his custom, he again taught them.

(Mark 10:1)

Before we get into understanding of Marriage and divorce as Marks narrates Jesus' conversation with the people who asked him about it. Let us try to see what is in the mind of the Pharisees who opened this topic to Jesus.

First, we see the names of places. We know that Jesus travelled from **Galilee** to **Jerusalem** together with his disciples for his teaching ministry. This time they went from **Capernaum** to **district of Judea across the Jordan**. If we look at the map during the time of Jesus, this refers to **Perea**. Galilee and Perea were ruled by Herod Antiphas the one who have John the Baptist be headed. Herod is the husband of Herodias. Herodias' former husband was Philip Antiphas, brother of Herod. When Jesus visited Perea, many people came to see him from nearby places. By this time Jesus had become known to many people. It is in this context that Pharisees came to Jesus and asked: *"Is it lawful for a husband to divorce his wife?"*

Pharisees knew that divorce was accepted in their time, following the old practice that Moses allowed. But they were not concern of what God was saying. Instead, they would like to trap Jesus on the issue of King Herod's marriage with Herodias. John the Baptist was put into prison for telling the truth. He told Herodias that it was not right for her to have divorced her husband to marry Herod.

With this story behind, the Pharisees seized the opportunity to "test" Jesus. The Pharisees and Herodians had a common interest to take Jesus out of their way, even his death.

What is hardness of Heart?

Nobody can outwit Jesus. Being a wise teacher, he uses this occasion not to condemn but to teach the ways God for each individual person so loved by God. Jesus had to open their hearts to the truth.

"Moses permitted a husband to write a bill of divorce and dismiss her. Moses gave in to the request, hoping to improve their situation (concession), though he knew well that this was not what God wanted. Even in the olden time people tended to be stubborn and indifferent in relationships

Jesus had to explain well: *"Because of the hardness of your hearts he wrote you this commandment"*

Here hardness of heart makes a heart like stone. Nothing can get into it, like a heart that is close to itself. This causes loneliness and isolation. As a result, relationships are broken due hardness of heart. Truly, this is not part of God's plan.

When do I experience hardness of heart? Am I happy with myself in this situation? What is God telling me now?

Our Self- Identity: Who are we in relation to others?

Jesus began to recall the story of Genesis. In creation story God realized that the man he created was not happy in spite of the many beautiful things around him.

"It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a suitable partner for him." (Gen 2:18)

From the very beginning God, the Creator of all things, wants us all to relate with one another and not to separate. He never created us to isolate from one another but to have a link to one another. This is the self-identity of every human being (Luis Antonio Cardinal Tagle)

The whole life of Jesus in the Gospel is a story of connectedness with God and neighbors. His **covenant relationships** with God endures even at the point of death on the Cross in obedience to Father and to draw us close to the

same God. Jesus remains faithful to God and to us as he has promised – a covenant of love.

The Gospel story today points to the dignity of relationships between husband and wife.

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.

The man and woman share the same sacredness of God's image in each person. Individualism and separation are not part of God's plan in marriage. Faithfulness both in times of sorrow and joy is at the heart of marriage. Like Jesus who endures loving us on the cross, husband and wife are to live their self-identity of relating to one another in deeper love and fidelity. Part of this covenant relationship is the bringing forth of life. Children share the love of the Mother and the Father and the joy of loving each other.

The Sacrament of Marriage represents the dream of God for all so that we live as one, sharing a common self –identity for communion and love of each other.

What are those moments when I isolated myself from others. How did I feel? What help did I get for myself? What is my attitude towards those who have a hard time relating with each other?

PHASE THREE RESPOND – with/ in my personal faith /community faith story

We all belong to a family. Let us do some concrete actions that can make our family happy. How do we help one another to keep our relationships in the family and in the community alive? What are the threats or dangers that may cause us to live apart from each other? What shall we do?



CLOSING PRAYER

Before the many separations of families due to failures in marriage, let us pray to the Holy Family in order to lead the many broken and wounded hearts back to God. October is the Mission Month and the Month of the Holy Rosary. Let us pray to the Holy Family

MARY, Mother of Jesus and Our Mother, nourish our family with your faith and your love. Keep us close to your Son, Jesus, in all our sorrows and joys.

JOSEPH, Foster-father to Jesus, guardian and spouse of Mary, keep our family safe from harm. Help us in all times of discouragement or anxiety.

HOLY FAMILY OF NAZARETH, make our family one with you. Help us to be instruments of peace. Grant that love, strengthened by grace, may prove mightier than all the weaknesses and trials through which our families sometimes pass. May we always have God at the center of our hearts and homes until we are all one family, happy and at peace in our true home with you. Amen

BACKGROUND FOR THE CATECHISTS

CCC 1605 Holy Scripture affirms that man and woman were created for one another: "It is not good that the man should be alone." The woman, "flesh of his flesh," i.e., his counterpart, his equal, his nearest in all things, is given to him by God as a "helpmate"; she thus represents God from whom comes our help.[93] "Therefore a man leaves his father and his mother and cleaves to his wife, and they become one flesh." [94] The Lord himself shows that this signifies an unbreakable union of their two lives by recalling what the plan of the Creator had been "in the beginning": "So they are no longer two, but one flesh."

CCC 1606 Every man experiences evil around him and within himself. This experience makes itself felt in the relationships between man and woman. Their union has always been threatened by discord, a spirit of domination, infidelity, jealousy, and conflicts that can escalate into hatred and separation. This disorder can manifest itself more or less acutely, and can be more or less overcome according to the circumstances of cultures, eras, and individuals, but it does seem to have a universal character

