

Kevin and Amy went to the same university without meeting each other; they met in the privacy of online searching. They went to the West coast for the perfect engagement spot, and they have found responsible jobs at home. Sometimes geography is relevant; sometimes it is not. It is important that we have all come from near and far to this geographical place - in happiness because of this day and in prayer for future joy.

Anyone involved with financial markets or city administration knows that you'll have days of absolute exhilaration and days of serious challenges. Family life goes the same way.

Jesus prepared his own disciples for these difficulties by offering a simple image of house construction. People who build their house on a foundation of rock are wise; those who built on sand are foolish. He's trying to reassure his followers that their future is safe if they accept two responsibilities: listen to his words and act on them. In some ancient languages the words for "listen" and "obey" are very close, so Jesus was probably playing on these terms. If you pay attention to him and lodge his word in your heart, then your house is built on solid rock. You can apply the same metaphor to business, school, church and family life.

Kevin and Amy are both people of faith who want their family home built on a solid foundation. Having all of you here for this wedding and the celebrations to follow will set the first layer squarely in place.

Storms arise in every family. No one is surprised when they appear. Even when couples face tragedy, they can more deeply appreciate how much their love sustains them. Their emotional center sees them through.

Among the people who first received the letters of Saint Paul, the Philippians held a special place in his heart. They too faced challenges, and he gave them some practical advice on what to do when things go wrong. At first it sounds simplistic. He says, "Have no anxiety at all." But then he tells them - and us - what to think about. Sometimes our minds get filled with worries and concerns, fears and discontentment. Too often we open the door of our minds to bad news and let it dwell there. Paul has a different approach: "whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is gracious, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things....Then the peace of God will be with you."

One of the great things about having all of you here is that you will create a happy memory for Kevin and Amy as they start their married life together. Whenever they need to think about something true, honorable, just, pure, lovely, gracious and excellent, they can think of you. Kevin and Amy, when we need inspiration, we can think of you and the example you have given us, the exaltation of values such as education, hard work and sacrifice; and the joy that comes from God's greatest gift, the gift of love.