

Sam Marlin & Brennen Menzie

Sam and Brennen both come from Sublette, Kansas. They went to the same daycare and grade school there. Sam's mother taught Brennen in sixth grade. Without going into details, it's safe to say, this was not love at first sight. It took a while, but they gradually came to see that, of all the people in the world, the one whom God had in mind as their partner for life was right in their own backyard. Many of you know this couple well, and some of you have known them both for most of their lives.

We don't know as much about the couple who got married in Cana on the day that Jesus worked his first miracle. But Saint John tells us that Jesus' mother was there, even before he tells us that Jesus and his disciples were also invited. It makes you think that Jesus' mother knew at least one of the parents of the newlyweds, and possibly even the bride and the groom. Towns were smaller in those days. People did not travel the great distances that we do. It's not farfetched to think that the bride and groom that day had grown up in the same small town, that their parents knew each other, that it took them a while to fall in love, and that they wanted all of their friends there for a big celebration when the wedding day finally arrived. Nor is it farfetched to think that Jesus had grown up with them, had played in their homes, and that they wanted him and his friends to join them for the wedding.

A similar scene unfolds before our eyes today. Both Sam and Brennen grew up in Christian households. Christ has been part of their family life since they were very young. Today, having invited family and friends, young and old, longtime and new, they come to this cathedral because the most important guest at their wedding is the one who can work miracles, Jesus Christ.

The account of the wedding in Cana carries a subplot of a disagreement between Jesus and his mother. She tells him that the people have no more wine. He says that this does not concern him because his "hour has not yet come." It seems that Jesus thought his mother wanted people to have a good time at the reception, but he already sensed that he had come into this world for a deeper purpose than spreading cheer. She apparently saw no contradiction in these purposes and commanded the servers, "Do whatever he tells you." With that, Jesus began to reveal publicly who he was.

Sam and Brennen, we hope that the happiness you experience on your wedding day will deepen every day of your married life, and that you will find life both cheerful and spiritual. Christ has much to reveal to you. You will come to know him even more through marriage and family life. As you do, we hope that you will reveal what you learn to us. In your love you experience God's love. That love will fill you so much that it will change you from selfishness to selflessness, like water into wine. We look forward to watching your love spread. Whenever you bring cheer into the lives of other people, you will reveal Christ to the world.

Saturday, May 18, 2019