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Marriage as Sacrament, Sacrament as Song

**A Talk Delivered to the Footsteps
(RCIA) Community
Holy Family Parish
Inverness, IL
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Dave

A song is a poem set to music. A poem is the heart writing with words. And music? Well, music is God speaking in love.

Cheryl

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Dave

Hello, my name is Dave Pipitone, a member of Holy Family Parish. And this is my loving and lovely wife, Cheryl.

Cheryl

And my name is Cheryl Pipitone, Dave's wife of 25 years. Joyce Jelinek asked us to talk about the Sacrament of Matrimony as part of your formation process. Let me see a show of hands. How many of you are married? How many are engaged?

Dave

Well, we would like to thank you for letting us be with you tonight. We wish you every good thing as you prepare to enter the Church at the Easter Vigil. We have been going to the Easter Vigil for many years and know that this will be a special event in your lives. So, we are praying for you, we love you, we believe in you, we hope for a future filled with love, faith and hope for you.

Cheryl

We're going to cover several topics and then ask you to share your thoughts and faith about marriage with each other in small groups afterwards. Here is what we are going to cover.

A review of what is a Sacrament?

What is the Sacrament of Matrimony?

What does Scripture have to say about Marriage?

What does the Church have to say about Marriage?

How does a married couple live the Sacrament of Marriage day in and day out?

But we're going to do something different. We are not going to give you a lecture. We are going to share our faith story, and blend in a few things from Scripture, Vatican II, church teaching, and how we live the Sacrament of Matrimony. You see, living a sacrament is where the life is.

Dave

Throughout our talk, we will share some of the things that we do to live out the Sacrament of Matrimony with each other, and some stories of some of our "marriage heroes," other couples who have witnessed to us about their love of each other and God.

A song is a poem set to music. A poem is the heart writing with words. And music? well, music is God speaking in love.

How did we meet?

In the early 1980's, I was a song leader at St. Mary's Parish in Janesville, WI. Sr. Irene McCarthy, a Dominican Sister from Racine, was the Music Director. I was 29 years old and hoping to find a nice woman to marry. I had the worst luck – all of the girls I met wanted someone else or were dating. In May 1981, the parish had just purchased a new grand piano and the salesman gave Sr. Irene a number of free tickets to hear the Wisconsin Symphony Orchestra play in Madison. Sr. Irene gave me two tickets and told me to find a date for the concert. All week I called the women I had known and couldn't arrange anything. The Saturday night before the concert I was the song leader at the 5 pm Mass at St. Mary's. It was the Vigil of Pentecost.

After Mass, I gave the tickets back to Sr. Irene, told her I couldn't find anyone and that I didn't even want to try anymore. She sighed and said, "Oh well. Did you try Cheryl Hetrick?" I said that I didn't know who that was. She looked at a list of names on her organ and gave me Cheryl's name and telephone number. When I got home, I called Cheryl, introduced myself and asked her to join us for the concert. After that, we began to date and a year later on October 2, 1982, we married each other.

Cheryl

Sr. Irene, bless her heart, always wanted me to be a religious sister, a nun. She was my piano teacher for several years and in that time passed along many brochures with retreats or speakers focused on exploring your religious vocation. I always politely declined. She also would put groups together to hear various musical presentations in the area. So when Dave called me that night, I just assumed it was one of her get togethers. Since I was also the organist at my parish, she had my phone number at hand in case she ever needed me to substitute for her. I like to tell people that all my years of piano lessons really paid off.

On our wedding day, of course Sr. Irene played the organ and we had a lovely string quartet which played both at Mass and at our wedding reception.

In reflecting on the homily by Fr. Ken Fiedler, I remember him talking about marriage being like a tapestry. You see the beautiful picture on the front, colors perfectly blending, all of the threads neat and in place. But you turn it over and see the threads crossing every which way, tied off, broken – all the work that went into making that beautiful picture. That is marriage – all the work behind the scenes that only we and God see to make our lovely marriage picture.

Dave

What I remember about Fr. Ken's homily is that the tapestry is sewn every day with all different colors of yarn. There are some times in life where the **dark thread** is stitched day after day – those periods when sad and difficult times occur. There are bright patches, too, which are sewn in. Fr. Ken said that he would like to see us 25, 50 years from our wedding day, to see how God had worked in our marriage to make all of those dark and light patches unite in a beautiful picture of our relationship.

