

Andrew and Sarah have known each other a long time—something like ten years now—so a lot of people are saying things like, “Finally!” Neither is from Kansas City. Coming from Wichita and Saint Louis, they met in the middle at Rockhurst, and they love living here.

When I met Sarah and Andrew last fall in the pre-pandemic, and learned that they had careers in nursing and financing, I had no idea how much the world at the time of their wedding was going to need expertise in health care and the economy. We have two other couples tying the knot in this cathedral this weekend; both those brides and one groom are all in health care, and the other groom told me last fall he had a job in marketing for a company called Zoom. He’s the only one on the six whose job isn’t important any more: Zoom has no need for marketers.

Our cathedral is a busy place this weekend, but one reason it’s a beautiful place for this couple is that Sarah’s mother and grandmother were both married in cathedrals, so we are carrying on a long family tradition into a new generation.

Generations come to mind when we hear scripture readings like the passages from Genesis and Mark that form part of our liturgy of the word this afternoon. Jesus quotes a line from Genesis in the gospel: the two shall become one. The physical union expresses an emotional union, a spiritual union, even a union of identities. Yes, each partner remains an individual person, but they become known as “a couple” as “Mr. & Mrs.” The Book of Genesis drives home this point through its account of the creation of the first woman. While Adam was asleep in what had to be the deepest slumber before the advent of anesthesiology, God opened Adam’s side, removed a rib, and closed up the flesh apparently without sutures. God wasn’t done. Genesis says, “The Lord God then built up into a woman the rib that he had taken from the man.” Adam describes her as “bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh.” Genesis presents the very creation of a second human being as the doubling of one.

Sarah and Andrew have experienced this mysterious unity between them—something intangible that bridges these two souls into one. Kansas City has served as that meeting point for them, a bridge between the two cities that first gave them life. Andrew proposed to Sarah on a bridge, as if to show the unity of the two.

Now, they are forming a stronger union, one that will strengthen them to serve as a bridge for many others. Those in economic strife yearning to cross to security, those with infirmities yearning to cross to better health—they and others will find in Andrew and Sarah the span that will help them cross to another shore. Beyond their professional expertise, Andrew and Sarah bring another expertise to our society: love. For anyone who feels unloved, lonely, or in despair, they can provide that bridge too, giving others hope by sharing their love.

Sarah and Andrew, we rejoice with you on this day, and we pray with you that God will make your love grow ever wider, so that we can all cross from this shore toward eternal life guided by the example we will find in you.