

The Church of St. Therese
Orange, Texas
The Rite of Matrimony
Larry and Stella

January 2, 198²
Saturday

"You are the salt of the earth....
You are the light of the world...." Matthew 5

Larry and Stella, my brothers and sisters in Christ....

It is critically important for us to realize this profound
and sacred event that takes place in our midst this evening:

1. Larry and Stella shall give themselves to each other
in marriage. And, Jesus says to you, "you are the salt....

2. Larry and Stella, in this auspicious and final
interlocking of mind, heart, flesh, and soul, shall reflect
the mystery of divine love, for "No one has ever seen God.
Yet, if we love one another, God dwells in us, and his love
is brought to perfection in us." And, Jesus says to you,
"You are the salt....

3. Larry and Stella, shall proclaim the ongoing
reality of divine intervention in human affairs, - for,
as real as was Jesus taking on human flesh, so as real this
night is God's indwelling in your their wedded lives - "May
Christ dwell in your hearts through faith," says the apostle,
"and may charity be the root and foundation of your lives."
(Ephesians 3:16)

4. Larry and Stella, your path to this moment
may have been tentative, or questionable, or risky, or
simplistic, or romantic, or dangerous, or unrealistic --
but now the path is clear and precise, and the intent -
two-in-one-flesh - has a ring of "forever" and "eternity" -

just as Christ cannot cease to be man ("and the Word was
made flesh"), so in Christ, you cannot cease to be wedded
to each other's mind, heart, flesh, and soul.... What God
has joined together, let no human being break apart....

You are the salt.....

Three existential realities to this celebration:

1) Larry and Stella's name (deacon and martyr; service to the Church)
Stella - latin, star; feast of the Epiphany - the greatest discovery
in the history of the world took place because of a star....

2) Larry and Stella's poem, Kahil Gibran:

to be oneself and to assert oneself for self....
to have and hold one's own space, individuality, and
autonomy.... Each time you say, in Christ, "I love you."
there is a holy vulnerability and the movement toward
union is irretrievable.... I repeat, just as Christ cannot
cease to be wedded to humanity, so you cannot cease to be
wedded to each other's flesh....

3) The Story - love heals....

Double proof

The Church of Saint Thomas More
June 22, 1985
2:00 p.m.
Kalamazoo, Michigan
The Wedding of Brian and Patricia

*TORIT: 8:5-7
I Corinthians: 12:31-13:8
Matthew: 22:35-40*

BRIAN AND PATRICIA, NO ONE CAN MEASURE THE AFFECTION AND JOY THAT RESTS WITHIN YOUR HEARTS TODAY. AND WE, YOUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS, CAUGHT UP IN THE MAGNIFICENCE OF THIS MOMENT, CAN ONLY PROCLAIM WITH THE BSALMIST, "LET US ALL REJOICE IN THE LORD, CELEBRATING THIS FESTIVE DAY" OF YOUR MARRIAGE.

SIGNIFICANTLY, YOU EXCHANGE YOUR VOWS ON THE FEAST OF SAINT THOMAS MORE, THE PATRON OF THIS CHURCH. SAINT THOMAS MORE, HISTORY TELLS US, GAVE UP PRESTIGE AND POWER, HONOR AND HERALDRY, REPUTATION AND RENOWN, AND EVEN ^{WIFE} FAMILY AND FRIENDS — BECAUSE, AS HE STOOD BEFORE GOD, IN THE DEPTH OF HIS CONSCIENCE, HE CHOSE TO FOLLOW GOD'S LAW RATHER THAN THE DICTATES OF KING HENRY THE ^{VIII} VI. FOR THIS, ^{FOR FOLLOWING his conscience,} THOMAS MORE WAS CONDEMNED TO DEATH.

VIII →

PATRICIA AND BRIAN, THERE IS A CONNECTION BETWEEN THIS 16th CENTURY SAINT AND WHAT YOU ARE ABOUT TO DO TODAY. MARRIAGE IS PRE-EMINENTLY A MATTER OF YOUR CONVICTIONS ABOUT MARRIED LOVE, IN THE CONTEXT OF A WORLD IN WHICH CONSCIENCE IS RELEGATED TO MATERIAL SUCCESS, UPWARD MOBILITY, ~~AND~~ TECHNOLOGICAL ^{PROGRESS} RESULTS, AND POLITICAL EXPERIENCY.

WHEN YOU PLEDGE YOURSELVES TO EACH OTHER IN MARRIAGE TODAY, YOU SHALL COMMIT YOURSELVES TO EACH OTHER FOR LIFE, IN SICKNESS AND IN HEALTH, IN GOOD TIMES AND IN BAD, UNTIL DEATH. ^{Like St. Thomas More,} LET NO PERSON OR NO EARTHLY GOAL EVER STAND BETWEEN YOU. YOUR VOWS ARE DECISIONS OF CONSCIENCE.

no understanding

PAGE 2

YES, PATRICIA AND BRIAN, DECISIONS OF CONSCIENCE. THUS, TO BE TRUE TO THE SOLEMN AND IRREVERSIBLE PROMISES YOU MAKE TODAY, YOU MUST DECIDE NOW THAT YOU WILL MODEL YOUR LOVE FOR EACH OTHER ON THE LOVE GOD COMMANDED THAT YOU HAVE FOR HIM: YOU ARE TO LOVE EACH OTHER "WITH ALL YOUR HEART, WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND"; AND, 'YOU WILL LOVE EACH OTHER AS YOU LOVE YOURSELVES.' IN THIS WAY, YOU SHALL BE "TWO-IN-ONE FLESH." IT IS A ^{MATTER} ~~DECISION~~ OF CONSCIENCE.

