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# Catholic Courier

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## SAYING 'I DO'

*"I can best describe it as respect and communication they share. Those are the two big things"*

- Kathy Johnson



Diana and Mark Fowler of Clyde look to their parents as role models for their own marriage.

Examples of parents and family remain "the special form of (marriage) preparation"

- Catechism of the Catholic Church

*"I really believe their practicing a faith life, a solid faith life, is what has their family turning out the way it is"*

- Steven King

**"Life is going to throw you some curve balls, but if your marriage is rooted in God you'll get through it together"**

- Betty King

### Newlyweds look to others' examples

Steven King of Waterloo was working as a computer technician for the Waterloo Central School when he met Betty Grasmuck, a Spanish teacher.

"It wasn't too long into our relationship, I thought this is the person I want to be with all my life," he said. "And I started modeling in my mind what a marriage would be like, what it's like to have kids."

That's when John Hill came into the picture. Steven knew John, as both were assistant scoutmasters for Boy Scout Troop 88 of Seneca Falls, and he knew John's children, "the best kids in the world." And when Steven began regularly attending St. Patrick's Church in Seneca Falls, there were the Hills - all five of them.

The three children were altar servers; John led the folk group at Mass on Sundays; and both John and Margaret Hill were active as a marriage preparation team, among other roles.

"It helped tie things together for me," Steven, 28, said, "seeing a good family and knowing the church was helping them out to be a good family."

"I really believe their practicing a faith life, a solid faith life, is what has their family turning out the way it is," he added.

When the *Catholic Courier* asked newlywed couples, married anywhere from a few months to a few years, if they had role models for their marriages, the usual answer was an immediate, "Yes."

Most often the newlyweds mentioned going to the store together, being involved in church - or just attending church together and holding hands in the pews - communicating, being open about their love, and having an inviting home as what they admired.

The Kings were married at St. Patrick's on Friday, Oct. 13, 1995.

Their role models, including Wes and Lynn Kennison of Geneseo - whom Betty met when Wes was a lay chaplain for SUNY Geneseo's Newman Community - have reinforced their belief that "being involved in church together has been important to us," said Betty, who with Steven teaches RCIA.

From the Kennisons, for example, Betty said she learned "Life is going to throw you some curve balls, but if your marriage is rooted in God you'll get through it together."

"Their faith wasn't something put on the shelf they pulled out on Sunday," she added. Wes and Lynn talked openly about God, she recalled, even in their home where she rented a room for two years.

"It's something you can see when they look at each other, they don't just love each other, they're rooted in God," she said.

"It's nice to have these strong couples around you," said Diana Fowler, 25, of Clyde. "I think it's important."

She often looks to her in-laws as models. She has plenty of opportunity to see their relationship up close: She and her husband Mark, 28, are living with them while building a house across the street.

The in-laws, Harvey and Kate Fowler, have been married nearly 50 years and are members of Clyde's United Methodist Church. Both, Diana said, "are in tune to everything going on in each other's life." Both, she added, are involved in their children's lives and know what's going on with them.

She also is impressed, she said, with "something so simple as going to the grocery store together, always going places together."

Her husband Mark, on the other hand, sees good role models in Diana and Mark Fowler.

*"That stands out in my mind - families that aren't afraid to show love for each other"*

- Mark Fowler

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