

► Sunday, October 5, 2008, Twenty-seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

Is 5:1-7; Ps 80:9, 12, 13-14, 15-16, 19-20; Phil 4:6-9; Mt 21:33-43

Week #7: Main Theme: The importance of purity and chastity for true freedom.

The first reading reminds us of the absolute necessity of producing good fruit in our lives. We are to bring forth grapes, not “wild grapes.” How do we bring forth good fruit? The second reading from Philippians points to the way: to keep our hearts and minds fixed on Christ Jesus. Cling to Jesus, especially in the sacraments of the Eucharist and Confession. God’s grace makes it possible for us to live up the demands of true love. We are to think only of “whatever is true, honorable, just, pure, lovely, gracious...” It is imperative that we guard the purity of our minds and our imaginations, especially from demeaning sexual images found in the mass media and in pornography. This will serve the growth of chastity in us, which brings forth the good fruit of purity and freedom. Yes, freedom! Chastity frees us to truly give of ourselves. As the Australian bishops have said, sex “is the language of total gift. If one or both persons are not yet ready to say ‘I give all that I am, including my body’ and ‘I accept from you the gift of all that you are, including your body,’ then they are not ready for sex. If a couple does not fear becoming a real gift to each other, they should not fear marriage.”

Bulletin: “We should say what we mean and mean what we say with sex. And sex says marriage. Sexual intercourse is the body language which accompanies and expresses, again and again, the wedding vows. It is the language of total gift. If one or both persons are not yet ready to say ‘I give all that I am, including my body’ and ‘I accept from you the gift of all that you are, including your body,’ then they are not ready for sex. If a couple does not fear becoming a real gift to each other, they should not fear marriage.”

Australian Bishops Conference, *Marriage in the Catholic Church: Frequently Asked Questions*, 2006

Suggested bulletin insert: “Body Language: Speaking the Truth with Our Bodies”