

### **Collection Information for September 26**

Please see next week's bulletin for this information.

### **Monthly Calendar of Events**

**October 3** Mother's House Collection

**October 6** Youth Group Bible Study!

**October 10** Spiritual Campaign-All members of the parish please attend!

### **Spiritual Campaign**

We are starting a Spiritual Campaign at St. Cecilia! This is the first initiative of our new Parish Council working with the norms promulgated by Bishop Rice this summer. It will be a campaign of prayer, and we will begin with workshops for learning different ways to pray, then begin a time of putting these forms of prayer into practice with our families, and then forming prayer groups to carry on this most important ministry of prayer in our parish. **More information to follow! Mark your calendar: on October 10 at 11:45am.**

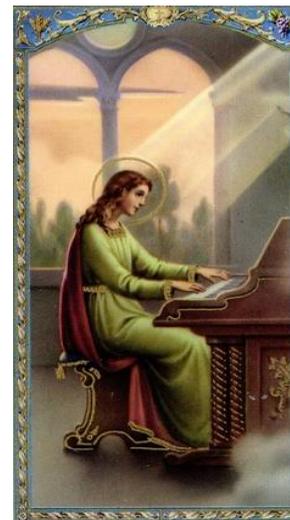
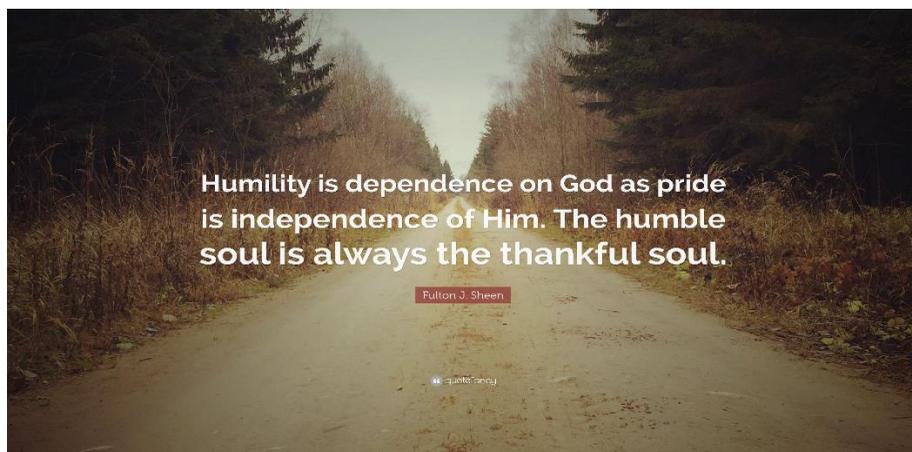
### **Liturgical Note**

Thank you for bring the gift of your beautiful voices to mass every Sunday! We are going to try to get back into singing the Gloria, the Holy Holy Holy, and the Mystery of Faith next week. We will practice a few minutes before mass next week.

Gloria: <https://youtu.be/TKHRMIEt30s>

Mystery of Faith: <https://youtu.be/KCJrBfGQUp4>

### **Virtue vs. Vice Corner**



**St. Cecilia Catholic Church**  
1226 College Avenue  
PO Box 306  
Kennett, MO 63857  
[www.stceciliakennett.com](http://www.stceciliakennett.com)

**October 3, 2021**

**Fr. David Baunach, Pastor**

417-851-7136 [davidbaunach@gmail.com](mailto:davidbaunach@gmail.com)

Luis Hernandez, Hispanic Ministry (417) 496-5622

Lynnette Anderson, Parish Secretary

Vanessa Cowart, PSR Director (561) 351-1380

Magda Cazares, Youth Group Director

### **Weekly Schedule**

**No Monday or Wednesday masses this week.**

Sunday Masses: 10:30am Mass in English

(10:05am Rosary; Divine Mercy Chaplet the first Sunday of the month)

1pm Mass in Spanish

If you would like to receive the Holy Eucharist and are unable to attend mass, please contact Fr. David at his number above.

### **Please pray for /Oramos para:**

Paul Deken, +Sandy DeLisle, +Mary Gurley, Justin Miller, Deanne Cole, Greg Bradley, Bob and Sharon Hines, Vera Gleuck, Kathy Larsen. Especially let us remember our bishops and our priest, Fr. David, and our homebound.

