

# THE RITE OF MARRIAGE FOR BRANDON BAHN AND PEGGY WOLF, 27.VI.2008

## Gathering

### ↑ENTRANCE

*The assembly stands as the ministers and the wedding group enter. Music--hymn, song, psalm, instrumental music may accompany the entrance.*

### GREETING

*The presiding minister and the assembly greet each other.*

**The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,  
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.  
And also with you.**

### PEACE

**The peace of Christ be with you always.  
And also with you.**

### DECLARATION OF INTENTION

*Those who are declaring their intention to marry may be accompanied by their parents. The parents may place a hand on the shoulders of their children while responding to the question addressed to families.*

*The minister addresses the couple in these or similar words, asking each person in turn:*

**Brandon/Peggy, living in the promise of God,  
[joined to Christ in baptism,]  
will you give yourself to Peggy/Brandon in love and faithfulness?  
Will you share your life with *her/him*,  
in joy and in sorrow, in health and in sickness,  
for richer, for poorer, for better, for worse,  
and will you be faithful to *her/him* as long as you both shall live?  
*Response:* I will.**

**Families, friends, and all those gathered here with Brandon and Peggy,  
will you support and care for them,  
sustain and pray for them in times of trouble,  
give thanks with them in times of joy,  
honor the bonds of their covenant,  
and affirm the love of God reflected in their life together?  
We will.**

### PRAYER OF THE DAY

*The presiding minister leads the prayer of the day.*

**Let us pray. A brief silence is kept.**

**Eternal God, our creator and redeemer,  
as you gladdened the wedding at Cana in Galilee  
by the presence of your Son,  
so bring your joy to this wedding by his presence now.  
Look in favor upon Brandon and Peggy,  
and grant that they, rejoicing in all your gifts,  
may at length celebrate the unending marriage feast with Christ our Lord,  
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and forever.**

Amen.

## ↓ Word

### READINGS

Song of Solomon 2

Psalm: 146 (Read Responsively) Page 335

I Corinthians 13

↑ John 2:1-11

*On the third day there was a marriage at Cana in Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there;*

*Jesus also was invited to the marriage, with his disciples.*

*When the wine failed, the mother of Jesus said to him, "They have no wine."*

*And Jesus said to her, "O woman, what have you to do with me? My hour has not yet come."*

*His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you."*

*Now six stone jars were standing there, for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons.*

*Jesus said to them, "Fill the jars with water." And they filled them up to the brim.*

*He said to them, "Now draw some out, and take it to the steward of the feast." So they took it.*

*When the steward of the feast tasted the water now become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the steward of the feast called the bridegroom*

*and said to him, "Every man serves the good wine first; and when men have drunk freely, then the poor wine; but you have kept the good wine until now."*

*This, the first of his signs, Jesus did at Cana in Galilee, and manifested his glory; and his disciples believed in him.*

## ↓ THE HOMILY

*Silence for reflection follows.*

Grace to you and peace from Him Who is and Who was and Who is to come! ✠ Amen.

This miracle story appears only in the Fourth Gospel, and it is an odd one, coming probably the closest any of the Four Gospels of the New Testament come to those strange other gospels that have Jesus, even as a child, doing all sorts of miraculous things for no particular purpose. In this miracle, no one is healed or forgiven, no demons are cast out and no one's fear is transformed by the call to faith. It is indeed a miracle, though of an entirely different sort than all the others.

At the wedding at Cana, Our Lord is no longer a boy, but He is a young man Who knows better than not to pay attention to what His Mother says. The first part of the miracle, and perhaps the main reason why the community of Saint John and the Early Church understood it to be so very important to remember, is that *Jesus and His Disciples are there*. Though there is no indication in Scripture that Our Lord ever married and founded a family of His own, He and His movement are also not to be numbered among those many extreme ascetics then, in later times or today who have so rejected this world that they particularly reject the gift of human sexuality and the wonderful ability of humankind and all living creatures to participate in God's ongoing creation of life. And, versus all those who might have wanted or still wish to deny the Jewishness of Jesus, His Blessed Mother and His Disciples, here He is at what is still among the greatest joys and cause for celebration of the Jewish community, at a marriage feast, the hoped for beginning of a new family among the family of the LORD's Covenant People, at a celebration that both the name of the family and its ancestors but also the Name of the LORD God of Israel will go on through posterity into the future, until the end of time. These elements of the story, together with the nearness of Cana to Nazareth and the likelihood that

either Mary or Joseph would have had relatives there, make it a plausible account.

