

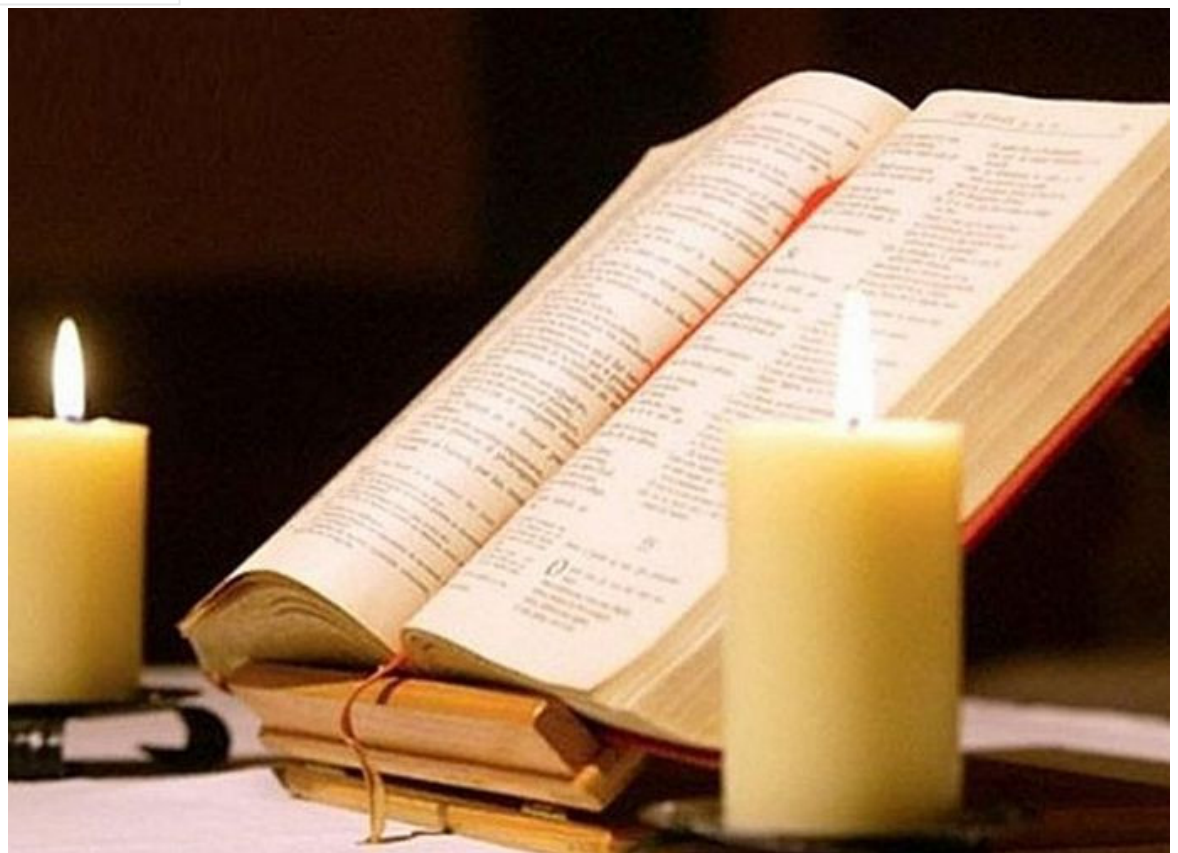
**GOSPEL PEARLS**

## The true soul mate

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*"You have heard that it was said, 'You shall not commit adultery.' But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lustful intent has already committed adultery with her in his heart. If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body be thrown into hell. And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body go into hell. "It was also said, 'Whoever divorces his wife, let him give her a certificate of divorce.' But I say to you that everyone who*

*divorces his wife, except on the ground of sexual immorality, makes her commit adultery, and whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery. (Matthew 5, 27-32)*

When we sin, we replace God's Will, as expressed in the commandments, with our own human will. In exchanging the two, we make many errors. Jesus reminds us just how sacred and indissoluble the Sacrament of Holy Matrimony is: a man leaves his spouse for another woman sees his happiness in her, but she will never be able to represent the fulfilment of a vocation. As J.R.R. Tolkien, author of *The Lord of the Rings*. wrote to his son Michael: " "When the glamour [of falling in love] wears off, or merely wears a bit thin, [married people] think they have made a mistake, and that the real soul-mate is still to find. . . And of course they are as a rule quite right: they did make a mistake.... But the 'real soul-mate' is the one you are actually married to."