

May 2nd, 2015  
First Saturday of the Month of Our Lady

### MY SIMPLE WORDS TO STEPHEN AND MARIANNE ON THEIR WEDDING CEREMONY



Dear Stephen and Marianne:

We have witnessed today *a luminous and powerful covenant of love between your hearts*. We have witnessed the power of love that moves the human heart to make choices that are total, permanent, faithful, sincere and free. The human heart is capable of such a love, because we are capable to love as God has loved us. The Sacrament of Holy Matrimony is a living sign of the love that Christ has for His Bride, the Church and also, a living sign of her response of love to His love. The covenant of spousal love means that you have given yourselves to each other, *as a free, total, sincere, permanent and unconditional gift*.

Each person is a gift, each of you is a gift of God, and *the greatest realization of the human person can only be accomplished in the sincere gift of self*. You have promised each other, publicly, before God and before all of us, to always love each other, to always be a gift to each other, to always choose to be freely and sincerely, totally be given to each other in health and in sickness, in joy and in sorrows, in riches and in poverty, in good times and in difficult ones. *The essence of your vocation to marriage is to always make of yourselves a sincere gift of self to the other, to receive and embrace the other as a gift, and cultivate the gift of the other...* Your happiness as individuals and as a couple will depend on how much, regardless of the circumstances or difficulties, *you always choose to look at each other as a gift*, if you choose daily to honor, to treasure each other as a gift that God has been entrusted to your care... If you choose *to preserve and cultivate the Purity of your love, the Faithfulness of your love, and the Generosity of the love that you have promised to each other today, this love will always triumph*.

Always remember Stephen and Marianne that, regardless of the many voices that in our modern society want to give us false definitions of love, *love is the sincere and total gift of self, and we were created by God's love, to only and fully find and realize ourselves through a sincere and total gift of self*. That is the truth about love! Love is a choice to always freely give yourself for the good of the beloved. And this love can only be deepened, cultivated, matured and preserved by the choices you will make for each other daily. You entered this Church as *two individuals, who brought their personal "I" to make a covenant of love that will transform you into a loving and permanent "we"*. Upon this "we", which expresses the truth about the family as a communion of persons, a home will be built and it will become a safe and firm place where "life" can be received, embraced and cared for. Upon your "yes", upon the foundation of your covenant of love, a family would be built, sustained, cultivated and protected.

Today, dear Stephen and Marianne, *you have chosen to give a triumph to the civilization of love*, to the Gospel of love and to the Gospel of the Family.. Always remember that your marriage is called to be a living witness to the powerful force of love to build a new civilization in a world that has somehow come to believe that love is not possible. *Love is not only possible; love is our vocation, our true freedom...our true happiness. Love is our greatest dignity and our greatest realization as human persons!*

*St. John Paul II in his letter to the Families n. 11: "To love means to give and to receive something which can never be bought nor sold, but only given, freely and mutually"*. That is the true dignity of love, which finds a luminous and particular expression in the Sacrament of Marriage, in the covenant of love which you have publicly made today. May your hearts, your marriage and your family be always founded upon the truth about love, thus to also become by your daily choices of fidelity, goodness, service, beauty, truth and love, a true human and Christian family, a true sanctuary of love and life, where love is known, perceived and concretely lived and chosen.

*May Our Lady and St. Joseph, whose covenant of love created a home for the Child Jesus, guide you, protect you, inspire you and teach you to be in all things and in all times, a holy family. I love you very much!*

Mother Adela, Foundress sctjm