

*(Wedding homily of +Ruperto Cruz Santos, D.D. for Mayor Francis & Raquel at Santuario de San Antonio in Forbes Park, 05 December 2017 at 3pm)*

***this is what love is: a wedding homily***

Francis and Raquel, congratulations and best wishes!  
My brothers and sisters, let us give them a round of applause.

Francis and Raquel, thank you so much for coming. Without you we will not be here. You are the reason why we are here, to witness your profession of your true and lasting love for one another, and be a part of your married life. God brought you together. God willed that you will be for her. And you are for him alone. You now live and exist for one another.

Francis and Raquel from now on, you will no longer be known or called by your names, by your profession or by status. You are now husband and wife, a father and a mother. Married to one another and being parents you have very specific responsibilities. And you will be measured as good and responsible husband and wife; father and mother with these love which you must have for one another.

**First**, Francis as father and husband your love is to protect. To protect Raquel is to make her safe. To protect is to keep her from any harm and being hurt. When we love someone we want the one we love to be happy. When we love someone we desire all the good things for that someone whom we love.

The proof of your love is to protect your family from separation and from scandal. As husband and father your primary obligation is to love your wife, your children. And to love them is to protect them. To protect them is make their future secured, their lives stable, and their name intact. Hindi po ba ang kaligayahan ng mga magulang ay ang mga anak na nagsipagtapos ng pag-aaral? Hindi po ba ang tagumpay ng isang ama ay ang tahanan niya ay buo at ang mga anak ay nagkakaisa? To love is to protect. To protect your wife is not to make her cry, not to make her feel unwanted, and not to let suffer in silence.

**Second**, as husband and a father your love is to provide. Whenever we love, we are willing to share, to give and to offer. Whenever we love, we don't keep anything for ourselves. We don't hide nor hoard. We don't count nor calculate the cost. Even in needs or lacking, we provide. It is because we love. It has been said that *"it is possible to give without love, but it is impossible to love without giving."*

Ano po ang madalas natin naririnig sa ating mga magulang? Hindi po ba ito, *"anak, ano ang kailangan mo? Ano ang gusto mo? Anak, basta't mag-aral ka lang ng mabuti, kahit anong kurso ang nais mo at kahit saan paaralan, gagawin ko at igagapang ko makatapos ka lang."*

To love is to provide. To love her is to provide what is best and beneficial to her. To love your family is to make them proud of you. And they can say in prayer, *"thank you o Lord God that Francis is my husband."* Raquel would never regret that you are her husband. And your children are very much contented to affirm, *"praise be God, that he is my father."*

Raquel as a mother and a wife, these are your responsibilities. Being a mother and a wife you must be up to these two tasks. What are these two duties?

**First.** Your love is to feed. To feed is to enhance life. To feed is to give, to continue and prolong life. Let us remember then that for nine months our mother brought us in their wombs. During those very difficult times, they were very much concerned with their food, what to take and what to avoid. They're extra careful, so conscious with their foods so that their babies would be healthy and strong. And so we are.

Do you still recall the caring questions of our mothers such as "*anak, kumain ka na ba? Anak, ano ang gusto mong kainin?*" Do you still reminisce how they spoofed us? Do you still remember how excited we are to know what is there in our packed lunch? Isn't after a long vacation or having been away from home we still look forward to the food usually prepared and cooked by our mothers?

Raquel feed Francis with good food. Prepare and cook always his favorite dishes. Don't let him go hungry. Francis and Raquel always eat together, even how busy you are and will be. It is very lonely and hurting as married people to eat alone, or not to talk during meals. Remember always your anniversaries and celebrate them with meals.

Truly as a mother and wife your love is to feed.

And **lastly**, your love is to teach. To teach is to inform. It is to impart what you know, to take them as your own. Our mothers are our first and best teachers. Our home is our first and prime school. We learned and took our steps. We said our first words. We knew how to comb our hair or tie our shoelaces. How come? Our mothers taught all of these to us. Isn't what we are now, it is because of our parents? Our mothers taught us to say always the magic words such as please, thank you or opo.

Raquel as a mother you are most of all a teacher. Teach them what you learned from your home, from your parents. Tell them and relive to them the good things and good works you have seen and experienced from your parents. Francis and Raquel teach and impart to each other the lessons of fidelity and true love you have witnessed from your parents.

Of course Francis and Raquel not every day is best wishes. Not every moment is congratulations. Not every season is honeymoon. There could be in lives misunderstanding or miscommunication. There could be some disappointments or despair. Sometimes you will be in pain or will encounter problems. And when those times come, that is the utmost moment that you have to hold tight to one another. Be there with her or him. Come to her rescue. Be present to him in his needs.

When you are tried and tested, remember us. And when temptations set in, that is the most opportune time, Francis and Raquel to go to your godfathers and to your godmothers. Come to us, see me as your priest so that we can recall what we did today, and remember that your love for her is to protect and to provide; that your love for him is to feed and to teach. That is what love is...

+Ruperto Cruz Santos, DD

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