So, what is a Sacrament?

The word sacrament comes from the Latin, Sacramentum – a sign of the sacred. The sacraments are special ceremonies to experience God's saving presence. A sacrament is both a sign and an instrument of God's grace.

Matrimony is a special sacrament. Matrimony has a particular mission in the Church and serves to build up the People of God. Matrimony is a public sign that one person gives him or herself totally to this other person. It is also a public statement about God: the loving union of husband and wife speaks of family values and also God's values.

On their wedding day, in the presence of a priest and the community, a man and woman give the Sacrament of Matrimony to each other. They exchange the consent to freely marry each other. They then exchange vows to marry each other. A typical Catholic wedding vow is:

I, (Name), take you, (Name), to be my (husband/wife). I promise to be true to you in good times and in bad, in sickness and in health. I will love you and honor you all the days of my life.

After the couple exchanges vows, they exchange wedding rings that the priest blesses. The priest blesses the marriage, declares the man and woman as husband and wife in the eyes of the Church. Later during the Mass or ceremony, the priest offers a Nuptial blessing to the newly married couple.

Cheryl

What does Scripture say about Marriage?

The Bible has much to say about marriage in terms of an unbreakable relationship and covenant in which God is present.

There are two stories or versions of creation in Genesis.

Chapter One – God spoke and created. *God created man in His own image – in the divine image he created him; male and female he created them.*

Chapter Two – God is intimately involved in the creation process – *It is not good for the man to be alone – I will make a suitable partner for him. God built a woman out of man's rib, brought her to the man and he said, "This one, at last, is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; this one shall be called 'woman' for out of 'her man' this one has been taken.*

That is why a man leaves his father and mother and clings to his wife, and the two of them become one flesh."

The concept of unity – being one flesh – united together with God is very old indeed.

Dave

Let's skip ahead to the prophetic books of Isaiah. In these consoling books when the people were in exile and returning to a barren land, the prophet speaks of God's intimate love and presence to the people of Israel using terms of marriage.

From Isaiah 54:

For he who has become your husband is your Maker; his name is the Lord of Hosts; your redeemer is the Holy One of Israel, called God of all the earth.

Listen to these beautiful words found in Isaiah 61: verse 10:

"I rejoice heartily in the Lord, in my God is the joy of my soul; for he has clothed me with a robe of salvation and wrapped me in a mantle of justice, like a bridegroom adorned with a diadem like a bride bedecked with her jewels."

And again in Isaiah 62 verse 4 and 5,

"No more shall men call you 'Forsaken,' or your land 'Desolate,' but you shall be called "My Delight" and your land "Espoused." For the Lord delights in you, and makes your land his spouse. As a young man marries a virgin, your Builder shall marry you; and as a bridegroom rejoices in his bride, so shall your God rejoice in you."

Cheryl

Here is the beautiful language of Hosea, who married a prostitute to symbolize God's continuing love of an unfaithful people:

Hosea 2:21-22. *"I will espouse you to me forever. I will espouse you in right and in justice, in love and in mercy. I will espouse you in fidelity, and you shall know the Lord."*

Cheryl

A song is a poem set to music. A poem is the heart writing with words. And music? well, music is God speaking in love.

One of the most beautiful parts of the Bible is the love poems in the Song of Songs in the Old Testament. This is love poetry – the heart writing with words. Listen to this section from Chapter 2 of the Song of Songs.

*Hark! My lover-here he comes springing across the mountains,
Leaping across the hills,
My lover is like a gazelle or a young stag,
Here he stands behind our wall,
Gazing through the windows,
Peering through the lattices
My lover speaks; he says to me,
"Arise, my beloved, my beautiful one,
And come!
For see, the winter is past,
The rains are over and gone.
The flowers appear on the earth,
The time of pruning the vines has come,
And the song of the dove is heard in our land.
The fig tree puts forth its figs and the vines
In bloom, give forth fragrance.
Arise my beloved, my beautiful one and come!*

Dave

A song is a poem set to music. A poem is the heart writing with words. And music? well, music is God speaking in love.

Marriage heroes. You have to have them. That is one of the roles of a Christian marriage. Being a public sign to others. Witnessing the sign of God's presence in other peoples' marriages.

