

Lindsey and Chad Convalidation

November 27, 2009

1st Reading: Song of Songs 2:8-10, 14, 16, 8:6-7

Hark! my lover---here he comes springing across the mountains, leaping across the hills. My lover is like a gazelle or a young stag. Here he stands behind our wall, gazing through the windows, peering through the lattices. My lover speaks; he says to me, "Arise, my beloved, my beautiful one, and come! "O my dove in the clefts of the rock, in the secret recesses of the cliff, Let me see you, let me hear your voice, For your voice is sweet, and you are lovely." My lover belongs to me and I to him; he browses among the lilies. Set me as a seal on your heart, as a seal on your arm; For stern as death is love, relentless as the nether world is devotion; its flames are a blazing fire. Deep waters cannot quench love, nor floods sweep it away.

Psalm 34:2-9

I will bless the LORD at all times

All: I will bless the LORD at all times

I will bless the LORD at all times; praise shall be always in my mouth. My soul will glory in the LORD that the poor may hear and be glad.

All: I will bless the LORD at all times

Magnify the LORD with me; let us exalt his name together. I sought the LORD, who answered me, delivered me from all my fears.

All: I will bless the LORD at all times

Look to God that you may be radiant with joy and your faces may not blush for shame. In my misfortune I called, the LORD heard and saved me from all distress.

All: I will bless the LORD at all times

The angel of the LORD, who encamps with them, delivers all who fear God. Learn to savor how good the LORD is; happy are those who take refuge in him.

All: I will bless the LORD at all times

2nd Reading: 1 Corinthians 12:31-13:9

Strive eagerly for the greatest spiritual gifts. But I shall show you a still more excellent way. 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. If there are prophecies, they will be brought to nothing; if tongues, they will cease; if knowledge, it will be brought to nothing. For we know partially and we prophesy partially, but when the perfect comes, the partial will pass away. When I was a child, I used to talk as a child, think as a child, reason as a child; when I became a man, I put aside childish things. At present we see indistinctly, as in a mirror, but then face to face. At present I know partially; then I shall know fully, as I am fully known. So faith, hope, love remain, these three; but the greatest of these is love.

Gospel: John 15:12-16

Jesus said to His disciples: This is my commandment: love one another as I love you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. I no longer call you slaves, because a slave does not know what his master is doing. I have called you friends, because I have told you everything I have heard from my Father. It was not you who chose me, but I who chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit that will remain, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name he may give you.

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Lindsey and Chad, did you know that in the early Church, for hundreds of years, a Christian wedding was not a special ceremony? It was like marriage ceremonies were for thousands of years in most societies, a very similar and simple vow between two people. It could be done anywhere...and undone just as easily. So what is so different today? We are gathered for the convalidation of your marriage and I would like to explain why it is such an extraordinary Sacrament by asking you 3 questions. Don't worry, they are not trick questions☺

First, Do you want a life that is loving, joyful and exciting? Then your life needs to be a balance of the physical, emotional and spiritual. You have worked with the Church to prepare for your marriage and you answered all the questions. Now comes the fun part, you get to nurture your marriage for the rest of your lives. The Physical you understand. Two people become as one....inseparable as long as you live. It didn't just happen by chance. God made you this way and He called you...and you responded. Emotional we can't get away from. The intense love we heard about in the first reading and that you feel for one another is undeniable....the Greeks called it Eros. It is not about sex as Freud said. Rather, Eros is the passion and special flame of love we have with another person, possibly with a family member and sometimes even with a close friend. It is the same passionate love that God has for us. The Greeks also had another word for love: Agape. It is the deep, unselfish and very spiritual love spoken about in the 2nd reading and the Gospel. It is the unconditional love of Christ Himself. It is the love that we, your family, share throughout our lives and Agape love we need to share with others. Spiritual is probably the most difficult of the 3 to connect with, but it can be the easiest as well. God called us to be holy. Job #1 from here on out is helping each other lead loving and holy lives. But I tell you it will be as easy as opening your hearts to God. When you do, I guarantee that He will take you places that you can't imagine, and you will experience incredible

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love and joy beyond happiness in your lives. This balance of physical, emotional and spiritual is a choice and you will know when it is not in balance.

Second, Do you want a strong relationship with each other? Then you need a strong relationship with God. A friend of mine recently told me that he has been a Catholic, all his life, believing in God and worshipping Him as a Catholic. But, my friend said he didn't realize that he was on a journey of relationship with God until a very painful event happened and he reached out to God for comfort. "You could have told me until you were blue in the face that I needed a relationship with God, not to just believe in Him. Until that experience, I didn't really understand." Today is one of those life changing experiences to help you understand how important your relationship is with each other and with God. Your married relationship is permanent, but it can't be taken for granted. It will take a lot of work and a lot of prayer.

Third, Do you know that God is with you always? Jesus never said life would be easy, He said that He would be with us always. We can't only look for God with our eyes or listen with our ears. We know that the living Christ is the Eucharist, and He is in the Scriptures you chose to hear Him speak today, and never forget that since our Baptism He is in us as well. The Holy Spirit is prodding us along everyday. Did you know that you couldn't have this Sacrament of Marriage if you weren't both baptized first? With Baptism you were blessed with the indelible spiritual mark of belonging to Jesus and we welcomed you into the Body of Christ, the Church. It doesn't just wash off. And now today we applaud and celebrate another great Sacrament in your lives. We are honored to be here today, no, we had to be here today, to hear your vows of love and fidelity before God and your Church.

All God's Blessing, Uncle Roger