

**Thank you Deacon Mike for a beautiful homily this weekend on the importance of a Biblical understanding of Christian Marriage. I am going to continue the Deacon's theme, by using Mel Gibson's 2006 movie: Apocalypto to give a portrait about the importance of Christian Marriage and Family for a healthy culture.**

**The Mayan Kingdom was located in lower Mexico and South America.**

**-The Movie takes place during the decline of the Mayan culture. The Kingdom is fracturing and the leaders decide they need to capture, enslave, and sacrifice more people to the gods to maintain their power, stability, and good crops.**

**-A remote small Mayan tribe of hunters is captured by the greater Mayan kingdom: The villagers are taken away to the city and sold into slavery, and sacrificed to Mayan gods. Young children are sacrificed as well.**

**-Village life before they are captured: We see that the men cherish their women as the women cherish their husbands.**

**-In The power given to them to create life: they each honor the other's role.**

**-What fascinated me: one main character is pregnant: her husband hides her, and his first born child, before the village is overrun.**

**-This woman didn't have a perfect body but was beautiful even in her pregnancy. In fact, I noticed, none of the women had Hollywood bodies but were beautiful in their natural femininity.**

**-And I realized: our culture: media, print, tv, and movies: have created a distorted (hyper-sexualized) image for the ideal women / And by removing the potential to have a child from (sex) / Today we over-focus on consent and pleasure alone.**

**-For you women: don't fall for this / you are beautiful as you are / God has created you in His image and given you a great gift in your femininity.**

**-I noticed that instead of looking at these women as objects, I saw them in a more natural way, especially as mother of their children.**

**-Before the village is attacked you see the importance of family, and their importance to the village: The power that a man and women can become one, and give to themselves and the village children for their future.**

**-They understand procreation is unitive by giving Pleasure AND by the Gift of Children / In this village: Children are seen as a necessity, not as a burden or obstacle**

**-As for the Gospel: the village understands the importance of fidelity and longevity between husband and wife which gives stability to the family and to the village.**

**-The village before it's capture: appears very Christian-like in behavior / The person and family are respected, and not seen as objects to exploit.**

**-Contrasted with the Mayan city and culture, that show a disregard and little respect for the human person. The Mayan kingdom appears to be all about pleasure, exploitation, and the feeding of their gods.**

**-So the rest of the movie is about the husband escaping and going back to protect his wife and child.**

**-Marriage pre-dates cultures, civilizations, political parties, and ideologies. This is why Jesus goes back to Genesis: Marriage was at the heart of God's plan for man even before Creation. From the the beginning of creation...**

**-Dr. Mary Healy (A Catholic Professor of Scripture) says this: "With this pronouncement on marriage, Jesus brings His teachings on suffering, self denial, humility, and service into the most intimate sphere of human life. It is in the daily challenges of family relationships, to live out God's design for human love, that this mystery is lived out. Ultimately, the indissoluble union of husband and wife in the Sacrament of Marriage witnesses to the love, fidelity, and union of Christ and the Church, who can never be separated."**

**Lord please bless all of our vocations this day: our single members, our married family members, and our priests and religious. May our Guardian Angels protect us.  
AMEN**

**Prayer for "Consecrating the Election to the Virgin Mary"  
Please remember to really ask yourself: are any candidates, by their actions or words, not friendly towards our Catholic Faith.**

**Let us pray**

**"Mary Immaculate, living tabernacle of the Divinity, where the eternal Wisdom lies hidden to be adored and served by angels and men, Queen of heaven and of earth, beneath whose sway are subject all things that are lower than God, Patroness of the United States of America, sorrowful and mindful of our own sinfulness and the sins of our nation, we come to Thee, our refuge and hope. Knowing that our country cannot be saved by our own works and mindful of how much our nation has departed from the ways of Thy Son, we humbly ask that Thou wouldst turn Thine eyes upon our country to bring about its conversion. We consecrate to Thee the integrity of the upcoming election and its outcome, so that what is spiritually and morally best for the citizens of our country may be accomplished, and that all of those who are elected would govern according to the spiritual and moral principles which will bring our nation into conformity with the teachings of Thy Son. Give grace to the citizens of this land so that they will choose leaders according to the Sacred Heart of Thy Son, that His glory may be made manifest, lest we be given the leaders we deserve. Trusting in the providential care of God the Father and Thy maternal care, we have perfect confidence that Thou will take care of us and will not leave us forsaken. O Mary Immaculate, pray for us." Amen**

**Vivat Jesus,  
Father Vic Gournas**