

The University of Arkansas has probably produced a good many engaged couples over the years, but it still amazes me how someone from Texas and someone from Missouri can find each other in another State while studying two different fields - accounting and nursing. But that's the charming story of the mystery of love, which can bring together two people who feel they were made for each other, that they were always one in the mind of God, had been separated before, but now are joining together.

Both Danny and Kayla tell interesting stories about their faith - how some unexpected events in their lives drew them more deeply into the presence of God. Just as today we celebrate the mysterious way they once found each other, we also celebrate the mysterious ways they once again found God.

They chose for our first reading today part of the creation story from the Book of Genesis. It's charming how the writer describes the way that the first man and woman found each other. God created the man, then realized that this lonely man needed a suitable partner. God created animals, to each of which the man gave a name. But the beautiful array of the animal kingdom, impressive as it is, failed to provide a suitable partner. So God anesthetized the man, surgically removed a rib, turned it into a woman, and that worked. The Book of Genesis says this is why a husband and wife become one body. It's as if they were one body at the beginning, and marriage restores a unity.

This lovely tale also describes the way many of us relate to God. You could say that God created humanity so that God could have a suitable partner; not that we are like him, but we are made for him. At times we feel we are alone, without a suitable partner. In our search, we may turn to false joys, fleeting pleasures, selfish pursuits. Entertaining as they may be, they are not in the end suitable partners; they do not satisfy the way God can. As Danny and Kayla have discovered, when you reenter your relationship with God, it's a little like the woman and the man finding each other in the Book of Genesis. The two become one. We can become one with God.

Daniel and Kayla, as you begin this new life together, you are restoring a unity God had in mind from the beginning. As you probe the depths of the mystery of love, you will experience God ever again. And through your unity, you show others how to be one.

Jesus told his disciples at the Last Supper, "Love one another as I have loved you." We are all called to follow this command. On this wedding day, when we celebrate what human love can be, we all feel inspired to love better - the members of our family, our circle of friends, even strangers on the street. When we love, we discover a unity among humans that has always been there, and that God calls us to restore.