

Reflection Tuesday Week 30 – 2022

Although language is often helpful, it can also confuse and be misunderstood. The language used by St Paul on the relationship between husband and wife is at times confusing.

Hopefully you have met couples who have been together for a long time that they know each other so well they are able to finish one another's sentences. This makes sense of two becoming one flesh. In the days of St Paul, the role of men and women in a family were very distinct from each other and recognised and accepted by both parties. Today the situation is very different. In some families the woman is the bread winner and the man is the househusband. In families today there is a greater sense of respect and a desire to share responsibilities for the good of the whole family. What has always been true in marriage is that love is the key ingredient that holds the family together in good times and in bad. There is also a greater sense of the value and importance of service. We hand over our lives to Christ only to find that he helps bring out the best in us. After all Jesus showed his service not only by washing feet but by giving his life for us. Marriage, as Pope Francis says, is the best model we have of discovering God's love for us through Jesus Christ.

Pope Francis: *Marriage is a marvellous gift, which contains the power of God's own love: strong, enduring, faithful, ready to start over after every failure or moment of weakness... In marriage, Christ gives himself to you, so that you can find the strength to give yourselves to one another. So take heart: family life is not "mission impossible"! The family is not a lofty ideal that is unattainable in reality. God solemnly promises his presence in your marriage and family, not only on the day of your wedding, but for the rest of your lives.*