

When I was a kid, I was a pretty good student in reading, writing and arithmetic, but the one class I did not like in grade school was history. The textbook was huge. The teacher was so-so. I had a good head for dates, so I started memorizing dates. But then someone told me that was not the correct way to learn history because you have to learn movements, not incidents, so I quit doing that and got more and more lost. It was embarrassing because my mother's older sister in Minnesota taught history. I loved her, and I remember discussing this with her once. Eventually, I did a 180, and now I truly enjoy the study of history, dates, and movements. I love watching the battle of good and evil play out over time, and how the history of the human race keeps advancing to ever greater achievements.

So when my brother Tom told me that María's older daughter was dating a history major who dreamed of becoming a teacher one day, I said, "That's great. What's his field of specialization?" Tom said, "Pirates." Well, people should study what interests them, and if pirates help you understand civilization, struggle and accomplishment, you can apply that knowledge to many areas of your life.

Víctor es un buen hombre, y nuestra familia está muy contenta de haberlo conocido y de abrirle las puertas de nuestros hogares. La misma Patricia es una buena estudiante, y - quizás algo aún más importante - tiene un corazón fuerte para las demás personas. Ha trabajado en agencias de servicio social tanto aquí en Kansas City como en Springfield. Ella tiene amor por los demás, un corazón para los necesitados, y una disposición que lleva un mensaje de esperanza.

Víctor y Patricia comparten también un amor por Dios, una fe en Cristo y un fuerte apego a la iglesia. Vienen de familias maravillosas, y se preocupan por la comunidad. Poseen todos los valores que hacen ciudadanos fuertes: respeto por el pasado, ayuda en el presente, y esperanza para el futuro en la vida eterna. Están logrando todo esto mezclando dos familias, dos idiomas y dos países en algo hermoso, armónico e histórico.

Today they start down a new path of history together. It's a day of true happiness. It comes with stress. Even Jesus knew this. When he spoke of marriage he said it was both a leaving and a joining. It is leaving from two homes and joining into a new one. God has made this task easier for us by placing in our hearts the gift of love. Saint Paul speaks about it eloquently in his Second Letter to the Corinthians, and the Song of Songs also depicts the immensity of love: One lover says to the other, "Set me as a seal on your heart, as a seal on your arm; For stern as death is love, relentless as the netherworld is devotion; its flames are a blazing fire. Deep waters cannot quench love, nor floods sweep it away." Love is personal, yet it is immense. It feels private, yet it yearns to be shared. Lovers usually feel at home in church because love feels eternal, eternal like God.

And eternal like history. Today, Patricia and Victor, you make a new home, you start a new family, you create new stories. You make history. May God be at your side and help you share your love ever more not just with each other, but with your families, your friends, and all the world.