

WEDDING OF RICHARD HONQUEST AND KATELYN FINN

St. Francis de Sales Church
Lake Geneva, Wisconsin
September 22, 2018

† Most Reverend Thomas John Paprocki
Bishop of Springfield in Illinois

S.S.P.: The vocation of marriage and family life: helping your spouse and children to get to heaven.

I. Marriage as a vocation

A. The word vocation comes from the Latin *vocare*, to call.

B. Specifically, a vocation is a call from God to help others get to heaven.

1. A priest's vocation is to help his parishioners get to heaven.

2. A married couple's vocation is to help their spouse and children get to heaven.

II. Christ is at the center

A. Image of the Last Supper

B. Jesus at the center of this scene is a reminder that Jesus is to be the center of your married life with each other

C. Story of man who had marital problems because "loved his wife too much"

1. He loved her more than God; in fact, you might say she was his goddess

2. The problem with making your spouse a god or goddess is that a deity is expected to be perfect, so when you discover your spouse is not perfect, of course you will be disappointed!

3. The key is to make sure that God is your divine Lord and remember that the love you share comes from Him.

- III. After you exchange your vows and rings, you will receive the Body and Blood of Christ in this Eucharist.
- A. Always remember this important link between these two sacraments: Jesus in the Eucharist and Jesus in Holy Matrimony
 - B. Jesus comes into your heart in the Eucharist, so receive Him often so that His love will permeate your marriage.
- IV. I'd like to close with a song by a group from Alberta, Canada, called Nickelback. The name of the song is, "Gotta Be Somebody."
- A. On their face, the lyrics of the refrain sound like the typical love song of someone longing to meet a girlfriend or boyfriend, but I invite you to hear these lyrics in reference not just in reference to each other, but to our longing for God. Many of the great mystic saints prayed in this way, looking at their relationship with God as one between lovers or even spouses.
 - B. Ultimately only God can fulfill the deepest longings of our heart, and that is why he needs to be at the center of your married life.
- V. *Nobody wants to be the last one there
 And everyone wants to feel like someone cares
 Someone to love with my life in their hands
 There's gotta be somebody for me, oh
 Nobody wants to go it on their own
 And everyone wants to know they're not alone
 There's somebody else that feels the same somewhere
 There's gotta be somebody for me out there
 Nobody wants to be the last one there
 Cause everyone wants to feel like someone cares
 There's somebody else that feels the same somewhere
 There's gotta be somebody for me out there*

May God give us this grace. Amen.