

## Tyler Wysochanski & Christin Julio

I've known Christin almost her entire life, and I still remember her father explaining her name to me. Jim and Ann, I hope I'm remembering this correctly. This conversation took place a long time ago. You decided on "Christin" instead of "Christine" because when you write out the letters, you can see two words: "Christ in." You thought this was an appropriate way to see the new life that you had been blessed to receive into your home.

This is similar to the way the Catholic Church views marriage. Marriage has a beautiful and meaningful natural component: Two people feel attracted to each other with a love so strong they want it to last forever. And they want the world to know that it will last forever, so they go public with witnesses. Their love is so strong they even want to share it with children so that love will continue to develop and overflow within the family.

You can catch some of love's delirious enticement in tonight's first reading from the Song of Songs. Two lovers spot each other out in nature. In poetic language they express the beauty of their partner and the desire in their heart. In a land where floodwaters of nature could wash away the beauty of nature, the lovers realize that their love is stronger than that. No force can sweep it away.

Christian marriage accepts all of that and adds something more. The ministry of Jesus Christ expresses and interprets love. His very arrival among human beings shows how much God loved the world. The Son of God took on human form in order to redeem human beings. He underwent suffering and death out of love for us so that each of us could find meaning in our suffering and dying. As we believe that Jesus rose from the dead, so we believe he opens the gates of heaven to all his faithful followers.

This love between Christ and the Church interprets the love we witness between husband and wife. As Christ willingly suffered for the sake of those he loved, so married people willingly suffer for the sake of the family they love. This suffering brings pleasure because it springs from the depth of love.

We also believe that the love of Christ endures. He continues to help his Church, especially those who express their love in marriage. They have natural virtues that help them enjoy beauty and accept sacrifice, but Christ offers supernatural help to lift their hearts beyond the human to thoughts that are divine.

For us Christians, marriage is a place where we find "Christ in." It takes marriage—something as natural as the birth of a new child—and reads into it something more, something God has done, something Christ is doing.

So, Christin and Tyler, we rejoice with you today and thank God for your love. You have come to this cathedral to invite us to this marriage, but also to invite Christ in. We pledge our support for you to provide you a world where love can thrive. We long to receive love from you so that we can love better too. Today you are living out in joy what Christ commanded his apostles to do: "Love one another, as I love you."

Saturday, April 22, 2023