

I Corinthians 13:4-8a
The Wedding of Clara Hare-Grogg and Adam Feinstein
The Barn at Honeysuckle Hill

I Corinthians 13:4-8a

⁴Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant ⁵or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable; it keeps no record of wrongs; ⁶it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth.

⁷Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

⁸Love never ends.

Homily

We are gathered for the beginning of this formal union in a place that seems fitting for the occasion, for these families, and especially for these two people. Our surroundings here are a combination of breathtaking elegance and rustic authenticity. This wedding is literally being held in a barn.

Reminiscent, perhaps, of the threshing floor that was the original site of the Temple, and also something not unlike the place where Jesus of Nazareth is said to have been born.

These families being joined here today have wonderful things in common: phenomenal humor, and a great, great sense of fun; a dedication to working hard and working well, and doing *good* work: always insisting on earning rather than simply taking;

faith strong enough to change lives and change the world; and a deep and operative sense of integrity—what I would call a generous integrity, generous of spirit toward others. I have seen that in these past twenty-four hours, and we saw it the first time Clara brought Adam through our doorway.

“Integrity” is of course an immediate relative of the word “integrated.” Marriage as God has given it to us is about integrating two lives. Beyond friendship, beyond romance, beyond arguments and tensions and their resolution, a marriage integrates two lives and, every once in a miraculous while, joins whole families together in mutual, familial appreciation and love.

It’s also about integrating the holy and mystical, and the realities of everyday life—truth, and beauty; breathtaking elegance, and rustic authenticity.

Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. In the integration represented here, the integrity of your life together:

May this unity of yours be not only a sign and inspiration for those around you, but a cosmic, sacred, and daily reality, to give this still-fledgling world all the strength, belief, endurance, and hope we can bring to it.

Keith Grogg
The Barn at Honeysuckle Hill
Asheville, NC
May 30, 2026