

Newtbec

NEW WAY OF BEING CHURCH

27th Sunday of Ordinary Time

HOPE: BELIEVE, LIVE AND GIVE

MONTHLY THEME:
PUT INTO THE DEEP

THE TENDERNESS OF GOD

We poignantly feel God's tenderness in Genesis 2:18-24. After creating 'various wild animals and birds of the air,' God brings all these to the man to have him name them. When he finds the animals and birds as unsuitable partners for the man, God creates man's soul mate, a woman. And God brings the woman to the man, who says, 'This one, at last, is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh.' So the man and woman complete the image and likeness of God when the two joined to become one flesh.

Stay with this tenderness of God as we read Psalm 127. It reveals an ideal family, one that is in tune with God and receives His blessings. Fear of the Lord is a gift of the Holy Spirit. It moves us to awe at God's blessings when we heed him. The Psalmist defines this by telling us that when we walk in the way of the Lord, we can eat the fruits of our handiwork and much more.

Alas, man falls and man fails to live up to God's ways. In the gospel of Mark, the Pharisees trap Jesus with the question of divorce. While the Mosaic Law permits divorce, Jesus rebukes the Pharisees by pointing them back to the beginning of the order of creation. He makes it clear that God's ideal on the union of man and woman remains and that Moses permits divorce as a concession to the people's hardness of heart.

Scripture challenges us today to examine our marital vows and family values. Vatican II teaches us that 'the family has received from God its mission to be the first and vital cell of society.' We must believe that the love of Christ on the cross is far greater than any adversary that threatens marital and family life. **We can take comfort that we are not alone to face life's challenges however insurmountable.** The second reading from Hebrews 2 affirms us that God's salvation plan through Christ's ultimate sacrifice on the cross has given us full redemption. Jesus calls us his brothers (and sisters), when we consecrate our lives to him and strive to do the Will of God.

'Let the children come to me,' says the Lord. The Kingdom of God belongs to such as these. The tenderness of God never leaves us, because Christ will not give up on us. ✚

SCRIPTURE QUOTE TO MEMORISE:

"So, then, what God has united, man must not divide."

(Mark 10: 9)

SCRIPTURE of the DAY

Gen. 2, 18-24;

Ps. 127, 1-6;

Hebr. 2, 9-11;

Mk 10, 2-16
(or 10, 2-12)