



Crucifixion 2 by William Congdon

Homily

May 29, 2004

At the Marriage of Sonia and Christopher Fraser

Song of Songs 2:2-6 As a lily among thorns, so is my beloved among women. As an apple tree among the trees of the woods, so is my lover among men. I delight to rest in his shadow, and his fruit is sweet to my mouth. He brings me into the banquet hall and his emblem over me is love. Strengthen me with raisin cakes, refresh me with apples, for I am faint with love. His left hand is under my head and his right arm embraces me.

1 Corinthians 13:2-8a If I speak in human and angelic tongues but do not have love, I am a resounding gong or a clashing cymbal. And if I have the gift of prophecy and comprehend all mysteries and all knowledge; if I have all faith so as to move mountains but do not have love, I am nothing. If I give away everything I own, and if I hand my body over so that I may boast but do not have love, I gain nothing. Love is patient, love is kind. It is not jealous, (love) is not pompous, it is not inflated, it is not rude, it does not seek its own interests, it is not quick-tempered, it does not brood over injury, it does not rejoice over wrongdoing but rejoices with the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never fails.

Mark 10:6-9 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."

Last weekend I had the opportunity to speak with a wise old woman. She is the mother of Joe Deacon, Christopher's uncle. I told Mrs. Deacon that I would share with you what she told me. She mentioned the many fortunate times in her life that she used to consider were because of good luck. But, now she realizes that these times and in fact every day somebody touches her with the Grace and love of God. We come to realize this in the common experiences of life like when you were first dating and Sonia made sure you went to Easter Sunday Mass, or the look on your mother's face when you popped off your hat to show us your bright green Christmas hair, or at more extraordinary times when family and friends are invited to Rome to witness wedding vows in an incredibly beautiful church. We have never seen God and yet the reality of the Scriptures you chose for this celebration is that God loves us so much He dwells in us so we love each other during both the common and extraordinary events of our lives...and that love never fails.

Sonia and Christopher we also know it will not always be easy be the lovers who delight each other that we heard about in the first reading, especially when the times ahead pose difficult challenges with illness, or anger, or loss of a loved one, or the hundred things that will try to sweep your love away. You will give unconditional love in many forms in the years ahead, as well as receive the miracle of love in many ways...be patient, and kind, and unselfish, and endure all things...remember that love flows to you from the Grace of God.

So in Good times and in bad, always love each other and remember we will be there with His Grace and love when you need us. We are honored to be here today.

All God's Blessings, The Dad Fraser

Sonia and Christopher, it has been some time since you have thought of just yourself without the other. You have been bonded into one being. You are soul mates fused together. The Gospel reading calls you to be married in a special way...in the ancient male-dominated society, the woman was to leave her parents home to join her husband, but the Gospel says just the opposite...the man left his father and mother to be with his wife...you see, if necessary, we are to give up every privilege to be joined to our soul mates, that is what it means to be married in the Grace and love of God. You will come to a deep understanding of today's Gospel: "So they are no longer two but one flesh."

You are surrounded here today by family and special friends. We didn't just come as spectators though; we came to pray with you, to bless you and to witness the Grace of God in this holy union. We support you, today and will in years to come. And after you declare your vows before us, the Church, we will all respond in a rousing AMEN! Let it be so.