

**27th Sunday in
Ordinary Time
October 6-7, 2018**

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Living Catholic in the 808: True North

**Very Rev. Msgr. Gary L. Secor, V.G.
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Adopting challenging goals and striving for high standards are important in life. They help us to receive the deep joy and fruitfulness that God wants us to have. Today's scriptures, in speaking about the relationship of husband and wife, present us with these sort of "true north" principles that can serve to give direction to married life.

Genesis reminds us that the ultimate goal of marriage in unity; a oneness of mind, heart, and purpose. Although the passage speaks of this in physical terms, we know that this sort of oneness is more than just bodily closeness. It is a much deeper intimacy and sharing of life; a real partnership. The Gospel of Mark reaffirms this goal and adds that this union is meant to be indissoluble and should not be divided. To easily settle for less, as Jesus reminds us, is to give in to the "hardness of our hearts".

But, as Hebrews reminds us, we are not angels. We are human beings, who are weak and imperfect. And we suffer as we strive to live these ideals in the real world. So, while we continue to hold up God's standards for marriage, we are painfully aware that many suffer because of broken promises. Sometimes, the best thing to do is to accept the death of a relationship. But, it should never be done lightly or merely as an escape from the truth that God offers to us. And, thankfully, we have a merciful and forgiving God who understands and accepts us. God loves us unconditionally, not matter what mistakes we or others may have made in life.

Today we are called to continue to strive for the excellence that God invites us to; a more excellent way of loving whether we are married or single, young or old. And, as we deal with human weakness, we are invited to receive and extend God's mercy.