

WEDDING HOMILY
HANK AND ANDREA
AUGUST 3, 2007

“That is why a man leaves his father and mother and clings to his wife; and the two shall become one!” We heard that in the first reading tonight, a reading chosen by Hank and Andrea. Tonight they have chosen to be married in this church, in front of this altar. Why here? Why this place? Here, in front of this tabernacle because it is where the body of Christ is kept. Christ is not only the source of all love, but he is the model of all love. And, for us Catholics, we believe that through the power of the Holy Spirit that Jesus can be physically present for us as a sign of just what love is.

Of course, tonight, the two of them shall become one. Now, I have heard this reading dozens of times, maybe more, over the years, and it wasn't until I read it in preparation of this homily that the Lord blessed me with the missing part to this reading. Think about it, if two things are joined together to make one, what holds them together?

When I was a young boy, building model cars, boats and planes was a popular fun activity. I remember putting them together. And what did we use to hold them together? The answer is glue. Likewise, if Hank and Andrea are to come together to become one, something has to hold them together. Now I know immediately everyone will say, what holds them together is love, their love for one another. And, I agree; only it is the love of God, nurturing their relationship that will hold them together forever. In the Gospel reading tonight we heard it said that what God has joined together, no human being must separate. To me that tells me that God is the glue. That is why they, Andrea and Hank, you, have come here, to the house of God to cement your love; to allow God to bind you together forever. Think about that beautiful description of love given to us by St. Paul in

that reading to the Corinthians. If you replace the word love with the word God, you get a pretty good definition of God because God is perfect love. And when we look at you two, Hank and Andrea, tonight we see perfect love. We see God's smile shining on both of you as you beam with joy and happiness.

Tonight, we are all here to love you, to support you, to encourage you, and to just "be there" for you. And we as a church tonight commit ourselves to you. All of us have an obligation to be Christ to you. But you know, there will be times when your family is just not available, your friends are just not there, and you find yourself alone. It is at those times that you can rest assured that God will always be there. Tonight, through the symbolism of this ceremony, you are inviting God to be a part of your marriage. And tonight, He accepts. However, God will not impose himself on you. You have to always welcome Him into your life.

Tonight you are making a commitment to each other to share the ups and the downs, the joys and the disappointments. When LSU wins, you will be happy. When they lose, well, you just won't. Andrea, when he's bummed that the Tigers have lost, you just got to be there for him. And Hank, when Andrea is having a bad hair day, you just gotta be there for her. You might say, Deacon Jodi, you are being silly. However, what my wife and I have found is that it is easier to be there for each other when we face really serious issues like serious illness or death or loss of a job. It's harder when the everyday ups and downs happen. But it is just as important to be there for each other. It's easy to bring flowers on your anniversary, or a birthday or Valentine's Day, but how about on just an ordinary day? You see we get caught up with our lives and sometimes forget the person who is most important to us. For me, I sometimes put my wife on hold to take a business

call. I ought to put the business call on hold to talk to the number one person in my life, my wife. Hank, I hope you feel the same way. And Andrea, when the kids arrive, I hope you remember that Hank came first. Remember to keep romance in your life.

Remember your best friend. Put yourselves first and together raise the kids. And while you are at it, don't forget to pray for your kids. Even today, when our kids range in age from 23 to 26 my wife and I still pray for them every night.

And to all of you, family and friends of Hank and Andrea, we are all here to witness their unity as they together become a Sacrament. Additionally, I ask you tonight to support them and to pray for them. God will join them together in a few minutes. My prayer is that all of us always be an example for them to follow, a source of strength for them in tough times and sign to them that God is always present in their relationship.

Hank and Andrea this is your night but remember a wedding is a day, a marriage is a lifetime.