

## Luis Sanchez & Dalia Guerrero

Dalia and Luis, thank you both for inviting us to join in this day when you profess your love for each other and start a new family for our community. A lot of people inspired you. Many of them are here. You have inherited great traditions from your families of origin. You have come to this cathedral to begin married life in a place of traditions that promote goodness, beauty and unity.

From the creation of the world, God loved beauty, and God loved companionship. In the Book of Genesis, God loved the first human being and situated him in a beautiful place. God surely enjoyed the companionship of the man, so God wanted the man to enjoy companionship too. Genesis describes this process as trial and error. God created animals first, beasts on the ground and birds in the air, thinking they would supply what the man needed. They didn't. So, God devised a plan that sounds like it might hurt: opening the side of the creature, breaking off a rib, and yanking it out. To avoid much pain, God cast a sleep upon the man before beginning this intervention, and God healed the wound before waking the man up. God fashioned the rib into a woman.

This imaginative account of the creation of human beings says a lot about marriage: it is part of God's plan. God desires that we not feel alone. God will try different ways to make life beautiful for us. To love someone is to accept the possibility of pain. To love someone costs something of ourselves.

At the end of his life, Jesus had a similar desire for the disciples he loved. In today's gospel we hear some of Jesus' final words to them. At the Last Supper, knowing he had little time to tell them all that they would need to know, there was one topic Jesus thought he'd better address. He talked about love. Jesus had experienced the love of his Father in companionship and in the beauty of the earth, just as the first man had. Furthermore, Jesus reassured his followers, "I have loved you." His disciples were beautiful to him. He asked for one thing in return: "Love one another."

Love seems simple, yet it is often difficult. When we first experience love, it has momentum. It grows when we love back. But at times love becomes possessive. It feels good to receive, so we want to receive more. We become demanding of the one who loves us rather than loving back the same way. Love demands attention. Love takes work. Love is the greatest tradition we can receive and pass on to a new generation.

We pray that the love between Luis and Dalia will continue to grow, that they will build on the momentum that they experience today. Their love will inspire us. We are here not just to witness love, but to be loved. Then we take our place in the tradition of love. As others have loved us, as Christ has loved us, we must love one another. Then we will contribute to goodness, beauty, and unity.

Saturday, April 22, 2023