I REPEAT, IT IS A DECISION OF CONSCIENCE. JESUS TELLS US, "LOVE ONE ANOTHER AS I HAVE ^{LOVED YOU}." THERE IS NO LIMIT, BRIAN AND PATRICIA, TO GOD'S LOVE FOR ^{YOU AND FOR} US. GOD SO LOVED THE WORLD THAT HE GAVE HIS ONLY BEGOTTEN SON FOR OUR SALVATION. WHAT A CHALLENGE YOU GIVE EACH OTHER AND WHAT A SIGN YOU GIVE TO THE WORLD: TO LAY DOWN YOUR LIVES FOR EACH OTHER, ^{as Christ did for you} DAY IN AND DAY OUT, YEAR BY YEAR, UNTIL THE LORD CALLS YOU TO ETERNITY. IT IS A ^{Resolution} ~~DECISION~~ OF CONSCIENCE.

I SAY IT AGAIN - A DECISION OF CONSCIENCE, COMING FROM THE ⁱ INNERMOST RECESSES OF YOUR HEARTS. IT IS IN THE CONTEXT OF GOD'S EXTRAVAGANT LOVE FOR YOU AND ~~ME~~ IN THE CONTEXT OF JESUS' UNCONDITIONAL SELF-GIVING, THAT YOU MAKE SAINT PAUL'S ^y Hymn OF CHARITY YOUR PERSONAL AND FINEST LOVE SONG AND THE ENERGY OF YOUR INERASCIBLE MUTUALITY:

LOVE IS PATIENT,

LOVE IS KIND...

LOVE IS NEVER BOASTFUL OR CONCEITED...

IT DOES NOT TAKE OFFENSE, AND IS NOT RESENTFUL.

LOVE IS ALWAYS READY TO EXCUSE, TO TRUST, TO HOPE,

AND TO ENDURE WHATEVER COMES.

As Xst did
for you

Resolution
~~Decision~~

PAGE 3

~~AND~~ HERE, BRIAN AND PATRICIA, LET ME OFFER YOU A PRACTICAL SUGGESTION. EACH YEAR AS YOU REMEMBER THE ANNIVERSARY OF YOUR WEDDING, OPEN YOUR BIBLE TO THIS PAULINE HYMN OF LOVE - READ IT TO EACH OTHER, PRAY OVER IT, ASSESS YOUR RELATIONSHIP IN LIGHT OF IT, DISCERN HOW YOU CAN DEEPEN YOUR LOVE AND, ABOVE ALL, ACT ON IT! REMEMBER, A LIFE LIVED IN CHRIST IS NOT ONLY A BLESSING FOR YOU, BUT ALSO AN UNAVOIDABLE EXAMPLE AND CLARION CALL TO ⁺THE REST OF THE CHURCH AND THE WHOLE SOCIETY. *It is a determination of conscience.*

I REITERATE - THIS MARRIAGE OF YOURS IS A DECISION OF CONSCIENCE. IT IS A CLEAR CHOICE, AN IRREVOCABLE COMMITMENT, AN UNREPEATABLE REALITY, A UNIQUE CALLING, AN UNFATHOMABLE ^{design!} VISION, *a radiant vision,* A ^{strong} BOND OF UNITY, A TRULY DIVINE VOCATION -- THIS, YOUR SOLEMN DECLARATION OF MUTUAL AND LASTING FIDELITY. THERE IS NOTHING ELSE LIKE THIS SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE - EXCEPT THE LOVE THAT GOD HAS FOR YOU. SO, ^{in the words of Tobias} LET YOUR PRAYER BE, "LORD, BE KIND ENOUGH TO HAVE PITY ON HER AND ON ME, AND BRING US TO AN OLD AGE TOGETHER."

OUR PRAYER FOR YOU, BRIAN AND PATRICIA, IS SIMPLY THIS: MAY CHRIST FIND A DWELLING PLACE, SECURE IN YOUR HEARTS. MAY YOUR LIVES BE ROOTED IN LOVE, ROOTED IN LOVE. AMEN.

Send autographed photo

make 8 2 copies.

THE WEDDING OF BRIAN AND PATRICIA

The Church of Saint Thomas More
Kalamazoo, Michigan

June 22, 1985

2:00 P. M.

Homily By

Most Reverend James P. Lyke, O.F.M., Ph.D.

Lehit 8:5-7

1 Corinthians 12:31 - 13:8

Matthew 22:35-40

"YOUR VOWS ARE DECISIONS OF CONSCIENCE"

Brian and Patricia, no one can measure the affection and joy that rests within your hearts today. And we, your family and friends, caught up in the magnificence of this moment, can only proclaim with the psalmist, "Let us all rejoice in the Lord, celebrating this festive day" of your marriage.

