

An address for the wedding of Bliss Bohnenstiehl and Jeff Muniz  
June 7, 2003  
Holy Cross Lutheran Church, Collinsville, Illinois

### ***A Pentecost Prayer for Your Wedding***

This is a weekend you'll never forget. It's the weekend of the Horseradish Festival! (*The Horseradish Festival is a annual event in Collinsville.*) Maybe it's not. It looks like all of Collinsville is here in church. What this weekend is the weekend of Pentecost. It is the weekend that the Church thanks God for giving us His Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is the third person in the Holy Trinity. He comes to us from the Father and from the Lord Jesus. The Holy Spirit comes to us in the good news of our salvation, the Gospel of Jesus Christ. That's why the creed calls the Holy Spirit the "Lord and Giver of life." What I want to tell you is that **being married this Pentecost weekend will be for you a good reminder that you need in your marriage the Holy Spirit, the Lord and Giver of life.**

Psalm 51 says, ***Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from Thy presence and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me.*** (Psalm 51:10-11)

"Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me."  
**There are plenty of times when a husband and wife need a change of heart.** All those cute little things that Jeff does, that Bliss does, cute little things that have warmed your heart while you were dating? If it hasn't happened already, those cute little things are going to start getting on your nerves. What warmed your heart in dating will in marriage turn your heart cold and stony. A passage that troubled me for some years was Ephesians 5... "*husbands, love...*" it seems like a double-standard but it's not. I've learned, and psychologists have confirmed this for me, that trouble in a marriage shows itself in different ways. The husband is supposed to love his wife but when he doesn't, there's trouble. The wife is supposed to respect her husband but when she doesn't, he withdraws love and the marriage spirals downward. The husband stops loving; the wife stops respecting. You want relevant religion? Here it is: *Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.*

If you use it, you'll be blessed. I just have to quote some Latin in this wedding. Athletes? They're a dime a dozen but how often do you have Latin lovers in the audience? (*The groom's mother is a Latin teacher and his father a sportscaster.*) The Roman poet Horace said, "Carpe diem." "Seize the day." That can be applied to marriage. God only gives you the present. You'll want to **seize every present moment of marriage with the prayer for a clean heart and a right spirit.** Only the present, that's all any of us has. The past? That's covered over by forgiveness when you believe that Jesus died for your sins. The future? We look to the future with great hope. After all, since the Spirit raised Jesus from the dead, that same Spirit can kindle in you a lively hope for the future. But as the past is covered with forgiveness, the future is in God's hands. Carpe diem. The only place where you can live is in the present, here and now. The couple that lives too much in the past or that puts too much hope in the future is not living and loving wisely. Carpe diem. Seize each day with the Pentecost prayer that God will create a new and right spirit within you. He will. He is faithful to His promises. He will restore to you again and again the joy of your salvation. Amen.