I have been very blessed to have parents married for about 57 years now. Mom and dad were married in 1949. Now, you have to know my dad. He loves music. He played music, he wrote music, he sings music. In the early years of their marriage in the 1950's, Dad would just play his accordion. Then, in 1954, he wanted to write a song. He didn't think he was very good with lyrics, so he told my mom, "I'll write the music if you write the words." Dad composed the music first and then mom wrote the words to go with it.

Mom went to grade school with the wife of Mel Torme. When Dad got the idea to write his song, they thought the song would be perfect for him to sing. They sent him the words and the music, but never went anywhere. It's funny, Joyce asked us to do this talk a week ago Sunday. When I called my dad last Friday, he said that he was going through a box of old pictures and came across the song. So, I asked him if I could share the lyrics of the song with you tonight and he agreed. Here are the lyrics.

Lonely No More

Used to walk down this street and my heart was sad and sore
Had no love I could meet I'm lonely no more.
You walked into my dream - led me straight to heaven's door
Suddenly, strange as it seems I'm lonely no more.

Hated to see the sunrise, meant another day alone
Hated to see the moon rise, had no love of my own.

I'm as bubbly as wine for my faith you did restore
You were made to be mine I'm lonely no more.

Cheryl

In Chapter 2 of John's Gospel, there is the account of the wedding feast at Cana. Jesus blessed the water and turned it into wine to spare the bride and the groom embarrassment and help the celebration become even better. After all, they got a lot more wine of much higher quality.

Throughout the Gospels, the words of Jesus seem to compare heaven to a wedding feast.

St. Paul wrote about marriage in his letter to the Ephesians. Chapter Five of this letter includes words like:

Husbands, love your wives even as Christ loved the church and handed himself over for her ... For this reason a man shall leave father and mother and be joined to his wife and the two shall become one flesh. This is a great mystery, but I speak in reference to Christ and the church. In any case, each of you should love his wife as himself and the wife should respect her husband.

And Chapter 21 of the Book of Revelation has a rich imagery of marriage, church and God:

"Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth. The former heaven and the former earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. I also saw the holy city, a new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. I heard a loud voice from the Throne saying, "Behold, God's dwelling is with the human race. He will dwell with them and they will be his people and God himself will always be with them as their God. He will wipe every tear from their eyes and there shall be no more death or mourning, wailing or pain, for the old order has passed away. The one who sat on the throne said, "Behold, I make all things new."

God dwelling with the human race forever. Using the image of bride and husband. All things made new.

Dave

What does the Church say about Marriage?

Let's look at Vatican II, the watershed meeting of world-wide bishops gathered to pray and reflect upon the meaning and mission of the Church. The most significant document about the identity of the Church is Lumen Gentium, The Church, published in November 1964. Chapter II, People of God, defines attributes of Marriage as Sacrament:

Section II. "In virtue of the sacrament of Matrimony, by which they signify and share in the mystery and fruitful love between Christ and the church, Christian married couples help one another to attain holiness in their married life and in accepting and educating their children...from their union comes the family in which new citizens of human society are born and by the grace of the Holy Spirit in Baptism, these are made children of God so that the people of God may be perpetuated through the centuries. In what might be regarded as the domestic church, the parents are to be the first preachers of the faith for their children by word and example."

In chapter III, The Laity, the Council wrote about the prophetic nature of marriage, which means to give witness (Section 35.)

"The state of life that is sanctified by a special sacrament, namely married and family life, has a special value in this prophetic office...in it, the married partners have their own proper vocation: they must be witnesses of their faith and love of Christ to each other and to their children."

Cheryl

In Chapter V, Universal Call to Holiness, Section 41.

"Christian married couples and parents, following their own way, should with faithful love support one another in grace all through life. They should train their children, lovingly welcomed from God, in Christian doctrine and evangelical virtues. Because in this way, they present to all an example of unflinching and generous love, they build up the community of charity and stand as witnesses to and cooperators in the fruitfulness of mother church, as a sign of and a share in that love with which Christ loved his bride and gave himself for her."

Dave

Another Vatican II Document, *Gaudium et Spes*, Church in the Modern World was published on December 7, 1965. This document addresses the human condition in the world and how the Church relates to it.

Chapter I, Dignity of the Human Person says:

"But God did not create men and women as solitary beings. From the beginning, "male and female God created them." This partnership of man and woman constitutes the first form of communion between people. For by their innermost nature, men and women are social beings; and if they do not enter into relationships with others, they can neither live nor develop their gifts."

