

Christian Marriage

Homily, 14th July, 2018

Celebration of the Sacrament of Marriage

John 2,1-12

father. G. Paparone o.p.

What does man need the most?
What makes us truly happy?
Some people thank money, other power, others knowledge.

But we all know that **what we continuously are looking for is love.**

Sincerely, we are looking for being loved rather than loving.
But we all certainly look for love.
Whether we are aware or not, whether we know or not, we are always searching for love.

Even reputation, success, honour are indirect forms of searching for the love we are not able to give to ourselves and to others.

To understand the meaning of marriage, one must learn what the true **nature of love is**, and we must learn **how to realize** the mystery of love within us.

For us believers, there is no doubt because we know that God's love and **He does everything for love.**

We are his image thus, we were created by love, we are molded with love and can only find happiness in love, **so far as we live on love.**

Christian marriage is the school of love.

It was thought to enable individuals to develop love.

Modern science, psychology and philosophy have discovered that human kind is a creature of relationship, which means he can't live without relationships.

Now, which is the most necessary and fecund relationship in life?
Obviously love.

Thus, this truth is confirmed by the Scriptures, which teach us that man and wife will be one body, one flesh, one only heart.

The objective of marriage is to become one, to think as though the couple is one, the two are complementary, inseparable; it means not being able to think of oneself without the other.

For eternity.

This is Christian marriage.

Is this possible?

No!

It is not possible for us humans, this is not in our capacity.

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This is because humankind was not able to remain faithful to God and broke away from him.

This produced mistrust, conflict between man (Cain and Able) and between man and women.

So, should we despair in attaining the aim of this Project?

Of course not!

On the contrary, we are here to prove the contrary.

We are here today because we believe this is possible.

This couple, which is about to be wed firmly, believes they can become one body and one soul.

If today you are being married in Church it is because of this reason; it's because you believe this is possible.

It's because you believe in God and thus, you must be aware that realizing this project does not depend solely on your capability but on the *Grace* that God will give you through Jesus Christ.

For this reason, today you have invited Jesus to your wedding, just like the couple in the Gospel we have just listened to.

John's Gospel is teaching us precisely this truth.

The feast is about to turn into sadness because of the shortage of wine.

Jesus changes water into wine and the result is far better than the original they had bought with their own money.

What does this beautiful Gospel teach us?

There are two different way of living.

Two ways that are not alternatives to one another but consecutive; surely, they are different and irreducible but we can join them.

Here are the two way of living:

- **The world of our resources:** in other words, **the wine we buy**, the feast we organize, the limitations of worldly matter...
- **The world of God's resources:** meaning **the new wine** deriving from water that the Lord has transformed which is better than the one we produce through our efforts

So, the Gospel is inviting us, my dear spouses, to have faith in God, to set your water before him, your limitations, your emptiness, your will power, your desires, your hopes – to put everything in his hands.

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We are here today because you have trying to organize everything at your best.

You then came to ask me if I could celebrate your marriage; you have done your best.

Tomorrow is another day.

You will start living a new life; a life in which you won't be able to ensure that your preparation is perfect and prevent mistakes.

I say to you, remember this moment every time you come across any difficulty; think back at this moment, this celebration, the words I'm saying to you, every time you feel fatigue.

That way, you will put the water of your weakness, of your incapacity in the hands of Jesus through Mary.

You will have to pray Jesus that he gives you the good wine and the Holy Spirit with which you may overcome your difficulties.

Do not be afraid.

Do not be doubtful.

Have faith!

Call upon the Lord, **together**, the two of you, so that he may help you through your fragilities or what seems impossible to you and **your water will turn into wine.**

I invite all the couples who are present today to do the same to your marriage.

And now, let us thank God for his mercy and his love.

Let us thank him and praise him so that he may help us.

Let us thank him and praise him because he wants to give us his Holy Spirit.

Let us thank him and praise him because he wants to make us strong and victorious through his love.

Glory unto you, Lord Jesus, who calls upon us to live as your children e wants to grant us your Kingdom.

Glory unto you, Lord Jesus, who today is granting these spouses the grace of happiness and the wholeness of your love.

Amen.