

Colborne/Stueve  
Nativity  
25.vi.86

size of family, people come from all over  
family  
permanence  
clothed in good deeds

take the best  
we encourage you  
clothe yourselves in good deeds

John and Corinne, I know I speak for everyone here when I say congratulations to you, we're proud of you today, and we support you with our love and our prayers.

I'm sure you'll have a lot of happy memories of this day throughout your married life. The pictures will help you remember the beautiful clothes you're wearing, how radiant you seem, the flower arrangements in the church, and perhaps most of all that today marked a rare moment in history--a day when for one hour the several hundred immediate members of the Stueve family all gathered together under the same roof at the same time, and they were quiet.

Your families have gathered together literally from around the country, John and Corinne. Through them and through the many friends you have met in your lives, you have seen many marriages, many examples of what happens to couples after they say, "I do." Today you stand on the shoulders of other marriages, today you look around at those who inspired you, today you say "yes" to the ideals of marriage you want to make your own.

Today is a day of ideals, as well it should be. I encourage you and every married couple here to be strong in your commitment to love each other from the heart.

The second reading we heard today gives a tip on how this can be achieved. It's from the book of Revelation, a book equally filled with hymns of joy and strange-looking beasts. In this passage there is a wedding in heaven. The couple is not a typical bride and groom, the bride is a city and the groom is a lamb. But, like a typical wedding, the bride wears a stunning garment. The crowd at the wedding tells us she is wearing a dress of dazzling white linen, and the linen has been spun not from thread, but from the good deeds of holy people. Good deeds made the dress so white. It is the good deeds of people you know who make you so radiant today.

So John and Corinne, as you celebrate your wedding today, you look forward to a great life together. I urge you, fill your lives with good deeds so that the radiance you enjoy today will always be with you and may illuminate other couples in turn.