But the real ring of authenticity, that which links this account with all of the other miracles of Jesus recorded in the Four Gospels, comes with the miracle itself, with its sequence in the narrative and with its timing in the wedding feast. The wedding feast has gotten into full swing with a thirsty crowd of revelers, and the Mother of Our Lord notices that the wine is running out. How did she notice this? Perhaps there was none left for her! It had all been drunk at the rehearsal dinner, or its equivalent, and during the first course of the meal following the marriage rite, and now there would be none left for the dance, not to mention next day's picnic. With the drink of conviviality missing, the guests might stop dancing and go home, and how would the couple feel about this, taking it as a bad omen for their marriage. Blessed Mary decides that this cannot happen, and so, knowing some things about her Son that no one else knew at that time, she turns to Him, *trusting* that He will be able to set things right. Mary's trust, her *faith* in her Son is the first element we recognize from the other miracles of Jesus. You, Brandon and Peggy, have invited Jesus and His Church on earth and in Heaven to be guests at your wedding feast and partners in your marriage. You have come here and invited all of us here out of *faith* in Him.

Why didn't Jesus just supply the inexhaustible vintage wine in the first place? I suppose it was for the same reason that He had not arranged for the blind He healed never to have been blind, for the deaf and the mute and the lame He healed never to have suffered so. In all the other miracle accounts, Our Lord encounters people in the midst of their lives to reveal the power of God, so that His 'Father in Heaven will be glorified' He says

elsewhere. None of the sick, none of the mentally disturbed, none of the guilty and outcast could have dreamed that the trajectory of their lives would include an encounter with this One Whom His Disciples would acclaim 'Messiah,' God's anointed, but, on one day like any other day, their paths and His did cross, and they received healing and discovered faith they didn't even know they had. Just so in the wedding celebration in that little village near Nazareth, a place perhaps no bigger than the Brogue, just when the ordinary table wine had been served until there was no more, the caterer compliments the groom on saving the best for last, and the groom is amazed.

I doubt that the wine and good things to eat will be lacking on this, the day of your wedding feast, Brandon and Peggy, but there may come a time, perhaps many times, when the joy of your marriage may seem just a distant memory, when you will not know how to go on keeping and celebrating the promises you make before the Altar of God today. If and when that happens, try to remember how you decided not simply to get married, but to make of your marriage a sacred sign by being married here. Try to remember the One Whom you invited to your wedding, together with His Disciples here present and His whole Church in Heaven, including His Blessed Mother who, through her prayers, will make sure that Her Son provides richly for whatever your greatest need may be. The best God has in store for you has yet to be revealed. ✠ Amen.

Now to Him Who loves us and has freed us from our sins by His blood, and has made of us a kingdom, priests to His God and Father, to Him be glory and dominion with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God now and forever. ✠ Amen.

**THE ADDRESS**

The Lord God in goodness created us male and female, and by the gift of marriage founded human community in a joy that begins now and is brought to perfection in the life to come.

Because of sin, our age-old rebellion, the gladness of marriage can be overcast and the gift of a family can become a burden. But because God, who established marriage, continues still to bless it with abundant and ever-present support, we can be sustained in our weariness and have our joy restored.

↑ HYMN OF THE DAY

*This Is A Day, Lord*

No. 586

## Marriage

### THE VOWS

*The presiding minister may address the couple in these or similar words.*

**Brandon and Peggy, I invite you to declare your vows to one another.**

In the presence of God and this community,

I, Brandon/Peggy, take you, Peggy/Brandon, to be my wife/husband;

to have and to hold from this day forward,

in joy and in sorrow, in plenty and in want, in sickness and in health,

to love and to cherish, as long as we both shall live.

This is my solemn vow.