Significantly, you exchange your vows on the Feast of Saint Thomas More, the Patron of this Church. Saint Thomas More, history tells us, gave up prestige and power, honor and heraldry, reputation and renown, and even wife, family and friends -- because, as he stood before God, in the depth of his conscience, he chose to follow God's law rather than the dictates of King Henry the VIII. For this, for following his conscience, Thomas More was condemned to death.

Patricia and Brian, there is a connection between this 16th century Saint and what you are about to do today. Marriage is pre-eminently a matter of your convictions about married love, in the context of a world in which conscience is relegated to material success, upward mobility, technological progress, and political expediency.

When you pledge yourselves to each other in marriage today you shall commit yourselves to each other for life - in sickness and in health, in good times and in bad, until death. Like Saint Thomas More

Let no person or no earthly goal ever stand between you. Your vows are decisions of conscience.

Yes, Patricia and Brian, decisions of conscience. Thus, to be true to the solemn and irreversible promises you make today, you must decide now that you will model your love for each other on the love God commanded that you have for Him: you are to love each other "with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind"; and, you will love each other as you love yourselves. In this way, you shall be "two-in-one flesh." It is a matter of conscience.

I repeat, it is a decision of conscience. Jesus tells us, "Love one another as I have loved you." There is no limit, Brian and Patricia, to God's love for you and for us. God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son for our salvation. What a challenge you give each other and what a sign you give to the world: to lay down your lives for each other, as Christ did for you, day in and day out, year by year, until the Lord calls you to eternity. It is a resolution of conscience.

I say it again - a decision of conscience, coming from the inner most recesses of your hearts. It is in the context of God's extravagant love for you and in the context of Jesus' unconditional self-giving, that you make Saint Paul's Hymn of Charity your personal and finest love song and the energy of your inerascible mutuality:

LOVE IS PATIENT,

LOVE IS KIND...

LOVE IS NEVER BOASTFUL OR CONCEITED...

IT DOES NOT TAKE OFFENSE, AND IT IS NOT RESENTFUL,

LOVE IS ALWAYS READY TO EXCUSE, TO TRUST, TO HOPE, AND TO

ENDURE WHATEVER COMES.

Here, Brian and Patricia, let me offer you a practical suggestion. Each year as you remember the Anniversary of your Wedding, open your Bible to this Pauline Hymn of Love. Read it to each other, pray over it, assess your relationship in light of it, discern how you can deepen your love and, above all, act on it! Remember, a life lived in Christ is not only a blessing for you, but also for the whole society. It is a determination of conscience.

I reiterate - this marriage of yours is a decision of conscience. It is a clear choice, an irrevocable commitment, an unrepeatable reality, a unique calling, an unfathomable design, a radiant vision, a strong bond of unity, a truly divine vocation -- this, your solemn declaration of mutual and lasting fidelity. There is nothing else like this Sacrament of Marriage - except the love that God has for you. So, in the words of Tobit, let your prayer be, "Lord, be kind enough to have pity on her and on me, and bring us to an old age together."

Our prayer for you, Brian and Patricia, is simply this:
"May Christ find a dwelling place, secure in your hearts. May your lives be rooted in love, rooted in love."

AMEN.

My Sisters and Brothers in Christ:

Today, the Church throughout the world celebrates the Feast of the Holy Family. In the context of such widespread family breakdown in our country and, particularly in the Black community, I asked myself, "What biblical reflection would I offer a bride and groom - let's call them "Joseph and Mary" = were they to exchange their vows on a day like this Feast of the Holy Family?" This is what I would reflect with them:

Wedding of Worriss Levine and Melodynee Terrell
Saint Theresa of the Child Jesus,
Abbeville, Louisiana
August 3, 1985 - 1:00 p.m.

"YOUR VOWS ARE DECISIONS OF CONSCIENCE"

~~Worriss and Melodynee,~~ *Dearest Joseph and Mary*

No one can measure the affection and joy that rests within your hearts today. And we, your family and friends, caught up in the magnificence of this moment, can only proclaim with the psalmist, "Let us all rejoice in the Lord, celebrating this festive day" of your marriage.

~~Worriss and Melodynee,~~ *Mary & Jos-*
you will recall that there is a classic and memorable person whose life story is told over and over again and is enshrined in the annals of human history. Martin Luther King, Jr. gave up prestige, reputation and renown, --because, as he stood before God, in the depth of his conscience, he chose to follow God's law rather than the dictates of a segregated society. For this, for following his conscience, Martin Luther King, Jr. was felled by an assassin's bullet. About conscience, Martin Luther King, Jr. once wrote: "There comes a time when a moral man can't obey a law which his conscience tells him is unjust....There were those individuals in every age and generation who were willing to say, 'I will be obedient to a higher law.'"

There is a connection between this contemporary exemplar and what you are about to do today. Marriage is pre-eminently a matter of your convictions about married love,

Page 4
Worris & Melodynee Wedding
August 3, 1985

~~W & M~~ Mary & Joseph
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Our prayer for you, ~~W & M~~ is simply this: "May Christ find a dwelling place, secure in your hearts. May your lives be rooted in love, rooted in love."

