

October 7, 2012

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27th Sunday Ordinary Time

## God Made Them Male and Female

Fr. Jose Cortes

**G**od made them male and female. For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother (and be joined to his wife), and the two shall become as one flesh.” (Mk. 10:6-8)

Marriage is presented to us for reflection this 27th Sunday in Ordinary Time. How auspicious this happens to be also, because we celebrate likewise today the feast in honor of Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary. God’s creative power shows the very reason why He made male and female to be joined together as one flesh. So there is no question as to who created them. Let us ask ourselves who can join them as one flesh.

These situations might present themselves to us: Man and woman living together

1. By mere mutual consent;
2. By virtue of civil marriage; and
3. By virtue of church marriage.

Living together by mere mutual consent could be considered as the very basic natural union of living beings. Mutual consent involving intellect and free-will elevates humans from the instinctive consent of animals.

Living together by virtue of civil marriage underlies also mutual consent. The union is therefore more than just a natural one with the



intervention of government authority prescribing essential requirements for the celebration.

Finally, living together by virtue of church marriage underlies likewise mutual consent and compliance with prescribed government requirements. Church blessing distinguishes this union from others.

There is this very relevant declaration today that “... what God has joined together, no human being must separate” (Mk 10:9). God has joined them together as one flesh. How does this joining together happen? God’s authority is certainly involved as the very cause. We do not see God joining them together but the Church imparts God’s blessing on the contracting parties in marriage. Aside from being borne out of mutual consent and enjoying legal effects, Church Marriage is more than any contract because it is a Sacrament of grace from God.

It is indeed very meaningful how God blesses the union of husband and wife so that no one would dare separate them. They have a shared mission to fulfill as meant for them by God. Raising a family is so important and challenging so that God’s blessing in marriage is already a great assurance of an enduring help that they need

### DAILY READINGS

Oct 7 Sun:	Gn 2:18-24/ Heb 2:9-11/ Mk 10:2-16
Oct 8 Mon:	Gal 1:6-12/ Lk 10:25-37
Oct 9 Tues:	Gal 1:13-24/ Lk 10:38-42
Oct 10 Wed:	Gal 2:1-2, 7-14/ Lk 11:1-4
Oct 11 Thurs:	Gal 3:1-5/ Lk 11:5-13
Oct 12 Fri:	Gal 3:7-14/ Lk 11:15-26
Oct 13 Sat:	Gal 3:22-29/ Lk 11:27-28

### Sunday Gospel Mk 10:2-16

The Pharisees approached Jesus and asked, “Is it lawful for a husband to divorce his wife?” They were testing him. He said to them in reply, “What did Moses command you?” They replied, “Moses permitted a husband to write a bill of divorce and dismiss her.” But Jesus told them, “Because of the hardness of your hearts he wrote you this commandment. But from the beginning of creation, God made them male and female. For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh. So they are no longer two but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, no human being must separate.” In the house the disciples again questioned Jesus about this. He said to them, “Whoever divorces his wife and marries another commits adultery against her; and if she divorces her husband and marries another, she commits adultery.”

**“They are no longer two but one flesh”**

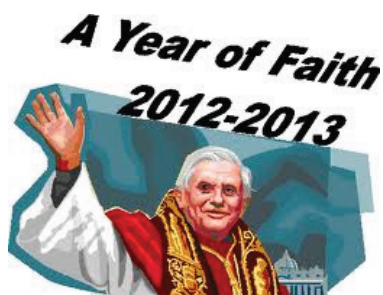


**P**ope St. Pius V established this feast in 1573. The purpose was to thank God for the victory of Christians over the Turks at Lepanto—a victory attributed to the praying of the rosary. Clement XI extended the feast to the universal Church in 1716.

The development of the rosary has a long history. First, a practice developed of praying 150 Our Fathers in imitation of the 150 Psalms. Then there was a parallel practice of praying 150 Hail Marys. Soon a mystery of Jesus' life was attached to each Hail Mary. Though Mary's giving the rosary to St. Dominic is recognized as a legend, the development of this prayer form owes much to the followers of St. Dominic. One of them, Alan de la Roche, was known as "the apostle of the rosary." He founded the first Confraternity of the Rosary in the 15th century. In the 16th century the rosary was developed to its present form—with the 15 mysteries (joyful, sorrowful and glorious). In 2002, Pope John Paul II added the Mysteries of Light to this devotion.

The purpose of the rosary is to help us meditate on the great mysteries of our salvation. Pius XII called it a compendium of the gospel. The main focus is on Jesus—his birth, life, death and resurrection. The Our Fathers remind us that Jesus' Father is the initiator of salvation. The Hail Marys remind us to join with Mary in contemplating these mysteries. They also make us aware that Mary was and is intimately joined with her Son in all the mysteries of his earthly and heavenly existence. The Glories remind us that the purpose of all life is the glory of the Trinity.

The rosary appeals to many. It is simple. The constant repetition of words helps create an atmosphere in which to contemplate the mysteries of God. We sense that Jesus and Mary are with us in the joys and sorrows of life. We grow in hope that God will bring us to share in the glory of Jesus and Mary forever.



### QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

**How are Year of Faith and New Evangelization linked?**

The New Evangelization is a call to each Catholic to deepen his or her own faith, have confidence in the Gospel, and possess a willingness

to share the Gospel. The New Evangelization is first and foremost a personal encounter with Jesus Christ; it is an invitation to deepen one's relationship with Christ. It is also a call to each person to share his or her faith with others. The Year of Faith, just like the New Evangelization, calls Catholics to conversion in order to deepen their relationship with Christ and to share it with others.