### GIVING OF RINGS

*When rings are to be exchanged, the presiding minister may say this prayer:*

**Let us pray.**

**We give you thanks, O God of grace,**

**for your love and faithfulness to your people.**

**May these rings be symbols of the promises**

**Brandon and Peggy have made with each other;**

**through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.**

Amen.

Peggy/Brandon, I give you this ring as a symbol of my vow.

With all that I am, and all that I have, I honor you,

in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

### THE ACCLAMATION

*The presiding minister addresses the assembly. In places where the announcement of marriage is prescribed by law, that form should be used instead.*

**Brandon and Peggy, by their promises before God**

**and in the presence of this assembly,**

**have joined themselves to one another as husband and wife.**

**Those whom God has joined together let no one separate.**

Amen. Thanks be to God.

*The assembly may offer acclamation with applause. A sung acclamation, hymn, or other music may follow.*

### ↓ UNITY CANDLE & MUSICAL INTERLUDE

- Mothers of the Couple
- Couple

### ↑ THE MARRIAGE BLESSING

*The couple may kneel. The presiding minister may extend a hand over the couple while praying for God's blessing in the following or similar words.*

**The Lord God,  
who created our first parents and established them in marriage,  
establish and sustain you,  
that you may find delight in each other  
and grow in holy love until your life's end.  
Amen.**

**PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

*The assembly stands. Prayers of intercession for the world and its needs may be prayed. These prayers, prepared or adapted for the particular occasion, may include the following or similar petitions. An assisting minister may lead the prayers.*

**On this day of rejoicing, let us bless God  
for divine love made flesh in Jesus Christ.**

**We praise you, O God,  
for the joy that Brandon and Peggy have found in each other,  
and we pray that their love and faithfulness  
may reflect your gracious love and enrich our common life.  
Gracious and faithful God,  
hear our prayer.**

**Give them gentleness and patience,  
affection and understanding,  
readiness to trust one another,  
and, when they hurt each other,  
grace to acknowledge their fault  
and to give and receive forgiveness.  
Gracious and faithful God,  
hear our prayer.**

**Give to Brandon and Peggy the gift and heritage of children in accordance with your will;  
make their home a haven of peace. Gracious and faithful God,  
hear our prayer.**

**Use us to support Brandon and Peggy in their lives together.  
Give us such a sense of your constant love  
that we may employ all our strength in a life of praise of you.  
Gracious and faithful God,  
hear our prayer.**

**Strengthen and bless friends and family gathered here,  
even as we call to mind those who are absent from us.  
Console those who mourn the loss of loved ones,  
and be present with those for whom love is a stranger.  
Gracious and faithful God,  
hear our prayer.**

**Look graciously on the world you have made  
and for which your Son gave his life.  
Strengthen marriages, families, and communities everywhere.  
Defend and guide all who suffer want or anxiety.  
Gracious and faithful God,  
hear our prayer.  
*Other intercessions may be added.***

**We give thanks to you, merciful God,  
for those who have died, especially John Lewis, Karen Warner Baldwin, Ruth Eilmann & Ruth Wolf.  
Strengthen us by the example of the saints,  
and bring us all to the marriage feast of the Lamb.  
Gracious and faithful God,  
hear our prayer.**

*The presiding minister concludes the prayers.*

**Most gracious God,  
you have made us in your image  
and given us over to one another's care.  
Hear the prayers of your people,  
that unity may overcome division,  
hope vanquish despair,  
and joy conquer sorrow;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.**

*A service without communion continues as follows.*

*The Lord's Prayer is prayed by all. The presiding minister may introduce the prayer.*  
**Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.**

Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name,  
thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,  
forever and ever. Amen.

## **Sending**

### **BENEDICTION**

*The presiding minister proclaims God's blessing in these or similar words.*

**God Almighty send you light and truth  
to keep you all the days of your life.  
The hand of God protect you;  
the holy angels accompany you;  
and the blessing of almighty God,  
the Father, the + Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be with you now and forever.  
Amen.**

### **INTRODUCTION OF COUPLE**

- It is my honor and privilege to introduce to you Mr. & Mrs. Brandon Bahn.
- Presentation of Bible.

### **RECESSIONAL**