Later on in Part Two – Urgent Problems, Chapter I, the Dignity of Marriage and the Family, the Council wrote:

"The well-being of the individual person and of both human and Christian society is closely bound up with the healthy state of community of marriage and the family. Cites changes: plague of divorce, free love; marriage is too often dishonored by selfishness, hedonism, unlawful contraceptive practices; there is disruptive climate economic, social, psychological and civil."

Cheryl

*Thus, the man and the woman, who are no longer two but one, help and serve each other by their marriage partnership; they become conscious of their **unity** and experience it more deeply from day to day. The intimate union of marriage as a mutual giving of two persons and the good of the children demand **total fidelity** from the spouses and require an unbreakable **unity** between them.*

*Christ our Lord has abundantly blessed this love, which is rich in its various features, coming as it does from the spring of divine love and modeled on Christ's own union with the Church. Just as of old, God encountered his people in a covenant of love and fidelity, so our Savior, the spouse of the church, now encounters Christian spouses through the sacrament of marriage. **He abides with them** in order that by their mutual self-giving, spouses will love each other with enduring fidelity, as he loved the Church and delivered himself for it.*

The Lord, wishing to bestow special gifts of grace and divine love on married love, has restored, perfected and elevated it. A love like that, bringing together the human and the divine, leads the partners to a free and mutual self-giving, experienced in tenderness and action, and permeating their entire lives, this love is actually developed and increased by its generous exercise.

Authentic married love will be held in high esteem and healthy public opinion will be quick to recognize it, if Christian spouses are noted for faithfulness and harmony in their love."

Dave

The Church in the Modern World closes the section on prayer with this prayer and wish:

"Let married people themselves, who are created in the image of the living God and constituted in an authentic personal dignity, be united together in equal affection, agreement of mind and mutual holiness. Thus, in the footsteps of Christ, the principle of life, they will bear witness by their faithful love in the joys and sacrifices of their calling to that mystery of love which the Lord revealed to the world by his death and resurrection."

Dave

OK, that was 1964 and 1965. What is happening today in 2008?

In 2004, the United States bishops began a seven year National Pastoral Initiative for Marriage, which is going to result in a Pastoral Letter on Marriage to American Catholics. In 2008, this year, the Pastoral Letter on Marriage will be presented and voted on at the Bishop's meetings. Going forward, the letter will be published and implemented.

Part of this project includes resources like the For Your Marriage website.

www.foryourmarriage.org is the US Bishops website on marriage. It has a daily marriage tip, information on preparing for marriage, caring for your marriage, about Catholic marriage. There are testimonies by other married couples about what makes marriage so wonderful and exciting for them. Make sure to check out that website www.foryourmarriage.org.

Cheryl

What makes a marriage work long term?

According to David Popenoe & Barbara Dafoe Whitehead, sociologists at Rutgers University, The National Marriage Project, the most common reasons couples give for long-term marital success are commitment and companionship. They speak of hard work and dedication, both to each other and to the idea of marriage itself.

Sociologists and Marriage –

There are five goals for the National Marriage Project – to disseminate information about the state of and attitudes toward marriage, to be a clearinghouse of expertise and bring together marriage and family experts to develop strategies to revitalize marriage.

Listen to this observation in the 2007 edition of State of Our Unions, Social Health of Marriage in America.

To reverse this trend of marriage and family decline would take a cultural transformation of some kind, and it is interesting to consider and evaluate what this might look like, and what could bring it about. One potential source of change would be a significant expansion in influence and authority of today's orthodox, anti-individualist religions. Much has been written in recent years about the weakening of secularization, pointing out that modernization no longer necessarily means the demise of religion.

The rebuilding of a stronger marriage culture is possible. In addition to the heavy promotion of marriage built around the self-interest of today's young people, it will probably require a cultural shift of some magnitude, one in which stable, predictable, and long-term relationships with others come to be viewed as the best foundation for adult personalities, childrearing, and family life.

Dave

A song is a poem set to music. A poem is the heart writing with words. And music? well, music is God speaking in love.

Two years ago this March, my Mom was celebrating her 80th Birthday party. My younger sister Mimi decided to host a birthday party for that special birthday. Mimi had a plan. She wanted

everyone to give Mom a rose and tell her what they meant to her. She asked me to videotape the party and the presentations. So at the party, all of us children gave Mom her rose and told her an event that we remembered that was a gift of her love. Then, it was dad's turn.

So, when his turn came, he used the lyrics to a song sung by Andy Williams, a famous singer of his day.

