

Homily

October 3, 2009

At the Marriage of Stephanie and Dan McIntyre



Crucifixion 2 by William Congdon

1st Reading, Tobit 4b-8: When the girl's parents left the bedroom and closed the door behind them, Tobiah arose from bed and said to his wife, "My love, get up. Let us pray and beg our Lord to have mercy on us and to grant us deliverance." She got up, and they started to pray and beg that deliverance might be theirs. He began with these words: "Blessed are you, O God of our fathers; praised be your name forever and ever. Let the heavens and all your creation praise you forever. You made Adam and you gave him his wife Eve to be his help and support; and from these two the human race descended. You said, 'It is not good for the man to be alone; let us make him a partner like himself.' Now, Lord, you know that I take this wife of mine not because of lust, but for a noble purpose. Call down your mercy on me and on her, and allow us to live together to a happy old age." They said together, "Amen, amen," and went to bed for the night.

2nd Reading 1 Cor 12:31-13:8a: 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 Mark 10:6-9 Jesus told them: "At the beginning of creation, God made them male and female; for this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and the two shall become as one. They are no longer two but one flesh. Therefore let no man separate what God has joined."

Stephanie and Dan, the reality of the Scriptures you chose for this celebration is that God loves you so much that He created you to be partners so you will never be without love ...and so that your joy may be complete.

Dan, do you love Stephanie? Stephanie, do you love Dan? Be sure to tell each other that every day for the rest of your lives, and then prove it by what you do. It has been some time since you have thought of just yourself without the other....You have been prepared for this marriage for a long time. As the Gospel says, in marriage you are no longer two but one flesh; physically, emotionally and spiritually. You are soul mates fused together. Also recognize that you aren't alone...Realize that God is bonded with you. He loves you and wants to know that you love Him. You need to tell Him that every day too. You don't think of yourself as separate people, so never think of being separate from Jesus.

You are surrounded here today by family and friends. We didn't just come as spectators though; we came to pray with you, and to witness you saying yes to God in this holy Sacrament. We support you today, and promise

that we will in years to come. And after you declare your vows before us, the Church, we will all respond with a rousing AMEN! Let it be so!

Someone once asked, "Can there be any thing more beautiful than young love?" The answer is given in the 1st reading when Tobiah prayed that he and his wife would live together to a happy old age: Yes, there is a more beautiful thing than young love, it is called Old Love. The love of an old man and an old woman holding each others hands; their faces are wrinkled but still radiant; their hearts physically bowed and tired, but still strong with love and devotion for one another. Over the years you will grow old together, share unconditional love, as well as receive the miracle of love in many ways...be patient, slow to anger and abounding in kindness, because love will never fail.

Today you will vow that in good times and in bad, you will always love each other. Remember that we will be there too, when you need us, with God's love. We are honored to be here today.

All God's Blessings, Uncle Deacon Roger Fraser