

Many members of the cathedral parish travel a bit to worship here. They love the building and the liturgy. Over the past few years as housing developed in downtown Kansas City, more young adults are moving into the neighborhood and making the cathedral their spiritual home. Our parish leadership wanted to reach out to these individuals, which gave birth to a group we simply call Cathedral Young Adults.

We had our first event a couple of years ago - a social at a neighborhood bar. Since then we have offered a variety of experiences for the group - worship, service and socials. That first event two years ago was a huge success for us because we got many names with contact information.

It was a huge success for another reason. That was the night when Kurt met Katie. Their encounter almost went nowhere because Kurt forgot to get her phone number. But shortly after that he spotted her inside the cathedral at mass, said hello again, and, well, here we are.

This is the kind of couple that does a pastor's heart good. They met at an event sponsored by the cathedral. They exchanged contact information inside the cathedral. They got engaged on the front steps of the cathedral. And throughout their engagement they've come regularly to mass at the cathedral. I wish they'd give lessons to other couples. We are all thanking God for bringing us to this day.

Kurt and Katie have successful professional careers with their firms. They know the business world. They interact well with other mature adults. They will make a great couple and terrific parents. They also have a natural love for God that's born out of the faith written on their hearts.

Perhaps that's why the first reading they chose for their wedding seems so powerful. Jeremiah prophesied at a time when the people of Israel had gone through tremendous loss of home, property, place of worship and even the lives of family and friends. But after years in exile, a pagan king invited them to go back home again. They would not only build up their abandoned city, but they would rebuild their forsaken relationship with God. This same God had established a covenant with their ancestors, and now he was promising to be with them anew. Jeremiah speaks God's word to the people this way: "I will make a new covenant.... I will place my law within them, and write it upon their hearts.... No longer will they need to teach their friends and relatives how to know the Lord. All, from least to greatest, shall know me, says the Lord."

Kurt and Katie have demonstrated that comfortable knowledge of the Lord. Not everyone feels that comfortable with faith, religion or even being inside a church. But one thing we hope that a Catholic wedding accomplishes is to proclaim that to experience love is to experience God. God is love, the author of human love, and to have human love is already to experience God whom we may feel we do not know very well. Any discomfort we have does not stop God for loving us - in the same way that parents keep loving children no matter what. We pray today that what Kurt and Katie have written upon their hearts will continue to grow in their home, and that all of us will discover through them the never-ending covenant of love in God.