*"If anyone could ever write my life story
For whatever reason there might be,
Oh, you'll be there between each line,
Of pain and glory,
'cause you're the best thing that ever happened to me."*

And Dad broke down and cried at saying that, *'cause you're the best thing that ever happened to me*. And mom had tears in her eyes, held his hand, and smiled. A song is a poem set to music. A poem is the heart writing with words. And music? Well, music is God speaking in love. By the way, my mom's name is Cecilia. St. Cecilia is the patron saint of musicians.

Cheryl

How do we live the Sacrament of Marriage?

Marriage is a sacrament that shapes the way you live the rest of your life in covenant with another human being and with God. When you make the decision to love someone as a spouse for your entire life, you enter into a union with that person and a union with God. You learn to sing a song that doesn't have an ending. You go to a concert that gets more glorious as time ends and eternity begins.

Dave

About ten or eleven years ago, my parent's neighbor Dorothy died from cancer. Dorothy was Methodist and as a teenager, I went along with her to church to learn about her faith tradition. She was the organist at her church and was well loved by many people.

At her funeral, the minister gave a warm and wonderful sermon about her life on earth and her new life beginning with God in heaven. He used this story – that the life on earth is like a prelude to a great concert. When we die – it's curtains – but the curtains, don't come down – they go up, just like a musical or a concert, and the real score begins.

When I heard that sermon, I thought of her husband Jack who was now a widower. I wrote a poem, called *The Concert*, which I'd like to share with you.

I've gone to the Concert,
where Saints and Angels sing
a melody of thanks and praise
to Jesus, Friend and King.

I've gone to the Concert,
can you hear the music play?
It's when tomorrow comes;
it's at the beginning of today.

Are you coming to the Concert?
The orchestra is divine:
A symphony in perfect pitch
every generation, every time.

I hope to see you at the Concert.
I'll ask God to save a chair.
One day you'll be home with me
and I'll be singing with you there.

I gave the poem to Jack, Dorothy's husband, and her family. Several years later, Jack developed cancer and died. His niece read that poem at Jack's funeral.

Cheryl

Marriage offers a man and a woman a life to receive and live all of the virtues of a Christian life – love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, trust, humility and self control – supported by hope and faith. Lived together and with each other. And as a witness to others.

A song is a poem set to music. A poem is the heart writing with words. And music? well, music is God speaking in love.

Dave

In the fall of 1996, I began a four year stretch of song writing creativity. It started with a song I wrote for Cardinal Bernardin when he was dying of cancer. After I had written that song, Cheryl asked if I would write a song for her. So, I worked on it and did write the lyrics and melody. I called it The Song of Our Marriage. We worked with Ginny Netter, the pianist from Church of the Holy Spirit in Schaumburg, IL, who played it at the Valentine's Day Mass in 1997 at church. 10 years ago this month, on February 14, 1998, I had recorded the song. Cheryl and I danced to it at the Valentine's Married Couples Dance at Church of the Holy Spirit. Two weeks later, we traveled to Mexico City to pray for a conception and nine months later our daughter Emily was born. We would like to play the song for you.

Listen to the Song of Our Marriage CD.

Online Version: <http://www.songofourmarriage.com/demosong.html>

Cheryl

It is beautiful, isn't it? Teacher of wisdom, you've shown me God's face. Your strength is so gentle and fine as white lace. You listen with heart strings that sing out a song, it's your love that makes me feel strong.

There is a secret about this song that is not so obvious. It is much more than a human husband singing to his human wife. The deeper level of this song is a duet that speaks about us as God's bride, the Bride of Christ. All of the verses are gifts of great affirmation – sung by Jesus to us. The refrain we sing to Jesus.

Let's reflect on the verses: *Giver of beauty, you've entered my life, I thank God every day that you are my wife.*

Did you ever imagine that Jesus would thank His Father, His Abba for you? That God created you to enter the life of Jesus. That you are precious to Him? Guess what – it is not fantasy. Jesus loves each of us very deeply. And you when enter the Church, that is what you can expect from the love of Jesus for you and your loved ones.

You're filled to the brim with goodness and grace, come, join me in love's sweet embrace.

Isn't it marvelous to be affirmed by Jesus that the Holy Spirit fills you with goodness and grace and that you are invited to join in the love embrace with Jesus?

