

I'm still amazed at how these two people found each other. One of the lessons we teach kids is, watch out for people you meet on the internet. But these aren't kids, and quite honestly, they did watch out. They entered this relationship very carefully and responsibly. One year ago nobody would have dreamed that we would all be here today, but we are and we thank God that this marriage is happening.

This marriage is a sign of God's providence. I just have a feeling that God created these people with this day in mind, and brought them through a long journey to find each other and to discover the joy that God had planned for them.

The journey has been difficult. None of us can come here today without remembering two extraordinary people: JoAnn Cameron and Jerry Hockersmith. Both JoAnn and Jerry enjoyed a long marriage to a loving spouse who cared for them even when their needs grew intense. Both of them lost their lives after a brief, serious illness. And both of them left a huge hole in the hearts of the people who loved them. We thank God for them today, and we pray for their eternal rest.

We also thank God for the gift of love that never dies, and that can be reawakened when we least expect it. Love can come to you at any stage of life, and it can make you feel young, alive, happy and whole. Love is not easy to sustain. Sometimes God even tricks people into committing to a person who will need them some day even when the feeling of love is hard to reach.

Today's first reading is about that mysterious aspect of God. It comes from the prophecy of Jeremiah. God had asked him to become a prophet, and Jeremiah had a lot of excuses to decline the invitation. But he finally gave in because God insisted. Jeremiah's life as a prophet was not easy. People made fun of him. They didn't support him. They wouldn't listen to his advice. And Jeremiah turned back to God in prayer, one of the most famous prayers in the bible, when he talked to God in very bold language: "You duped me, O Lord, and I let myself be duped; you were too strong for me, and you triumphed." Jeremiah thought about not giving in, shutting his mouth when God wanted him to speak, but it just didn't work. He says of God's word, "it becomes like a fire burning in my heart, imprisoned in my bones; I grow weary holding it in, I cannot endure it." It's a beautiful description of what happens when someone takes hold of you in a way you cannot let go.

That's what's been so amazing to watch with John & Lynn. They are so much in love that they can't deny it. Their love has become like a burning fire within them, and they cannot say no to it. God has called them together. God was too strong for them; God has triumphed.

And you know, God never stops inviting us to love, to care for others, to pursue a vocation, or to commit to a cause. Sometimes we resist, and we resist very well. But we're never happy unless we let God triumph in our lives. Perhaps that's the message of this

**marriage we need to keep in mind. When God calls us to do something, we'd better act on it, and we'd better act on it now.**