

Thomas Marren & Anna Powers

If you've been suffering from the excessive heat today, I know someone who can treat your physical symptoms and someone else who can supply you with better air conditioning. It's a perfect day for their wedding. Both Anna and Thomas have dedicated their lives to making our lives better. They have studied hard to learn about the complexities of the human body, its maladies and treatments; and of electricity, engineering, construction, business and comfort. They are using those skills for us.

In doing so they have discovered in each other a life companion who shares their vision and supports their values, hopes and dreams. Today they are establishing a new family. As they have studied for their careers, so they have learned about the complexities of family life from their parents, relatives and friends. They are excited to have you here for this important day.

Tom and Anna have also kept their faith in Christ at the center of their lives. Through prayer and works of charity, they have established strong religious values and put them into practice in their love for others.

In some ways, the gospel they've chosen for us to hear on their wedding day has been echoing in their hearts throughout their lives. Jesus declared, "Everyone who listens to these words of mine and acts on them will be like a wise man who built his house on rock." In their case, that rock is faith, family, education, and care for others. All of us who follow Christ strive to do the same. We listen for his word in the scriptures and in the role models around us. We admit our faults and correct them to align our will more perfectly with the will of Christ.

Challenges will come. Jesus described these by expanding on the same metaphor of house construction: "The rain fell, the floods came, and the winds blew and buffeted the house. But it did not collapse; it had been solidly set on rock." We have all come through times of adversity because something kept us anchored, something made us strong enough to keep us from collapsing under the weight of dashed dreams, broken promises, human failure, and persistent doubt. Somehow we have clung to the belief that God made us, loves us and sustains us through times of trial. We stand on solid rock.

Thomas and Anna, you come to this cathedral for your wedding day because its splendor reflects the beauty of your faith and the eternal strength of your commitment to each other. It will also serve as a reminder for you of Christ, the foundation of your faith. When the rains fall, the floods come, and the winds buffet the house you have built, you will recall that the love of Christ is eternal. His words are solid rock.

From this day forward, together you construct your home, strengthen sound human bodies, and provide relief from the heat. You will have a lifelong partner to sustain you, you will have the love and support of this community of your family and friends, and you will have Christ, the rock upon whom you build it all.