Dave

Take verse two. *"Lover of nature, the sun's in your hair, all the meadows of flowers could never compare."*

Do you remember the words of Jesus to his disciples in Matthew's Gospel, Chapter 6. *Why are you anxious about clothes? Learn from the way the wild flowers grow. They do not work or spin. But I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was clothed like one of them. If God so clothes the grass of the field which grows today and is thrown into the oven tomorrow, will he not much more provide for you?* All the meadows of flowers could never compare with what Jesus thinks of you.

The next part of that verse, *"The treasure you carry shines out in your eyes to make me thank God you're alive."*

We carry a marvelous treasure within us – the very life of God. Imagine Jesus thanking God that we are alive and that He can live in us.

Cheryl

Here's verse three.

Prayers so simple that you whisper now move heaven and earth in my spirit somehow. My joy's overflowing, my eyes filled with tears to have you and hold you so near.

Prayer – our requests and desires are held so dearly by Jesus, and move Him to act to give us life, joy, and love. Imagine Jesus, overflowing with joy to have us and to hold us. A part of the wedding vow a promise and a duty to have and to hold.

Dave

And now, verse four – the verse of hope:

Held and beholden, you make up my dreams.

Not only does Jesus hold us and behold us, we are part of his dreams.

The life we have chosen is more than it seems. We're married forever with God as our guide. I will always be with you my bride.

We receive the gift of eternal life with Jesus, with the Father, and with the Holy Spirit. Life is more than this earthly one. Married forever with and to God in a deep covenant of love that no human or heavenly power can break. God will be with us always.

Cheryl

And our response to Jesus:

Teacher of Wisdom, you've shown me God's face.

Jesus is the human face of God.

Your strength is so gentle and fine as white lace.

The strength of Jesus is not with swords, nuclear bombs, or hand guns. The strength of Jesus is love, forgiveness, mercy.

You listen with heart strings that sing out a song.

The Song of Songs that God sings to us is music to our souls.

It's your love that makes me feel strong.

Everything we have, everything we do, everything we are is strengthened, supported and given to us by God's love in Jesus.

Dave

Yes, living the Sacrament of Matrimony is like singing and living a love song.

All of us are very blessed to be here at Holy Family Parish, where marriage is supported, encouraged, and honored. Fr. Pat, Jim Papandrea, the Family Faith office and the staff offer excellent programs for marriage preparation and for marriage enrichment. They encourage the community to celebrate marriage as the wonderful gift that it is. For example, on Saturday February 16, the parish is holding the Evening of Romance for married couples, starting with the 6:00 p.m. Mass and following with Dinner and Dancing. The theme of this year's part is, "The Song Remembers When." This is a wonderful chance for you to live out the Song of Your Marriage. Make sure to take full advantage of these resources. They can and will help you grow in love.

Let's review the highlights of tonight's talk.

1. Matrimony is a sacrament in which a man and a woman vow to live together as husband and wife for their entire lives.
2. Scripture contains many passages which compare God's love and faithfulness in a covenant with his people to the union of marriage.
3. The Vatican II documents praise marriage and the selfless giving of a husband and wife to each other as a sign of God's love for the Church.
4. The U.S. Bishops place a very high priority on restoring the dignity and beauty of Christian marriage, with a pastoral letter coming out this year 2008.
5. Top sociologists like those at the National Marriage Project of Rutgers University keep track of developments on the strength of marriage in America and how to make it better.

6. The real value of the Sacrament of Matrimony is in the conscious and intentional living of it. Those who receive this sacrament make a decision that radically shapes the rest of their lives.
7. And remember, Marriage as a Sacrament is like a song.

I would personally like to thank Joyce Jelinek for asking us to give this talk and Jim Papandrea for recommending us to her. You see, I knew that the 10th Anniversary of recording the Song of Our Marriage was coming up around this time. I had an impression that there was a deeper understanding to the lyrics – that God actually is involved with all of us in a deeply loving covenant relationship, like a marriage.

It was only when we worked on this talk to put it down in writing and in speaking that we could articulate that truth much more clearly. Sharing these insights with you is a great gift to us and we very much appreciate you. Thank you for the privilege of your attention and listening.

Cheryl

A song is a poem set to music. A poem is the heart writing with words. And music? well, music is God speaking in love.

Dave and Cheryl

May the music of God fill you with love, joy and happiness during your Footsteps journey and as you enter the Church at the Easter vigil. Thank you and God bless you.