

# The beauty of Christian Marriage

How shall we ever be able adequately to describe  
the happiness of that marriage which the Church arranges,  
the Sacrifice strengthens,  
upon which the blessing sets a seal,  
at which angels are present as witnesses,  
and to which the Father gives his consent.

How beautiful, then, the marriage of true Christians,  
two who are one in hope,  
one in desire,  
one in the way of life they follow,  
one in the religion they practice.  
They are as brother and sister,  
both servants of the same Master.  
Nothing divides them, either in flesh or in spirit.  
They are, in very truth, two in one flesh;  
and where there is but one flesh  
there is also but one spirit.

They pray together, they worship together, they fast together;  
instructing one another, encouraging one another, strengthening one another.

Side by side they visit God's church  
and partake of God's Banquet (the Eucharist);  
side by side they face difficulties and persecution,  
share their consolations.

They have no secrets from one another;  
they never shun each other's company;  
they never bring sorrow to each other's hearts.

Unembarrassed, they visit the sick and assist the needy.  
They give alms without anxiety;  
they attend the Sacrifice without difficulty;  
they perform their daily exercises of piety without hindrance.

They need not be furtive about making the Sign of the Cross,  
nor timorous in greeting the brethren,  
nor silent in asking a blessing from God.  
Psalms and hymns they sing to one another,  
striving to see which one of them  
will chant more beautifully the praises of their Lord.

Hearing and seeing this, Christ rejoices.  
To such as these, he gives his peace.  
Where there are two together, there also he is present,  
and where he is, there evil is not.

**TERTULLIAN, from his treatise to his wife *Ad uxorem*, 8.  
Tertullian wrote this between A.D. 200 and 206.**