Amen.

Tobit 8:5-7

1 Corinthians 12:31 - 13:8

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Page 3
Worris & Melodynee Wedding
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It is a resolution of conscience.

I say it again - a decision of conscience, coming from the inner most recesses of your hearts. It is in the context of God's extravagant love for you and in the context of Jesus' unconditional self-giving, that you make Saint Paul's Hymn of Charity your personal and finest song and the energy of your inerascible mutuality. Further, because love is profoundly embedded in the human conscience, it is more than powerful feelings, deep emotions, and joyful exhilaration. Bound as it is to conscience, love necessarily demonstrates itself through committed action, ^{as SIRACH AND ST. PAUL ~~TELL US~~ INDICATE} through concrete expressions of humility, gentleness, kindness, compassion, generosity, collaborative working and shared responsibility, presence and leisure, and, yes, even suffering together. Thus, one does not simply feel love: to love also means to do love. Love's finality is union: a communion of mind and heart and body. Saint Paul says it so well:

Love is patient,

Love is kind.....

Love is never boastful or conceited.....

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Love is always ready to excuse, to trust, to hope,

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Page 2
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MARY + JOSEPH

Yes, ~~Worris and Melodynee~~, decisions of conscience. Thus, to be true to the solemn and irreversible promises you make today, you must decide now that you will model your love for each other on the love God commanded that you have for Him: you are to love each other "with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind"; and, you will love each other as you love yourselves, In this way, you shall be "two-in-one flesh." It is a matter of conscience.

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Page 4
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Amen.

Tobit 8:5-7

1 Corinthians 12:31 - 13:8

Matthew 22:35-40

24TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
14 SEPTEMBER 1985

Is. 50: 4-9
JAMES 2: 14-18
MARK 8: 27-35

CLOSING LITURGY : NATURAL FAMILY PLANNING SEMINAR

MY DEAR BROTHERS AND SISTERS--IT IS A SPECIAL JOY FOR ME TO BE WITH YOU TODAY TO BRING THIS GRACE-FILLED DAY OF CONTINUING EDUCATION TO A CLOSE WITH THE LITURGY. HOW COULD THERE BE A MORE APPROPRIATE WAY TO HONOR LIFE AND THE WONDERFUL MYSTERY OF CHRISTIAN MARRIAGE AND THE RICHES OF GOD'S FAVOR IN THE SHARING OF HIS CREATIVE POWERS--THAN HERE, AROUND THE TABLE OF THE LORD! HERE THE UNION OF CHRIST AND HIS CHURCH IS MOST PERFECTLY CELEBRATED --THAT MYSTERY WHICH YOU DAILY LIVE IN YOUR CONSECRATED LIVES AS HUSBANDS AND WIVES--NOT TWO BUT ONE FLESH, JOINED SPIRITUALLY IN THE LORD.

YOU SHARE IN THE CREATIVE POWER OF GOD--NOT MERELY IN THE PHYSICAL REPRODUCTION OF OFFSPRING-- THOUGH SURELY THAT IS A MAGNIFICENT AND AWESOME MYSTERY--BUT YOUR GOD-GIVEN CREATIVITY IS NOT A ONCE-FOR-ALL ACTION, BUT A DAILY MINISTRY-- IN THE NURTURING, CARING SERVICE TO THOSE ENTRUSTED TO YOU. YOU ARE THE TEACHERS, THE NATURAL ^{Family} TEACHERS OF THE HUMAN RACE, BECAUSE YOU ARE PARENTS.

YOU HAVE SO MUCH TO TEACH US, FOR GOD HAS CREATED YOU, NOT ONLY MEN AND WOMEN, BUT NOW, IN THIS WONDERFUL SACRAMENT OF YOUR MUTUAL VOWS AND CONSECRATED LIFE--YOU ARE REBORN, MADE ANEW AS ONE FLESH, SIGNIFYING AND ACTUALIZING THE UNION OF

GOD AND MAN. IN OTHER WORDS--YOU ARE, AS ONE,
--A TRUE INCARNATION. IN YOU, AS YOU LIVE YOUR
LIVES TOGETHER , BRINGING FORTH CHILDREN GENEROUSLY,
SACRIFICING FOR ONE ANOTHER AND FOR YOUR SONS AND
DAUGHTERS, INSTRUCTING BY WORD AND EXAMPLE IN THE
LIVING TESTIMONY OF OUR FAITH--YOU INCARNATE THE
MYSTERY OF THE CHURCH ITSELF. HERE--IN YOUR HOMES
AS WELL AS IN YOUR HEARTS, "GOD AND MAN AT TABLE
ARE SAT DOWN."

IF WE SPEAK OF LOVE, WE MUST LOOK TO YOU TO
SHOW US. IF WE WANT AN EXAMPLE OF COMPASSION, WE
LOOK FOR A MOTHER AND A FATHER TO EXPLAIN IT TO US.
IF WE HUNGER FOR PEACE AND JUSTICE, WHERE ELSE IN THIS
WORLD CAN WE FIND IT, IF NOT AT YOUR TABLE, WHERE
YOU GATHER YOUR OWN ABOUT YOU?

