

**October 3<sup>rd</sup> 2021 27<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time – Year B – Mark 10 : 2 - 16**

<sup>2</sup>Some Pharisees came, and to test him they asked, “Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife?” <sup>3</sup>He answered them, “What did Moses command you?” <sup>4</sup>They said, “Moses allowed a man to write a certificate of dismissal and to divorce her.” <sup>5</sup>But Jesus said to them, “Because of your hardness of heart he wrote this commandment for you. <sup>6</sup>But from the beginning of creation, ‘God made them male and female.’ <sup>7</sup>For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, <sup>8</sup>and the two shall become one flesh.’ So they are no longer two, but one flesh. <sup>9</sup>Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate.” <sup>10</sup>Then in the house the disciples asked him again about this matter. <sup>11</sup>He said to them, “Whoever divorces his wife and marries another commits adultery against her; <sup>12</sup>and if she divorces her husband and marries another, she commits adultery.” <sup>13</sup>People were bringing little children to him in order that he might touch them; and the disciples spoke sternly to them. <sup>14</sup>But when Jesus saw this, he was indignant and said to them, “Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. <sup>15</sup>Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it.” <sup>16</sup>And he took them up in his arms, laid his hands on them, and blessed them.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>Read and re-read</b> – out loud and slowly the Gospel.</li> <li>➤ <b>Meditate</b> - on reading as being spoken to you, an experience in your life</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>Pray</b> - Thanksgiving – Repentance – Petition</li> <li>➤ <b>Action</b> – Attitude (Call to change / to act /to do)</li> </ul>
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In this week’s gospel we see Jesus reminding us that men and women are intended by God to live on equal terms. There is to be no difference in the way they are judged by Him. They are both human beings created by God to live in harmony. Again this week Jesus tells us that his 'little ones' all have a deep lesson to teach us. They tell us how we should relate to those in our community whom we tended to neglect.

When have you found that in your relationships the bonds have been strengthened when you were prepared to work together through difficulties?

**Prayer:**

**Thank you Lord** for the gift of happy marriages and for the gift of our children who often challenge us in their life styles. We know you will care for them as we place them in your protection each day.

**Lord forgive us** for the times we block the 'little ones' from our minds instead of welcoming them in the spirit of Jesus. Jesus sends them because they have something unique to teach all of us.

**Help us Lord** to welcome each person especially the 'little ones' and take them seriously to show them that they are special to you and you will help us to take care of them.

