

Dear Padre,

I just got my new driver's license, and my wife is encouraging me to sign up to be an organ donor. Are organ transplants permitted by the Catholic Church?

Yes, under certain conditions. The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* affirms that "organ transplants are in conformity with the moral law if the physical and psychological dangers and risks to the donor are proportionate to the good that is sought for the recipient" (CCC 2296).

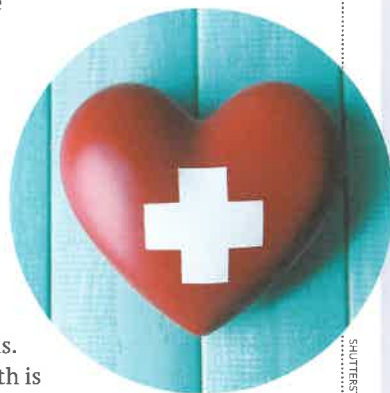
Organ transplants from a dead person to a living person must fulfill two additional criteria: First, the donor must give free and informed consent prior to death, or those who legitimately speak on the donor's behalf must do so at the time of death. And second, the donor must be dead before the tissue can be harvested—in other words, the donor must not be declared dead prematurely, nor may the donor's death be hastened just to use the organs. The *Catechism* adds, "Organ donation after death is a noble and meritorious act and is to be encouraged as an expression of generous solidarity."

The transplantation of organs from a living donor must fulfill two criteria: First, the removal of the organ must not seriously impair the donor's health or bodily function. Second, the donor must make an informed and free decision recognizing the potential risks involved.

Fr. David Louch, CSSR
Sundaybulletin@Liguori.org

Do you have a question for the Padre?

Go to DearPadre.org to send your question and to learn more about *Dear Padre*.



SHUTTERSTOCK

Calendar

Monday
OCTOBER 4
St. Francis of Assisi
Jon 1:1—2:2, 11
Lk 10:25—37

Tuesday
OCTOBER 5
Weekday
Jon 3:1—10
Lk 10:38—42

Wednesday
OCTOBER 6
Weekday
Jon 4:1—11
Lk 11:1—4

Thursday
OCTOBER 7
Our Lady of the Rosary
Mal 3:13—20b
Lk 11:5—13

Friday
OCTOBER 8
Weekday
Jl 1:13—15; 2:1—2
Lk 11:15—26

Saturday
OCTOBER 9
Weekday
Jl 4:12—21
Lk 11:27—28

Sunday
OCTOBER 10
Twenty-eighth Sunday
in Ordinary Time
Wis 7:7—11
Heb 4:12—13
Mk 10:17—30
or 10:17—27

**Know Someone
Overly Anxious About Sin?**
Since 1964, the Redemptorists' *Scrupulous Anonymous* free monthly newsletter has ministered compassionately to those struggling with scrupulosity. To subscribe, visit ScrupulousAnonymous.org.

HOMILY, OCTOBER 4, 2015

A WORD FROM Pope Francis

In the first reading we also hear that God was pained by Adam's loneliness....God did not create us to live in sorrow or to be alone. He made men and women for happiness, to share their journey with someone who complements them, to live the wondrous experience of love.



Our Parish COMMUNITY

October 3, 2021

Twenty-seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time (B)

Gn 2:18—24

Heb 2:9—11

Mk 10:2—16 or 10:2—12

A Suitable Partner

In the story of the creation of the first woman, the Hebrew word *ezer* is used to describe her relationship with the first man. Many Bibles translate that word as "helper" or "helpmate," thus making the woman an addition to the man. The *Lectionary* translates the word as "suitable partner," emphasizing mutuality rather than subservience. Since the word is generally used for divine assistance, it certainly does not imply inferiority.

Another important Hebrew word is *bad*, usually translated as "alone." A common meaning is "separated from," implying incompleteness in a relationship. This incompleteness is remedied when the man is given a suitable partner, one who is as intimate a companion to him as are his bones.

The intimacy of this relationship of mutuality is found in the Gospel passage as well. There the focus is

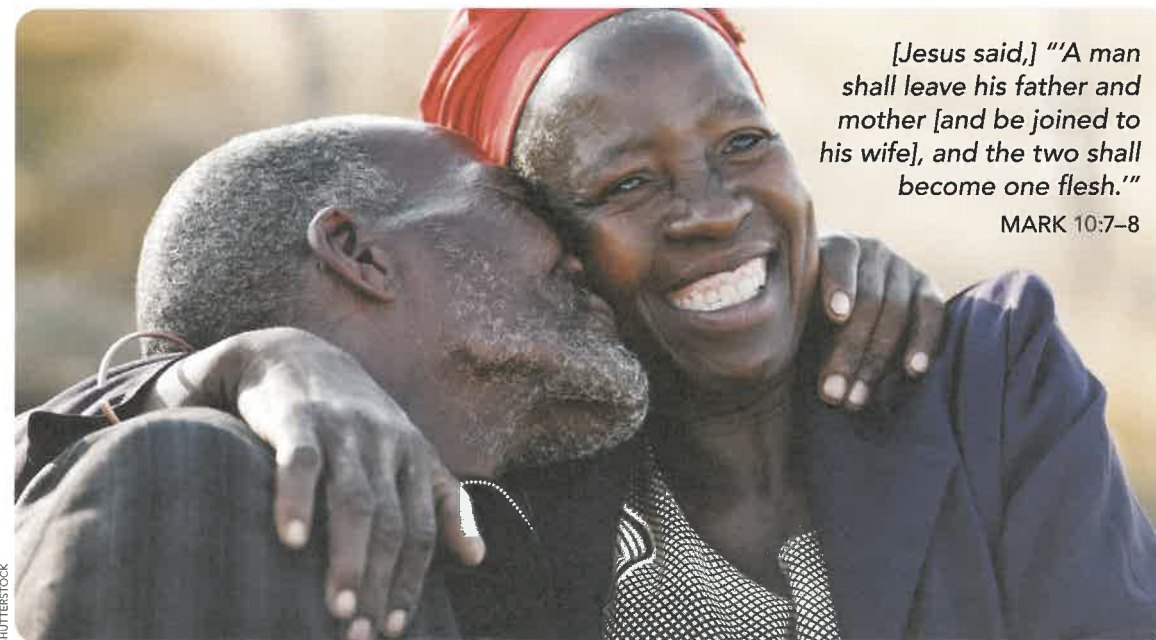
on the endurance of the relationship. Jesus insists that the bond that joins the couple together must not be severed. Many today might find this ruling too rigid. Things can happen in intimate relationships; partners can grow apart; staying together could become dangerous. While these are valid concerns today, women in the patriarchal society of the time would see Jesus' interpretation of the law as protecting them. By law only men could divorce their wives, and reasons for doing so could be as trivial as poor cooking.

Today's readings remind us of our need for intimate relationships of mutuality. They further underscore how important it is to cherish such relationships and to nurture them by respecting our partners.

Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA

FOR Reflection

- * Do you consider yourself a "suitable partner"?
- * Are you nurturing and respectful?



[Jesus said,] "A man shall leave his father and mother [and be joined to his wife], and the two shall become one flesh."

MARK 10:7-8

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