**"Highly recommended" is what I heard from several people when a certain Regan Getman applied for the events coordinator position on our staff here at the cathedral. People said she was a good student, a go-getter, a person with lots of initiative who interacted well with others. So, we hired her, and she was all those things and more. After a while, Regan took on other responsibilities for us—positions she did not see coming—emergency assistance with Morning Glory Ministries, which she loved, and preparing the weekly bulletin, which she was happy to pass on to someone else. We all fell in love with Regan.**

**Then we met Eddie, and we all fell in love with him too. His dedication to work, to church, and to country were all sources of inspiration for us. "Highly recommended" is also a good way to describe Eddie. He got impressed with Regan when they were at Benedictine College together. He told me it took a while to get up the courage to ask her out on a date. But he did, she agreed, and, well, here we are.**

**"Highly recommended" is the way St. Paul would describe Jesus Christ. In the second reading that Regan and Eddie invited us to hear today, Paul reminded the Colossians that Christ was the source of all peace. To a people who probably wanted to be in control and get their own way, a people who got anxious under stress, Paul wrote, " [Look,] let the peace of Christ control your hearts."**

**Paul wrote these words not just for an engaged couple experiencing stress before their wedding day, but for all Christians. He taught us how to achieve peace. Paul listed the virtues that build to it and compared them to clothes in your closet. He wrote, "Put on… heartfelt compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience, bearing with one another and forgiving one another." You can hear between the lines some of the challenges among the Colossians—including those who were married. They weren't always compassionate or kind. They weren't always humble or gentle. They weren't always patient or forgiving—so Paul reminded them, "the Lord has forgiven you, so must you also do."**

**Both Eddie and Regan have practiced these virtues. They have also learned the virtue of serving others. Tending the needs of those who have less also enriches those who give.**

**Today they seal those values with the perfect bond of love. For Paul, love is like the belt that holds the other clothes close to your body. If you have love, the other virtues stick with you. If virtues are not sticking, you probably don't have your belt on—the belt of love.**

**We all like to have things under our own control—a job, strong relationships, faith, and the plans for a wedding. Ultimately, none of us is in control, so wisely did Paul remind us that the best way forward is to "let the peace of Christ control your hearts…. And be thankful."**

**"Highly recommended" describes each of us when we practice virtue. Good role models are right in front of us. Eddie and Regan, as you join yourselves to each other today, you put on the belt of love. Cinch it tight, and let the peace of Christ control your hearts.**