

## **FEBRUARY 24, 2017 FRIDAY**

### **Reading 1SIR 6:5-17**

A kind mouth multiplies friends and appeases enemies, and gracious lips prompt friendly greetings. Let your acquaintances be many, but one in a thousand your confidant. When you gain a friend, first test him, and be not too ready to trust him. For one sort is a friend when it suits him, but he will not be with you in time of distress. Another is a friend who becomes an enemy, and tells of the quarrel to your shame. Another is a friend, a boon companion, who will not be with you when sorrow comes. When things go well, he is your other self, and lords it over your servants; But if you are brought low, he turns against you and avoids meeting you. Keep away from your enemies; be on your guard with your friends. A faithful friend is a sturdy shelter; he who finds one finds a treasure. A faithful friend is beyond price, no sum can balance his worth. A faithful friend is a life-saving remedy, such as he who fears God finds; For he who fears God behaves accordingly, and his friend will be like himself.

### **Responsorial Psalm PS 119:12, 16, 18, 27, 34, 35**

R. (35a) Guide me, Lord, in the way of your commands.

Blessed are you, O LORD;  
teach me your statutes.

R. Guide me, Lord, in the way of your commands.

In your statutes I will delight;  
I will not forget your words.

R. Guide me, Lord, in the way of your commands.

Open my eyes, that I may consider  
the wonders of your law.

R. Guide me, Lord, in the way of your commands.

Make me understand the way of your precepts,  
and I will meditate on your wondrous deeds.

R. Guide me, Lord, in the way of your commands.

Give me discernment, that I may observe your law  
and keep it with all my heart.

R. Guide me, Lord, in the way of your commands.

Lead me in the path of your commands,  
for in it I delight.

R. Guide me, Lord, in the way of your commands.

### **Alleluia JN 17:17B, 17A**

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Your word, O Lord, is truth;  
consecrate us in the truth.

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

### **Gospel MK 10:1-12**

Jesus came into the district of Judea and across the Jordan. Again crowds gathered around him and, as was his custom, he again taught them. The Pharisees approached him and asked, "Is it lawful for a husband to divorce his wife?" They were testing him. He said to them in reply, "What did Moses command you?" They replied, "Moses permitted a husband to write a bill of divorce and dismiss her." But Jesus told them, "Because of the hardness of your hearts he wrote you this commandment. But from the beginning of creation, *God made them male and female. For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.* So they are no longer two but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, no human being must separate." In the house the disciples again questioned Jesus about this. He said to them, "Whoever divorces his wife and marries another commits adultery against her; and if she divorces her husband and marries another, she commits adultery."

### **Reflection:**

There was considerable dispute among Jewish lawyers in Jesus' time about valid reasons for divorce. That divorce was permitted to the husband (though not to the wife) by Jewish law, was assumed on the basis of Deut 24: 1-4. Jesus, however, takes the dispute back to God's original intention in creation. The Bible clearly states God's plan regarding the division of the sexes in humankind. He makes them man and woman in other words, they are incomplete beings who need to unite with one another to constitute one human unit. God makes them equal and wants to unite them, through ties stronger than those existing between parents and children. But often, human beings have not respected the plan of God. Let us understand the plan God and respect them in our daily life.