~~FOR~~ THE PROPHETS THEMSELVES FOUND NO OTHER WAY
TO SPEAK OF GOD THAN BY THE EXAMPLE YOU SHOW IN YOUR
LIVES. "CAN A MOTHER FORGET HER CHILD?" ISAIAH ASKS
[Is. 49:15]. LIKE A FATHER, HOSEA TELLS US, GOD
TEACHES HIS OWN, LEADING THEM GENTLY BY THE HAND.
[Hos. 11] EVEN CHRIST HIMSELF GLADLY SUBMITTED
HIMSELF TO A FATHER AND A MOTHER: "AND HE WENT DOWN
WITH THEM, AND CAME TO NAZARETH, AND HE CONTINUED
IN SUBJECTION TO THEM." [LUKE 2: 51].

THE SACREDNESS OF THE BOND OF MATRIMONY THAT YOU
HAVE CONTRACTED AND CONTINUE TO LIVE BY GOD'S GRACE,
CANNOT BE OVERESTIMATED NOR EXAGGERATED. WE IN THE
CHURCH WHO ARE UNMARRIED STAND IN AWE OF GOD'S
MYSTERY IN YOUR LIVES AS YOU WITNESS TO US THE

MAGNIFICENCE OF HIS ENDURING LOVE. TIL DEATH
DO US PART--YOU BRAVELY PROCLAIM IN A WORLD
FEARFUL OF COMMITMENTS, ~~A~~SEA IN INSTABILITY.
FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE, IN SICKNESS AND IN HEALTH --
YOU WITNESS TO THOSE OF US WHO ARE AFRAID OF THE
FUTURE, WEAK IN OUR FAITH, WAVERING IN HOPE AND
IN TRUST, LUKEWARM IN LOVE.

YOUR LOVE KNOWS NO BOUNDS--AND LIKE MARTYRS OF
OLD, YOU WILLINGLY POUR OUT YOUR LIFE-BLOOD, THE
BLOOM OF YOUR YOUTH, YOUR ENERGIES, YOUR DREAMS
AND PASSIONS, ALL THAT YOU HAVE AND ARE, FROM THIS
DAY FORWARD UNTIL DEATH DO US PART.

NO DOUBT THERE ARE WELL-SPRINGS OF GOD'S HIDDEN
LIFE DEEP WITHIN YOUR MATRIMONIAL EMBRACES, IN THE
INTIMACY THAT GROWS WITHIN YOUR COMMITTED AND SHARED
AND BONDED LIFE. THESE SECRETS OF GOD OVERFLOW IN
THE JOY OF YOUR LIFE, IN YOUR UNSELFISH SERVICE TO
THE WHOLE CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY, IN YOUR PASSIONATE
DEFENCE OF THE UNBORN, YOUR CONSTANT AND ANGUISHED
CONCERN FOR THE HELPLESS, THE UNINSTRUCTED, THE
SICK AND THE POOR, IN YOUR HUNGER AND THIRST FOR
JUSTICE. ONLY THOSE WHO HAVE RISKED ALL AND GIVEN
ALL CAN KNOW THE MEANING OF SACRIFICE. ONLY THOSE
WHO HAVE OFFERED THEIR OWN SACRIFICE CAN FIND THE
QUIET WISDOM OF SUFFERING. ONLY THOSE WHO SUFFER
WITH CHRIST CAN KNOW THE POWER OF HIS RESURRECTED
SPIRIT.

IT IS COMPELLED BY THIS HOLY SPIRIT THAT YOU TEACH--FOR YOU HAVE LIVED THE FAITH YOU SPEAK ABOUT. YOU KNOW THE LORD YOU INTRODUCE TO OTHERS--FOR YOU MEET HIM DAILY IN YOUR MOST INTIMATE ENCOUNTERS. YOU ARE SECRET TO ALL OF HIS WAYS.

YOU CAN ANSWER WITH PETER THE QUESTION OF THE LORD: "WHO DO YOU SAY THAT I AM?"--FOR YOU KNOW BY YOUR LIVES INDEED--THAT THE SON OF MAN HAD TO SUFFER MUCH. YOU KNOW THAT NO ONE CAN SAVE HIS LIFE UNLESS HE IS WILLING TO LOSE IT FOR GOD, TAKING UP THE DAILY CROSS OF LIFE COMMITTED TO HIM AND IN THE SERVICE OF THOSE HE ENTRUSTS TO OUR CARE.

