

## Homily 6th Sunday in Easter - Year C (26.5.19)

I was inspired today by the wedding I had yesterday and they're here, the lovely, young honeymoon couple, Susan and Trevor. Give them a wave, everybody.

[applause]

They said they'd come to mass before they went on their honeymoon. Isn't that good?

[chuckle]

But the readings that Susan chose reminded me that, Easter leading to Pentecost, is about **consummation**, because the Bible begins with a wedding and ends with a wedding. In the Book of Genesis, you have two accounts of creation, both very different. And again, the author wasn't stupid, I said this yesterday. He knew they were different, and was preserving a theology about the existence of humanity. And in the reading that Susan chose; I love that reading where it says,

**"God created everything, and no helpmate was found for man. So He put man in a deep sleep, and ripped out a rib with its attendant flesh, and formed a woman."**

A woman. Adam then said,

**"This at last is flesh of my flesh, and bone of my bone."**

And it's not, again, that the author was stupid. He does know that men do not give birth to anything, and that boys and girls come from women. But he's doing this paradox to show the interconnection of the two sexes, male and female, for the species. That in, other words, they're joined at the hip. He actually says,

**"This is why a man leaves his mother and father, and clings to his wife because the two become one body."**

And it's about the creation reaching a unified apex in the creation of humanity, which is seen in its fullness in the unity of male and female. It was the consummation of God's creative act.

But then when we go to the last book of the Old Testament, the Apocalypse from which we heard of today, we see the new creation. With a heavenly Jerusalem, where there's no sun or moon needed, because the Lord God will be their light and the Lamb. And that brings us full circle to a consummation, because it goes on to say after this reading,

**"The marriage of the Lamb has come, and his bride has made herself ready."**

And that is us, filled with the Spirit of God, with God's mark of ownership on us.

Jesus on the cross, when he died, says,

**"It is consummated."**

And it was that sacrifice of Christ that sealed a new link, a new creation. Just as in the first creation, humanity reached its fullness in the apex of their unity. So now, humanity, through the humanity of Christ, is married to the divinity of God. We are raised to new heights. We have communion with the divine. The spark of the Spirit resonating in our hearts, reminds us that we are part of His flame. And we have a foretaste of that in the Eucharist and in our faith.