

# A Year of Renewal

27th Sunday in Ordinary Time Oct 3/4

## God's presence/call in my personal history

*During the Year of Renewal, it is suggested you take notes and keep them in a notebook regarding your thoughts, reflections, prayers, or as you think of or answer questions. Developing the practice of keeping a journal is a good way to do this.*

## Readings from the Liturgy:

Genesis 2:18-24 and Mark 10: 2-16

**Begin** this time by slowly reading the selections from the Book of Genesis and Mark's gospel. Recall a word or words that stand out. Spend some time quietly praying or reflecting on the meaning of the Scriptures.

Scholars have long noted that the Book of Genesis contains two separate accounts of creation. Today the selection is from the older account in Genesis 2:18-24 where God's actions are the central focus. Even after God showed the entire universe to the first human being, a feeling of loneliness and separation swept over the world God created. God creates us to serve as "partners" and friends. Our

relationships are God given, blessed by God and suggests an ideal of a community of equals. Nothing in creation is to be preferred.

In Mark's Gospel chapter 10: 2-16 we hear Jesus prohibiting divorce and remarriage and comparing the kingdom of God to those who are like little children. Jesus speaks of the ideals of marriage. According to this ideal, spouses are to place their partner in marriage and their family above all else—before work and advancement, before wealth, leisure and enjoyment. Then Jesus describes what the kingdom of God looks. It makes us like "little children," who are spontaneous in loving, not counting the cost, risking everything, happiest when in the arms of another, dreaming with no restrictions or hopes. "To such as these, the kingdom of God belongs." This kingdom is very attractive and terribly demanding. It is not at all surprising that the disciples scolded the parents who brought their children to Jesus. The disciples were not ready for this ideal of human love in the new kingdom.



## Reflection QUESTIONS

1 Name situations in your life that have given you a hint of what it means to be “called” by or “chosen” by God.

2 Make a list of the characteristics of love that you have experienced or observed.

3 From your list make specific statements characterizing God’s love for all people. Use the format, “God’s love is.....”

4 What gifts do you bring to your relationships?

5 How does God’s faithful love call you to be faithful in your relationships?

## P of the week PRAYER

*Creator of love, it is you who first loved us, making it possible for us to love one another in spite of our human weakness. Embrace all of us and send us your Spirit that we might come to know gentleness and affection, joy and compassion that through the love of our brothers and sisters you might renew the world. In all of our relationships grace us with the willingness to give and forgive. Amen.*

## A Family ACTIVITY on the Images of God

Needed Materials: paper, crayons or markers, about 30 minutes

Ask each member of the family to draw a picture of God. Parents may draw two pictures of God: one from their childhood and one from today.

After the pictures are completed, come together and share these pictures. Everyone must listen; there can be no laughing at each other’s pictures. Make the point that everyone’s “picture” of God is different and that our pictures of God will continue to grow and change as we grow up.

Post the pictures and invite family members to come back and add to their pictures as they think about it for the week.

Join hands and thank God for the many ways that we understand God. Pray that we may continue to look for new “faces” of God.