WITH ISAIAH'S HERO, YOU TOO "WILL NOT BE PUT TO SHAME" FOR LIKE THE LORD YOU FOLLOW, YOU WILL NOT EXPECT ALWAYS TO BE RESPECTED, LISTENED TO, OR UNDERSTOOD. YOU WILL SPEAK TRUTH IN LOVE, AS HE SPEAKS IN YOUR HEART, AND YOU WILL LIVE AND LOVE AS HE DID, FAITHFUL UNTIL DEATH. YOU WILL REMEMBER THAT THE GREATEST TEACHER IS NOT THE ONE WHO IS FOLLOWED BY THE BIGGEST MOB, BUT THE ONE WHO HIMSELF IS THE BEST DISCIPLE, THE BEST FOLLOWER, THE BEST LISTENER AND LEARNER OF ALL. "THE SON CAN DO NOTHING," JESUS SAID, "UNLESS HE SEES THE FATHER DOING IT." [JOHN 5:9]

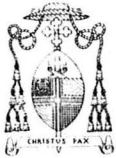
SO YOU SPEAK OF WHAT YOU HAVE SEEN AND HEARD (I JOHN 1:1)--WHAT YOU HAVE LEARNED FROM ONE ANOTHER, AND FROM THOSE YOU SERVE AND TEACH. FOR OTHERS SHOW US CHRIST AND IN OUR SERVICE OF THEM WE FIND

Pause _____ THE WISDOM THAT SETS US FREE AND AFIRE WITH LOVE.

IN RECEIVING THESE TEACHING CERTIFICATES TODAY, YOU TEACH US AND HONOR THE ENTIRE CHURCH AT CLEVELAND WITH A SPECIAL SIGN OF GOD'S PROVIDENT CARE. I AM DEEPLY GRATEFUL FOR YOUR GENEROUS MINISTRY. WE NEED YOU, FOR YOU SHOW US THE WAY TO CHRIST AND TO THE FATHER--"FROM WHOM EVERY FAMILY IN HEAVEN AND ON EARTH TAKES ITS NAME." [EPH. 3: 15]. AS WE CONTINUE TO CELEBRATE THIS EUCHARIST, MAY YOU RENEW YOUR COMMITMENT TO THE ONE WHO SITS DAILY AT YOUR TABLE, SO THAT THIS NEW WORK OF SERVICE TO THE CHURCH MAY BEAR MUCH FRUIT. AND, MAY YOU KNOW THE JOYS PROMISED IN THE BLESSING YOU FIRST HEARD AT THE END OF YOUR WEDDING MASS:

"GOD THE ETERNAL FATHER KEEP YOU IN LOVE WITH EACH OTHER SO THAT THE PEACE OF CHRIST MAY STAY WITH YOU AND BE ALWAYS IN YOUR HOME. MAY YOUR CHILDREN BLESS YOU, YOUR FRIENDS CONSOLE YOU AND ALL MEN LIVE AT PEACE WITH YOU. MAY YOU ALWAYS BEAR WITNESS TO THE LOVE OF GOD IN THIS WORLD SO THAT THE AFFLICTED AND THE NEEDY WILL FIND IN YOU GENEROUS FRIENDS, AND WELCOME YOU INTO THE JOYS OF HEAVEN."

GOD BLESS YOU ALL.



OFFICE OF THE EPISCOPAL VICAR

U-351/1987

URBAN REGION

My dear brothers and sisters,

It is a special joy for me to be with you in spirit today as you set out to experience the happiness and responsibilities of natural family planning.

You share in the creative power of God. As loving couples, you have so much to give. God has created you, not only men and women, but now in this wonderful sacrament of your mutual vows and consecrated life, you are reborn, made anew as one flesh, signifying and actualizing the union of God and man. In other words, you are as one, a true incarnation. In you, as you live your lives together, bringing forth children generously, sacrificing for one another and for your sons and daughters, instructing by word and example in the living testimony of our Faith--you incarnate the mystery of the Church itself. Here, in your homes as well as in your hearts, "God and man at table are sat down".

If we speak of love, we must look to you to show us. If we want an example of compassion, we look for a mother and father to explain it to us. If we hunger for peace and justice, where else in the world can we find it, if not at your table, where you gather your own about you?

The prophets themselves found no other way to speak of God than by the example you show in your lives. "Can a mother forget her child?" Isaiah asks. (Is. 49:15) Like a father, Hosea tells us, God teaches his own, leading them gently by the hand. (Hos. 11) Even Christ himself gladly submitted himself to a father and a mother: "And He went down with them, and came to Nazareth, and He continued in subjection to them". (Luke 2:51)

The sacredness of the bond of matrimony that you have contracted and continue to live by through God's grace, cannot be overestimated or exaggerated. We in the Church who are unmarried stand in awe of God's mystery in your lives as you witness to us the magnificence of His enduring love. TILL DEATH DO US PART--you bravely proclaim in a world fearful of commitments. FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE, IN SICKNESS AND IN HEALTH--you witness to those of us who are afraid of the future, weak in our Faith, wavering in hope and in trust, lukewarm in love.

Your love knows no bounds--and like martyrs of old, you willingly pour out your lifeblood, the bloom of your youth, your energies, your dreams and passions. All that you have and are, FROM THIS DAY FORWARD UNTIL DEATH DO US PART.

No doubt there are wellsprings of God's hidden life deep within your matrimonial embraces, in the intimacy that grows within your committed and shared and bonded life. These secrets of God overflow in the joy of your life. Only those who have risked all and given all can know the meaning of sacrifice. Only those who have offered their own sacrifice can find the quiet wisdom of suffering. Only those who suffer with Christ can know the power of His resurrected spirit.

