

Knight Light Chaplain's Message: January, 2013

Dear Brother Knights,

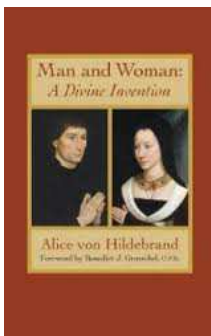
During our Advent Mission we heard some inspiring words from Apologist, Tim Staples, about manhood. The talk was actually about the idea that the pinnacle of God's creation is *woman*. But in order to approach the topic of womanhood, Mr. Staples took a round-about way by first talking about manhood. He said that men, especially husbands and fathers, must see



themselves as protectors and guardians of their wives and families. They must be real men and “stop crying and start dying.” We must be like Christ who died for his bride the church (Ephesians 5:26ff). At every wedding, the couple makes mutual vows to one another to die to their own personal will and do the will of the other. When they say “I do” they make a vow of self-abnegation for the whole of life that “not my will but thine be done.” The wedding vows are the “ratification” of a marriage, which is the most important part. After which the “consummation” of the marriage is a “body language,”

which expresses what has already been said in the vows. Without this *ratification* of total self-abnegation, the *consummation* is nothing more than selfish fornication.

So, during a marriage a man must be willing to suffer for his bride “as Christ loved the church and handed himself over for her” (Eph. 5:25). A man must be ready to lay down his life, or to “take the bullet” for his wife. This also means little sacrifices, such as getting up at 2:00 AM to change diapers! Have you felt lately that your wife has given you a scourging or a crown of thorns? Jesus endured this and more from his bride, people for whom he died! His bride killed him. The great image of the perfect husband is Christ in the Garden of Gethsemane throwing himself down on the ground in agony and in a bloody sweat for the sake of his beloved.



And she *is* worth dying for! Mr. Staples explained that God created woman as the pinnacle of creation. He quoted Alice Von Hildebrand, who once said that man was made from the slime of the earth, and woman was made from man. Which is better: slime or man? (Some might laughingly say that men are worse than slime!) Woman was created from something that is greater. Therefore she is the final pinnacle of creation. St. Paul says that

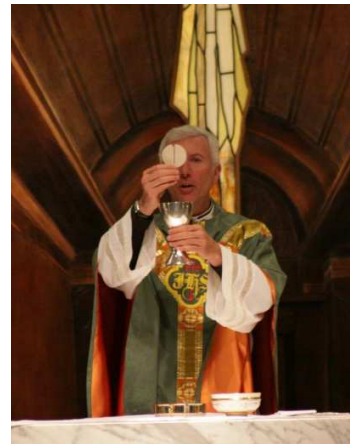
“man is the image and glory of God, but woman is the glory of man.” (1Cor 11:7) This basically means God had the intention of creating man, but his ultimate intention was to create woman.

Femininity represents what God has created so that he could love it. Femininity represents all that he created beautiful and loveable. Men are not much to look at. I am always struck by the fact that when a beautiful woman walks down the street, not only do all the men look, but all the women, too! (The women say things like: “I could wear that!”)



Maleness represents the way God is. In the Sacrament of Marriage the husband is like God who plants seeds of life and love. The Marriage Ritual says that marriage is “the sacrament of the love between Christ and his church.” The husband represents Christ, and the bride represents the church. The church receives life and love from Christ. Femininity represents receptivity.

Maleness represents the way God is. Also, in the Sacrament of Holy Orders the priest symbolizes God who spreads seeds of life and love. Bishop Fulton Sheen explained that priests are male, because they must spread the seeds of the Word of God over the fertile land which is Mother Church. Sometimes we see that there are many women in church, but this is natural because they are more receptive to the word of God. Sometimes we see men standing outside of church instead of attending Mass, but perhaps this, too, is natural because they often think they *are* God! Incidentally, it is advantageous that priests are men, so that people at Mass do not look too much at their appearance and become distracted away from the true purpose: the Eucharist!



And, of course, we know that the Immaculate Conception of the Virgin Mary is the true pinnacle of creation. God made her to be the perfect creature so that he could love her and make his dwelling with her. She is the great image of the Church, the beloved, the bride.

During this New Year, let us be faithful and grateful men who know how to esteem, honor and defend our wives, mothers, sisters and daughters. And let us especially love the Most Pure and Holy Virgin who received God's Word and bore him in her womb!

Sincerely,

**Rev. Mark Wagner
Chaplain
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