

Teachers impress me. When I think about the people for whom I'm most grateful in my life, I start with my parents, of course, but teachers come in pretty near the top. When I met Kurt and Morgan last year, and learned that Morgan had taught science at a Catholic grade school, got a masters of education degree from a Catholic university, and was teaching science at a public high school, I was impressed. Since then, Morgan landed a job teaching chemistry at St. Teresa Academy, and among her students are the daughter of a couple whose wedding I celebrated 23 years ago and in the same class she has my niece Amanda. Before this wedding I consulted Amanda to see if she had any complaints about her chemistry teacher, but she said no, that Morgan is a good teacher and she's nice. Coming from a high school student, that is high praise.

Kurt, when I say I'm impressed with teachers, I don't mean to say I'm unimpressed with people who major in business marketing. I'm sure my niece would think that you are good and nice also.

According to the Book of Genesis, God could have used a business marketer himself. Adam, after being created, had reasons to complain. He lacked a suitable companion. God wanted to help, so he started by creating animals, which are successful up to a point, but even the best business marketer could not convince Adam that close relationships with cattle, horses and bugs would make his life complete. So, God created another person, drawn appropriately from Adam's side, a woman whom Adam acclaimed as "bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh." Talk about chemistry.

Kurt and Morgan have enjoyed similar chemistry, recognizing in each other a partner who shares their interests in Christian belief, diligent work, and the joy of life. They both come from Missouri and share the same *alma mater* in Fulton. They have friends who share their lives and family who support them. The ring Kurt gave Morgan when he proposed says a lot about him. It includes a diamond from Kurt's mother's wedding ring, a diamond that came from her mother's wedding ring. That ring is a sign of traditional values, enduring love, and the kind of intimacy that Adam understood when God made Eve from a bone in his side.

Morgan and Kurt, you begin today a new adventure together. You have gratitude for the day you met, joy in coming together today, and hopes for a long and happy future. You both have a sense of purpose in the world. Whether working with students or businesses, you are helping other people make their mark. You understand that your future depends on the future of others.

You can rely on this: The same God who cared enough about Adam to intervene personally in his life, into his very body, to create a suitable partner, is active in your lives, touching your very soul, helping you share your love with others and receive from them more sources of joy. As you profess your love today and go forward from here, you open your hearts and homes to God. He will be a most impressive teacher. He will accompany you every step of the way and help you fulfill your dreams of love in your home and your hopes for the future of the world.