

**“The aim of the Catholic Worker movement is to live in accordance with the justice and charity of Jesus Christ.” Dorothy Day said, “God meant things to be much easier than we have made them,” and Peter Maurin wanted to build a society “where it is easier for people to be good.”**

**Emily and Spencer you have embraced these principles in your life—both in the way you live and in the way you love. You’ve seen that having principles is insufficient if you do not live by them.**

**Your wedding comes during a week when our Church still glows with Easter. We celebrate the risen Christ, and we believe that our baptism into the mystery of his resurrection establishes principles by which we are to live.**

**The apostles Peter and John give an example of principled living in today’s passage from Acts of the Apostles. After the resurrection of Jesus, the Holy Spirit had come upon the disciples on the first Pentecost, and they preached Christ to all who would listen. This disturbed the leaders, elders and scribes, who arrested Peter and John, and told them “never again to speak to anyone” in the name of Jesus. They responded, “It is impossible for us not to speak about what we have seen and heard.” Throughout the centuries, Christianity has flourished because of people unafraid even to be arrested because of their principles—people like Dorothy Day.**

**Immediately after the resurrection, Jesus appeared to Mary Magdalene. She saw him but did not recognize him. She thought he was a gardener. Considering that our salvation history began with the account of Adam and Eve misbehaving in a garden, it’s fitting that Jesus would appear as one who came to tend that garden and set it right again. Emily and Spencer, you are students of horticulture and urban farmers. You participate in this work of salvation and resurrection by setting the earth, this global garden, right again through your commitment to live what you believe. You make this a place where it is easier for people to be good. Now you will do that even more intently as a married couple. Through this sacrament, the risen Christ comes to tend the garden of your home.**

**St. Paul encouraged the Christians of Rome to principled living. His letter urges them to “Let love be sincere... anticipate one another in showing honor.... Contribute to the needs of the holy ones, exercise hospitality.... Be concerned with what is noble in the sight of all. If possible, on your part, live in peace with all.” He called for the principles of the justice and charity of Jesus Christ, which we could also call the divine mercy of Christ. After the resurrection, Jesus commissioned his disciples to “Go into the whole world and proclaim the Gospel to every creature.” Tellingly, not to every human being, but to every creature: animals, bugs, plants and rocks. All need good gardeners to hear good news and set them on the right path.**

**Spencer and Emily, thank you both for your witness of love and the conviction of your beliefs. Every marriage faces challenges, but God meant things to be much easier than we have made them. May the risen Christ live in your hearts and home, and may you carry his message ever more strongly to every creature in the world.**