

THIS WEEK'S SCRIPTURE

October 7, 2018

The Twenty-Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

Genesis 2:18-24 † Hebrews 2:9-11 † Mark 10:2-16



Reflection by: Sister Carol Van Billiard, OP

I was speaking to a man who is married for seventy years. He is 97 and his wife is 99. She is sinking into dementia. His children urge him to place her in a nursing home. He said he thought about it but then said: "I think I'll keep her home and make her happy!" Talk about love; talk about commitment; talk about relationship. For him, love is forever. Until death means just that.

Marriage is being in **right** relationship. We presume when a couple enters into marriage that they are in **right** relationship. Yes, the ideal is forever. But, when a relationship fails and is filled with anger that begins to taint everyone and everything, one has to honestly ask and answer: "Have I tried to work it out through prayer and honest dialogue?" Sometimes people remain together and pretend that theirs is a marriage, when they truly are divorced from each other. Is this what God wants for his people?

A word of advice from Kahlil Gibran's *The Prophet*:

Let there be spaces in your togetherness,
And let the winds of the heavens dance between you.
Love one another, but make not a bond of love:
Let it be rather a moving sea between the shores of your souls.

Image: *Love is Forever*, Sujit Mahapatra, Roosevelt Park, Edison, NJ, 03/02/08 via TrekEarth.com