

## Reflection from Fr. Heston

My Dear Brothers & Sisters in Christ,

Marriage! The readings today speak to us about the creation of man and woman and their union with one another in marriage. Today, it is so difficult to speak about marriage because our culture is against the Christian idea of marriage. We have to be able to speak clearly and yet not condemn anyone.

The First Reading today is from Genesis and speaks of the creation of woman. It is important to hear this teaching as it was meant and not to listen to it only with interpretations of our time. The author wants us to know that men and women come from the same creation & that there is a close relationship between men and women and the God creates them both.

The Second Reading is from the Letter to the Hebrews. The phrase that can link this Second Reading with the two other readings is this, "He who consecrates and those who are being consecrated all have one origin." This reaffirms the teaching that we are all from God; that men and women are equal even though not the same. In the Letter to Hebrews, the point is that men and women are both created by God and can live a Sacrament together because they are both of God and marry to live out that relationship in God.

For Jesus, marriage is clearly a gift from God. Marriage is between a man and a woman. Marriage is also about having children. Marriage is a celebration of creation & of God's love. In much of our modern culture, people no longer believe in God. People believe that marriage is just any two people making a commitment to one another. Many today do not want to have children in a marriage because it complicates the marriage. Finally, marriage is seen as something only on a human level and is not seen as a Sacrament.