As you grow in love of Christ through each other, you must share this love. You know the Lord you introduce to others, for you meet Him daily in your most intimate encounters. You are secret to all of His ways.

You can answer with Peter the question of the Lord: "Who do you say that I am?"--for you know by your lives indeed--that the Son of Man had to suffer much. You know that no one can save his life unless he is willing to lose it for God, taking up the daily cross of life committed to Him and in the service of those He entrusts to our care.

With Isaiah's hero, you too "will not be put to shame" for like the Lord you follow, you will not expect always to be respected, listened to, or understood. You will speak truth in love, as He speaks in your heart, and you will live and love as He did, faithful until death. You will remember that the greatest teacher is not the one who is followed by the biggest mob, but the one who himself is the best disciple, the best follower, the best listener and learner of all. "The Son can do nothing," Jesus said, "unless he sees the Father doing it." (John 5:19)

So, learn of Natural Family Planning, learn from those who share this new knowledge with you, a vision of Christ. For others show us Christ, and in our walking with them, we find the wisdom that sets us free and afire with love.

As you go forth to commit yourselves ever more strongly to the sacramental bond of your married love, may you also renew your commitment to the One who sits daily at your table, so that your lives together may truly be blessed.

And, may you know the joys promised in the blessing you first heard at the end of your wedding Mass:

"God the eternal Father keep you in love with each other so that the peace of Christ may stay with you and be always in your home.

"May your children bless you, your friends console you and all men live at peace with you.

"May you always bear witness to the love of God in this world so that the afflicted and the needy will find in you generous friends, and welcome you into the joys of heaven."

God bless you all!

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "James P. Lyke", followed by a horizontal line.

Most Rev. James P. Lyke, O.F.M., Ph.D.
Auxiliary Bishop of Cleveland

Note: This letter is adapted from Bishop Lyke's homily given at the September 1984 NFP Teacher Certification Ceremony at Ursuline College.

Diocese of Cleveland
Urban Region

1031 Superior Avenue
Cleveland, Ohio 44114
216/696-6525 Ext. 264

† James P. Lyke, O.F.M.
Vicar

April 7, 1987

Dear Mary Ann,

Enclosed, please find Jean Cleary's adaptation of my homily with minor corrections. Please thank Jean for the adaptation!

You may set this up in any way you wish. Somehow I feel that it should be noted that "it" was adapted from a homily given at the 1984 Teacher Certification Ceremony. However, I'll leave this up to your judgement also. If you wish to place it on my stationery, I'd be happy to sign it. A copy of my stationery is also enclosed.

Peace.

Bishop Lyke

CHRISTUS PAX

My dear brothers and sisters,

It is a special joy for me to be with you in spirit today as you set out to experience the happiness and responsibilities of natural family planning.

You share in the creative power of God. ~~and~~ ^A as loving couples, you have so much to give. ~~For~~ God has created you, not only men and women, but now in this wonderful sacrament of your mutual vows and consecrated life, you are reborn, made anew as one flesh, signifying and actualizing the union of God and man. In other words, you are as one, a true incarnation. In you, as you live your lives together, bringing forth children generously, sacrificing for one another and for your sons and daughters, instructing by word and example in the living testimony of our Faith, you incarnate the mystery of the Church itself. Here, in your homes as well as in your hearts, "God and man at table are sat down."

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God bless you all!

Most Rev. James P. Lyke, O.F.M., Ph.D.
Auxiliary Bishop of Cleveland

*The Fiftieth Wedding Anniversary
of Sam and Agnes Nolan*

*The Church of Saint Ailbe
Chicago, Illinois*

March 5, 1988

4:00 P.M.

Genesis 1:26-28,31

1 Corinthians 12:31-13:8

Matthew 5:13-16

Most Reverend James P. Lyke, O.F.M., Ph.D.

*Sam and Agnes,
My Sisters and Brothers in Christ,*

The story is told of the elderly husband whose doctor marveled at his good physical condition. "How do you keep yourself in such good shape," his doctor asked.

"Well," the husband said, "long ago my wife and I made an agreement. If I would get upset with her, I would take a long walk and not return until I cooled down. If she got upset, she would just walk away and remain quiet until we were ready to talk. We've now been married for fifty years, and over that time I became quite an outdoorsman!"

Today, dear friends, we celebrate the Fiftieth Wedding Anniversary of Sam and Agnes. For these past fifty years, I don't think that Sam has been much of an outdoorsman, nor has Agnes been that quiet!

Fifty years of married life and love.

Fifty years of "mutuality" - of being for each other the major "significant other."

Fifty years of sharing each other's soul-space - heart and mind and body.

Fifty years of shaping each other's consciences, of schooling each other in the ways of the Lord and His kingdom.

Fifty years of seeing an ever-deepening spiritual, two-in-one flesh union.

Fifty years of sensing each other's humanity, with its capacity for moral greatness and for immoral smallness.

Fifty years of giving birth and nurturing life, "of being fertile and multiplying."

page 2

Sam & Agnes Nolan - 50th Anniversary

humanity, with its capacity for moral greatness and for immoral smallness.

