

Gosh, it's been a busy month for the world press: the presidential debates, the olympics, the baseball playoffs, and now Dan and Liz. When news broke that Dan Pruitt was engaged the stock market fell 93 points. But news that he was engaged to Liz has made the world very proud.

Here is a couple that knows the joy of loving. Here is a couple that knows the pain of separation. Here is a couple come before God seeking the best for themselves.

Love is a beautiful thing. It's patient, kind; it's not jealous, conceited or proud; it never gives up; love is eternal. What St. Paul doesn't tell us is that love takes work. It's like a plant that may start to grow all by itself, but it takes work to become stronger and more beautiful. Love takes work like communication: Talk to each other, tell each other how you feel. Every day. Love takes work like respect. Two become one, but the two are still individuals who need respect. Every day. Love takes work like play: Enjoy each other's company. Every day.

I also call upon everyone here today to reflect on the commitments of your lives. God calls you to love. God calls you to live in peace. Can you recommit yourself to that tonight? Can you be a means of God's peace?

Dan and Liz chose for a prayer tonight the Prayer of St. Francis. Francis was the son of a wealthy Italian merchant. He had fine clothes, he had property, he had a title. He gave it all away. He became the poorest man in the history of the world. Yet no one is more famous. Francis gave up everything to become a means of God's peace. He is a beautiful symbol for marriage, where the spouses give up everything to be a means of peace. There is nothing more precious in all the world than love. If you have not love, you have nothing at all. If you have love, you have everything. Dan and Liz, I wish you many, many years of everything; I wish you many, many years of love.