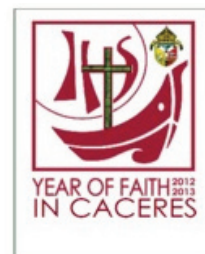
**How does the Year of Faith affect the average Catholic?**

Every baptized Catholic is called through baptism to be a disciple of Christ and proclaim the Gospel. The Year of Faith is an opportunity for each and every Catholic to renew their baptismal call by living out the everyday moments of their lives with faith, hope and love. This everyday witness is necessary for proclaiming the Gospel to family, friends, neighbors and society. In order to witness to the Gospel, Catholics must be strengthened through celebrating weekly Sunday Mass and the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Pastors are encouraged to provide their parishioners with opportunities to deepen their faith during the Year of Faith through retreats, special liturgies, Bible studies, service opportunities and formation sessions on the catechism and sacraments.

**What are some key resources for the Year of Faith?**

Catholics wishing to deepen their faith during the Year of Faith should start by attending the formal opening of this event on October 11, 2012 4pm, at the Metropolitan Cathedral, Naga City. After that we will have numerous activities such as catechetical resources, prayers and other resources have been prepared for the Year of Faith and the New Evangelization that will strengthen our faith. Catholics can also talk to their parish priests and other parish leaders to learn about what activities and opportunities will be taking place within their communities. Most importantly, Catholics seeking to deepen their faith should pray daily, study Scripture and celebrate weekly Sunday Mass.





### **Pope Benedict Intention for October**

**P**ope Benedict's general prayer intention for October is: "That the new evangelisation may progress in the oldest Christian countries". His mission intention is: "That the celebration of World Mission Day may result in a renewed commitment to evangelisation".

Moreover, Benedict XVI asked everyone to join his prayers "entrusting to the Mother of God the main ecclesial events we are preparing to experience: the Year of Faith, and the Synod of Bishops on the New Evangelisation. May the Blessed Virgin accompany the Church on her mission to announce the Gospel to the men and women of our time".


**Archdiocesan News**

### **Archdiocesan Catechetical Day**



because of the participation of more than 800 catechists coming from the 89 parishes in the Archdiocese of Caceres.



### **Don't be Jealous to other Christians!**

**C**atholics should rejoice, and not be jealous, when other Christians succeed in doing the work of the Lord, Pope Benedict XVI said.

"God can do good and even amazing things outside the circle" of the Catholic Church, the pope said Sept. 30, commenting on the day's Gospel reading during his midday Angelus address.

Speaking to pilgrims gathered in the courtyard of the papal villa at Castel Gandolfo, the pope quoted St. Augustine who said that just as there could be non-Catholic elements within the Catholic Church, "so there may be something which is Catholic outside the Catholic Church."

### **Welcome**

**Archbishop Tito Yllana, DD!**



Archbishop Adolfo Tito Yllana, DD, Apostolic Nuncio to Democratic Republic of Congo, Africa, enjoys a chat with Archbishop Legaspi. Archbishop Tito is spending his brief vacation in Naga until October 10, 2012.


**BASILICA NEWS**

### **Basilica Launches Christmas Angel Project**

**T**he Basilica Minore, through the leadership of Msgr. Rodel Cajot, Rector, formally announced last Sunday the project Christmas Angel 2012. It will be the first in Basilica. The project is open to all children aging 5-9 years (boy or girl). This money contest will be for the construction of the Museo de Nstr.Sra. de Penafrancia. There will be two canvassings and the "Pagtun-ton" will be on evening of December 24, 2012, before the midnight mass. Those interested can visit the Basilica Office or call 4733644.

### **COAT OF ARMS OF THE NEW ARCHBISHOP**



Most Rev. Rolando Tria Tirona, OCD, DD, the Archbishop-Elect of Caceres sent his Coat of Arms as he assumes office on November 14, 2012 in the Archdiocese.

Explanation of the logo next issue.

### **Archbishop Tirona to Visit INA**

**A**rchbishop Rolando Tirona, OCD, DD will be arriving on November 13, 2012 in the Archdiocese of Caceres. He will have his Liturgical reception at Holy Cross Parish, Tabuco Naga City. From there, he will immediately proceed to the Basilica Minore of Our Lady of Penafrancia, Balatas NC. He will pay homage to the Patroness of the Bicol Region. He will pray the act of consecration and sing the Salve Regina with the devotees of INA to ask for her intercession as he begins his ministry in Caceres.

The formal turn-over and installation of the New Archbishop will be on Nov. 14, 2012 at the Metropolitan Cathedral.

## IMAGES OF FAITH

A Photo Exhibit  
October 12-14, 2012  
SM City Naga

Sponsored by:

Penafrancia Basilica  
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Come and Bring your Family

“Once again, the Bicol Association of Charleston celebrated the Feast of the Lady of Penafrancia on Saturday, Sept. 14-15-16, 2012 at the US Navy’s “Short Stay “ Recreational Facilities in Moncks Corner, South Carolina. This year’s celebration is the thirty-first year for the association and Filipino catholics in the Lowcountry. Many Lowcountry Filipino-Americans and their guests attended the 3-day long activities”.



To all Penafrancia Associations outside Bicol:  
You can send your pictures to Basilica Bulletin

## Opening of the Year of Faith

October 11, 2012  
4:00pm  
Metropolitan Cathedral

Main Celebrant:  
MOST REV. ROLANDO TIRONA, OCD, DD  
Archbishop Elect of Caceres

Preacher:  
MOST REV. LEONARDO Z. LEGASPI OP, DD  
Archbishop Emeritus of Caceres



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