### **Fr. David's Parish Office Hours:**

Kennett Monday and Wednesday 10-4, Tuesday off,

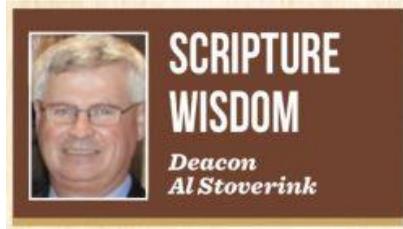
Thursday and Friday in Portageville 10-4

Wednesday: Adoration at 5; mass at 6

Fr. David is available for the **Sacrament of Reconciliation** during Adoration or by appointment.

# A sacramental marriage covenant displays the Holy Trinity

Reflection on the Twenty-Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time by Deacon Al Stoverink



The Scripture readings for the 27th Sunday of Ordinary Time are used: **Genesis 2:18-24; Psalm 128:1-2, 3, 4-5, 6; Hebrews 2:9-11 & Mark 10:2-16**

Jesus makes a bold statement in St. Mark's Gospel today, "What God has joined together, no human being must separate." What does this mean for us?

In another version of this teaching in St. Matthew's Gospel, we discover that the disciples of Jesus found this saying hard to accept. They reacted emotionally saying, "If that is the case of a man with his wife, it is better not to marry."

In our society today we are finding it hard to accept as well. The disciples of Jesus did not quite get it right, and many people today are experiencing the same sense of confusion. Jesus acknowledges that not everyone can accept this message. This is a key point because Jesus's whole teaching on marriage revolves around the following statements: "God made them male and female. The two shall become one flesh. Therefore, what God has joined together, let no human being put asunder (or tear apart)."

What Jesus is saying? He is talking about what God has created. Jesus is explaining that what God has joined together cannot be pulled apart. What God has made and joined together is a male and a female. This is the Image of God, who is a Holy Trinity, a Community of Love of three persons in one being. A sacramental marriage covenant displays the Holy Trinity. A sacramental marriage joins together three persons — husband, wife, and God — and they become one flesh.

There is a huge difference between a sacramental covenant of marriage, in the image of the Holy Trinity, and a civil contract of marriage, in the image of purely human relationships. Both are legitimate. Children born of a civil contract of marriage are as legitimate as any other children. But the civil contract, as with any mere human contract, can be terminated at any time by divorce.

A sacramental marriage goes well beyond the civil standard. It is permanent! No power on earth can dissolve it. It remains until death. In addition, and most importantly, it includes God as an integral partner, making the marriage a threesome, not just a twosome. This is what God created in the beginning with Adam and Eve. God had a covenantal marriage relationship with Adam and Eve. This is what makes us, as the offspring of Adam and Eve, into children of God. Unfortunately, Adam and Eve did not always follow in the path of the covenant. Through them, Original Sin came into the world. Sin entered our world and so did brokenness. Our new life of faith was restored through the marriage of Jesus to the Church. And today, we are brought to new birth in this marriage of Christ and the Church. This happens in Baptism.

Sacramental marriage reflects the love of the Holy Trinity. It reflects the covenant relationship of the three persons of the Holy Trinity, and the marriage of Christ to the Church.

Returning to our question at the beginning, what do Jesus's words mean for us? They clearly mean that the essence of a true, **sacramental marriage** in the eyes of Jesus **is a permanent relationship of love among three persons — husband, wife, and God** — in a totally committed, totally self-giving, loving relationship with each other.



The Good News of the Gospel is that we are part of God's Community of Love. A sacramental marriage, what God has truly joined together, of which Jesus speaks in the Gospel is indeed sacred, permanent, and cannot be dissolved. What this means for us is that we all need to prayerfully support, encourage, educate, and strengthen the understanding of totally committed, totally self-giving love among couples before they are married, so that more marriages are indeed entered into as valid, sacramental covenants with God at the center. As the Responsorial Psalm states clearly, "May the Lord bless us all the days of our lives."

*Deacon Stoverink is assigned to Immaculate Conception Parish in Jackson, MO, where he also lives.*