

## In celebration of newlyweds' love

Kathleen Loretto Early, youngest daughter of my sister, Helen, and her husband, Jim, married Mark Grignon on Saturday at our family's home parish, St. Mary of the Assumption in Waterford, New York. I had the honor of witnessing their marriage and presiding at the Eucharistic Liturgy, joined — to the great delight of Kathleen and Mark — by my dear friends Bishop Howard Hubbard and Father Tom Powers.

It was a wonderful day for our families as we celebrated with this attractive young couple. We prayed that their love for one another would flourish in the years ahead, and that their love would be a source of blessings for many people all the days of their lives.

I enjoyed immensely sharing in every aspect of the day, the prayer most certainly included. And, if you have read this column with any regularity over the years, you are well enough acquainted with Kathleen to realize that another huge part of the joy of the day came from savoring the wonderful memories she has already created in her young life.

Since she was a tiny child, Kathleen has had the knack of making me laugh. Indeed, I am quite sure she realized very early on that she could do that, knew that I loved it, and has honed her skills ever since. I have always considered her ability to make me laugh a precious gift, especially since I find that her humor is never at another's expense. Rather it is the kind

### along the way



BY BISHOP MATTHEW H. CLARK

that makes one glad to be around her. Perhaps a good summary of this beautiful aspect of her personality as it affects me is to say that whenever Kathleen enters a room, I smile.

In a conversation with a lifelong friend who was Kathleen's high school principal, he told me that he half-expected Kathleen to wear sunglasses while processing down the aisle at her wedding. When he saw my puzzled look, he explained that she was the only student he could remember in all his years as principal who wore sunglasses to the senior prom. Ever since then Kathleen and he would joke about her wearing sunglasses at her wedding. Would she or wouldn't she? She didn't!

My longtime friend added one more memory. Somewhere through her high school years the principal gave to Kathleen on a fairly permanent basis the job of making the customary announcements at the beginning of the school day. Why? Because he noticed that when my dear niece did

that job the school came to an uncommon and notable level of quiet attention. "Why again?" I know you'll ask. Because they never knew what Kathleen was going to say next. No follower of anyone's script is she.

The ability and desire to bring laughter and joy to people's lives are wonderful gifts. I believe that Kathleen has both and that she intentionally and generously shares them. Add to that mix what I would call a wonderful common sense and a concern for others, and I think you come up with some of the reasons why Mark wanted to share his life with her.

If Kathleen is extroverted and bordering on the explosive [in a very good sense, of course!], Mark is quieter and less demonstrative. I have become acquainted with him mainly through family gatherings on holidays, birthdays and the like, and have enjoyed the experience very much. I know that he is a hard worker, a person of integrity, good values and an obvious respect for others. On top of all that it is clear that, just like her family and many friends, he takes great delight in Kathleen and loves her very much. Given the fact that she loves him no less, there is every reason to believe that with God's help, what they began together on Saturday will only deepen and widen with the passing years.

Peace to Mark and Kathleen.  
Peace to all.



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—Marguerite "Peg" Pinney  
Irondequoit, New York

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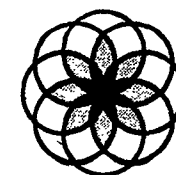
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