

## **THIRTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, Year B**

**“THE GOD OF LIFE AND THE SACRAMENT OF MATRIMONY”**

The Word of God this Sunday provides us with a wealth of material in relation to the US Supreme Court’s decision to legalize same sex ‘marriage’, which was handed down on Friday. We read in the Book of Wisdom:

**‘God did not make death, nor does he rejoice in the destruction of the living. For he fashioned all things that they might have being; and the creatures of the world are wholesome. ... For God made man to be imperishable; the image of his own nature he made him. But by the envy of the devil, death entered the world, and they who belong to his company experience it.’**

God is the Lord of life! God gave us life and made us in his own image and likeness, male and female he made us. If you look carefully at the way that God made us, a man in his very physical nature does not make sense without a woman. A woman in her own physical make up does not make complete sense without the man. There is a complementarity between the sexes. God made them ‘male and female’, indicating that the male and the female complete one another and, with the one flesh union, when the two come together in married love, new life can come from that union.

God fashioned us well! God made us so that, in the sacrament of matrimony, when one man and one woman unite in a covenantal bond, new life comes which is wholesome and beautiful!

**‘But by the envy of the devil, death entered the world.’**

Sam Guzman wrote that:<sup>i</sup>

The final war between Satan and the Lord God is over the family. Why? Because the family is an icon of the Most Holy Trinity. The communion of love between the three Divine Persons is the original family. This Divine communion is fruitful, that is, it brings forth life. It cannot help but do so. Life bursts forth from the love of the Holy Trinity.

The family is the earthly image and icon of Trinitarian love. The communion of love between husband and wife is designed to be fruitful, to bring forth life. In a very real sense, married love creates. This is why marriage carries the dignity of a sacrament—because it is a holy image of the Trinity.

Only God can truly create. Satan cannot. And Satan hates this fact. He is sterile in every sense of the word. He hates the Trinity because he envies its life giving and creative power, and he hates the family because it mirrors the Trinity.

And what better way to mock and warp the life-giving love of the Holy Trinity than to attempt to redefine marriage as something that cannot bring forth life? To redefine it as something inverted and sterile, like Satan himself? This is what homosexual “marriage” really is: Satan’s mockery of the family, and thus of the Trinity.

Bishop Michael Jarrell of the Diocese of Lafayette, Louisiana issued a strong statement of condemnation of the Supreme Court's decision ruling in favor of gay "marriage."<sup>ii</sup>

"Let me state very plainly that no human court has the authority to change what God has written into the law of creation. This ruling is irreconcilable with the nature and definition of marriage as established by Divine Law. The marital covenant was established by God with its proper nature and laws."

"I realize that this ruling will create conscience problems for many Catholics, especially those in public office. In some cases, civil disobedience may be a proper response."

"No priest or deacon of this Diocese may participate in the civil solemnization or celebration of a same-sex marriage. All Catholics are urged not to attend same-sex marriage ceremonies."

"As Catholics, we have a profound respect for the dignity of all God's children. Nevertheless, there is no basis in law or in nature for altering the traditional definition of marriage, established by God from the beginning."

Edward Peters, a Detroit professor and legal advisor to the Vatican, recently posted the following on his blog:

‘Catholic teachings make it clear that marriage is between one man and one woman. And so, “Catholics who promote ‘same-sex marriage’ act contrary to” Catholic law “and should not approach for holy Communion,” he wrote. “They also risk having holy Communion withheld from them ... being rebuked and/or being sanctioned.”<sup>iii</sup>

The Archbishop of Detroit, Allen Vigneron, stated that:

“For a Catholic to receive Holy Communion and still deny the revelation Christ entrusted to the church is to try to say two contradictory things at once: ‘I believe the church offers the saving truth of Jesus, and I reject what the church teaches.’ In effect, they would contradict themselves. This sort of behavior would result in publicly renouncing one’s integrity and logically bring shame for a double-dealing that is not unlike perjury.”<sup>iv</sup>

My brothers and sisters, we are living in very difficult times. Perhaps we may lose hope in the face of such abominable practices in our day. We need to be strengthened by the Most Holy Eucharist and encourage one another in the face of great adversity. May we in our own day cultivate the Gospel of Life according to God’s plan!

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<sup>i</sup> <http://www.catholicgentleman.net/2015/06/satan-hates-the-family-heres-why/>

<sup>ii</sup> <http://www.churchmilitant.com/news/article/louisiana-bishop-counsels-civil-disobedience>

<sup>iii</sup> <http://www.freep.com/article/20130408/NEWS05/304080041/Detroit-area-Catholic-leaders-urge-gay-marriage-supporters-to-skip-Communion>

<sup>iv</sup> Ibid.