Fifty years of giving birth and nurturing life, "of being fertile and multiplying."

The marvel of these past fifty years has not only been one of marital fidelity and commitment. The real marvel is unseen, namely - that from fifty years of mutual sharing, shaping, seeing, and sensing, Sam and Agnes have experienced what was proclaimed today in Genesis: "Let us make man [humanity] in our image and after our likeness."

Marriage, dear friends, is the best soul-space to learn the inexhaustible richness of another human being.

Marriage is the best soul-space to discern the blessings of family and community - to learn the "dominion" of service, life-giving togetherness and bondedness, and the meaning of "male and female [God] created them."

Marriage is the best school where "the way which surpasses all others" is learned and passed on: that love which reflects Christ's love for us - boundless, all-inclusive, familial, and esteem for the person because of the irresistible requirements of human dignity.

Of all places, marriage is the soul-space where "love does not rejoice in what is wrong, but rejoices in the truth."

Of all places, in marriage "there is no limit to love's forbearance, to its trust, its hope, its power to endure.

Of all places, in marriage, "love never fails."

Sisters and brothers, we praise God with Agnes and Sam today for fifty years of married life and love. We praise God with them because they have lived the vicissitudes of spousal love and remained committed to its

page 3

Sam & Agnes Nolan - 50th Anniversary

Christian ideals.

We praise God with them because they have been salt and light in an age of family disunity, marital breakdown, generational tensions, short-term commitments, individualism and self-centeredness. When for so many these times represent a crisis of faith, Sam and Agnes have remained believers, placing their lives and hope in God and the Church.

Truly, Sam and Agnes, you have heard Christ's words - "You are the salt of the earth.... You are the light of the world"-- just as Christ in the Holy Eucharist is your and our salt and light, our Blessed Assurance and Foretaste of Glory Divine!

AMEN.

Adam and Eve had an ideal marriage. Adam didn't have to hear about all the men Eve could have married - and Eve didn't have to hear about the way his mother cooked.

The story is told of the 75 year old gentleman who went to his doctor for a physical examination. The doctor checked him over and said, "My friend, you are in perfect shape. I have never see a man your age in better condition. Can you tell me what rules of health you have followed? What regimen of exercise have you kept?"

"Well," said the man, "my wife and I were married fifty years ago. We agreed that whenever I lost my temper over any fault in her or with any of my in-laws she would keep quiet and not answer back. And tht whenever she lost her temper for a like reason, I would take a walk. I suppose my good health must be due to the fact that for the last fifty years I have lived pretty much of an outdoor life!"
(And maybe she's so healthy because she led a very quiet life!)

Diane and Richard -

Brothers and Sisters -

Each time we celebrate a sacrament, we celebrate a mystery. What will transpire this afternoon before us the Church of God is a wonderful thing, for Diane and Richard will promise themselves to each other for life. They will do what God did once for all for everyone of us.

For God made a covenant of love with us His people just as you, Diane and Richard, will make your covenant to walk hand in hand through life. God made a contract with us His people in the Blood of His Son. Thereby He redeemed us and made us all His own. And so will you, Diane and Richard, make a contract to redeem and renew each other by a love that will grow stronger year by year.

God has made an agreement with us His people. And so will you, Diane and Richard, make a solemn agreement to hallow and to heal each other day by day, to supplement and complement each other by your mutual gifts of understanding and forgiveness all the days of your lives.

Every Christian family, sisters and brothers, is a little Church, a precious unit in the community that is God's dwelling with us all. Every Christian family does what the Church of God carries out in our world. It must be a sign of reconciliation and of peace. So may your family, Diane and Richard, be a sign of God's Kingdom in our world. Let your home be a place of mutual trust, let it be a center of joy, let it be a dwelling place radiant with God's grace.

Diane and Richard, soon this day of joy will be but a happy memory frozen in photographs and carefully affixed in an album. Soon the flowers will fade, the wedding dress will be folded and packed away, the rented suits returned, the thank-you notes written, the wedding cake consumed, the guests gone home--then your married life will be ready to begin. Stress and strain you will know. Disappointment and pain will not be lacking. Permit me to suggest three little words to be kept in mind. They are listening, loyalty, and love.

Listen to each other and listen to your children. No one will be afraid to talk as long as the other is ready to listen. Listen not just with your ears and mind. But listen always with your heart.

Be loyal to each other. Be loyal to your family. Believe in each other and believe in your children.

Believe in the better self that hides in the depths of every person. Believe in what one wishes to be, not in what one may have failed to become. Believe in the possibilities that lie beneath the surface of those you have been called to love.

Finally, let your love never be taken for granted, let it never be presumed. Let it be expressed each day in a thousand ways. Let it be the music that filters through the tense moments in the most difficult of days. Let it be the song you sing on the saddest of days. Let it be the rhythm of your dance and the vibration of your movements when you are together and when you are apart.

Diane and Richard, may your lives overflow into the lives of all your friends. May your joy enrich the lives of all whom you will touch. And may the Lord who now calls us to His Wedding Feast in this Eucharist give you length of days and the blessings of His Peace.