

**Homily Outline for the Wedding of Kara Logan & Adam Johnson**  
**Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Springfield**  
**December 30, 2022**

**† Most Reverend Thomas John Paprocki**  
**Bishop of Springfield in Illinois**

- I. It is fitting that this wedding is taking place on this Feast of the Holy Family today.
  - A. In the Gospel for this feast (Mt 2:13-15, 19-23), Joseph has two dreams: an angel tells him to take Mary and Jesus to Egypt; a later dream tells him it is all right to return to the land of Israel.
    1. Notice that Joseph never says a word in the Bible.
    2. Joseph listens to the message of God delivered by an angel and always does the right thing.
  - B. My dream a couple of nights ago about doing a wedding and an incident involving my bishop's ring.
    1. The bride's mother somehow exchanged my ring with the precious stone for a cheap ring with a fake stone.
    2. I said I would not continue with the wedding until I got my ring back.
    3. My ring was returned to me and wedding continued with a happy ending!
    4. I see that I have my ring now, so we can continue with this wedding!
    5. Speaking of the ring, a bishop wears a ring very much for the same reason that the bride and groom exchange rings at a wedding: as a sign of love and commitment and a bond of fidelity.
      1. For a bishop: his love and fidelity to the Church.
      2. For the bride and groom: their love and fidelity to each other.
- II. Story of the young man who thought God was calling him to be a priest.
  - A. He spent a few years in the seminary, but eventually discerned that God was not calling him to be a priest.

- B. He met a beautiful woman and they got married.
  - C. That handsome young man was my father, and the beautiful woman was my mother!
  - D. They went on to have nine children, one of whom would become a priest and a bishop.
  - E. You may draw whatever analogies you like from that story!
- III. Our first reading today recounts the beautiful prayer of Tobit and his wife on their wedding night, asking God to allow them “to live together to a happy old age.”
- IV. Our second reading is from Chapter 5 of St. Paul’s letter to the Ephesians.
- A. Kara is writing her doctoral dissertation on this passage, so I am sure she has some thoughts of her own about its meaning, but I will give you my interpretation.
  - B. Many people in our culture have trouble getting past the line that says, “Wives should be subordinate to their husbands as to the Lord.”
  - C. But when you read the whole passage, you realize that the same thing is being asked of the husband: “For the husband is head of his wife just as Christ is head of the church, he himself the savior of the body. . . . Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ loved the church and handed himself over for her to sanctify her, cleansing her by the bath of water with the word, that he might present to himself the church in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish.”
    - 1. Just as the wife is called to give herself totally to her husband, the husband is called to give himself totally to his wife, as Christ gave himself totally for us.
    - 2. Getting married is not about finding someone to make you happy, but giving yourself completely to make your spouse happy.
  - D. This is the true meaning of the vocation of marriage.
    - 1. The word vocation comes from the Latin *vocare*, to call.
    - 2. Specifically, a vocation is a call from God to help others get to heaven.
    - 3. A priest’s vocation is to help his parishioners get to heaven.

4. A married couple's vocation is to help their spouse and children get to heaven.
- E. Christ is at the center of your marriage.
1. Image of the Last Supper
  2. Jesus at the center of this scene is a reminder that Jesus is to be the center of your married life with each other.
- V. So I close with a song inspired by Pope St. John Paul II, who said (on June 10, 1979) "You must be strong with love, which is stronger than death." On the day of his inauguration as Pope, he said, "Do not be afraid. Open wide the doors for Christ."
- VI. Song by Martin Doman, "Open Wide the Doors to Christ"<sup>1</sup>

Two thousand years ago, You came into our lives.

You came to bring our hearts back to the warmth of your love.

So we celebrate, we evangelize, we reconcile our hearts to you;

we celebrate, we evangelize, we reconcile our hearts to you.

Open wide the doors to Christ, let Him come into your heart.

Open wide, receive His life, we have hope anew in Christ.

For unto us a child was born to you and me.

He came to show that life could be life abundantly.

So we lift His name on high, we praise Him as we sing:

Open wide the doors to Christ, let Him come into your heart.

Open wide, receive His life, we have hope anew in Christ.

Jesus comes to us today, He's present in this place.

This Eucharistic meal is our life, our hope, our grace.

So we humbly come receive, we worship, we believe.

Open wide the doors to Christ, let Him come into your heart.

Open wide, receive His life, we have hope anew in Christ.

May God give us this grace. Amen.

---

<sup>1</sup> Martin Doman, "Open Wide the Doors to Christ," Compact Disk, *God's Goodness So Far* 1996-2000.