

Marriage Homily

A young man knocked at the door of a house. 'Who is it?' said a voice from inside. 'It is me,' said the young man. 'I've come to ask permission to marry your daughter'. 'You're not ready,' said the voice from within, 'Go away and come back in a year.' A year went by. The young man come back and knocked on the door again. 'Who is it?' said the voice from inside. 'It's us,' said the young man. 'We've come to ask your permission to marry.' The voice from within said, 'You're now ready. Please come in.'

The church described marriage as a partnership of life and love which only death can dissolve. The pledges you are about to make are unconditional. In the exchange of vows you commit yourselves to each for better, for worse, for richer for poorer, in sickness and in health to love and to cherish till the end of your mortal lives. We know love can often be tested in the day to day 'topsy turvey' of life. But with God in your lives everything will work for your good.

I notice that the Church has officially declared the late Pope John Paul a saint recently. He always had a keen interest in matters relating to the holiness of married life and wrote extensively on the subject. On short paragraph entitled Marriage is a Holy Sacrament sums up his teaching.

In a marriage, he said, a man and a woman pledge themselves to one another in an unbreakable alliance of total mutual self-giving – a total union of love! This Love is not a passing emotion or temporary infatuation but a responsible and free decision to bind oneself completely 'in good times and in bad' to one's married partner. It is the gift of oneself to the other. It is a love proclaimed before the eyes of the whole world. It is unconditional. The love of husband and wife in God's plan leads beyond itself and new life is generated, a family is born. Marriage is a holy state of life. The marriage of couples are

images on earth of the wonder of God, the loving, life-giving communion of three persons in one God. Christian marriage is the pathway to holiness for all members of the family.

'Love one another as I have loved you' Jesus tells us in the Gospel. If you as Jesus says, **Yoann and Lucy**, your marriage will be based on a firm foundation and sustain you throughout your lives.