

Commentary on Readings for Sunday, October 5, 2003
Dr. Emilio G. Chávez, J.D., S.T.D.
Asst. Prof. of Sacred Scripture,
St. Vincent de Paul Regional Seminary

The readings for Sunday, October 5, bespeak the high dignity of the human person. In Genesis, God places the man he created in a paradisiacal garden full of good things, and gives him lordship over the rest of creation. As the final touch, God forms the woman from Adam's very being, distinguishing her as the man's fit companion in contrast to the other creatures over whom they shall have dominion. The unity of man and woman makes them "one flesh." At this point, all is innocence and blessing. This is reflected in the responsorial psalm, which declares happy (or congratulates) those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways, for for them, there is happiness in work and in family life, and the curses of the Fall (Gen 3:16-19) recede into the background.

The reading from Hebrews refers to Ps 8, which marvels at the high dignity of human beings, applying it to Christ, who best mirrors our being created in God's image and likeness. But in order to restore this divine semblance in us, Jesus had to be "perfected" through suffering, treading a very hard path of obedience to God's will, rather than self-indulgence. In this he showed both his brotherly solidarity with us and his faithful sonship towards the Father.

The Gospel reading reflects Jesus' eschatological ethic, the return in the End Time to God's original intention in Genesis, that marriage be indissoluble, which renders void the temporary concession made by Moses allowing divorce in Deut 24.