

~~This~~

*This day is*

~~This is the 11th day of March in the year of Our Lord 1973, a day to be remembered~~

in the life of the Church and in the life of the world. ~~At the rehearsal dinners~~

~~last evening, it became apparent that~~ With the calling into being of the new

*these families*

~~creations of the Frank and Sandra Powell Family and the Wayne and Jo Nelson Family~~

~~that~~ history will just ~~praise/~~ ~~praise/pray(?)~~ the Mystery, which has beckoned these decisions.

*And* by the Church, representationally present by those ~~of us here~~ *here* gathered, ~~is~~ here to

praise our decision to participate in, ~~just to~~ *His* ~~the very~~ *raw* act of creation.

It is as ~~though~~ *if* all of the ~~past~~ *rejoices - all* those who have built the Crimson Line, ~~rejoice~~.

It is as ~~though~~ *if* all of the future, those who will embody the Word and the Deeds, are shouting, "Halleluiah" ~~a~~ *forged* For marriage ~~is~~ in ~~and~~ the understanding that each

man and each woman is covenanted first ~~of~~ *the* all to love the Mystery, ~~is~~ *the* leaven

that releases ~~in~~ *life in the deeps for* the neighbor, ~~life in the deeps~~. Marriage, as an estate instituted

by God, signifying the mystical union between Christ and the Church, moves beyond a

~~confined, restricted~~ *restrictive* human love ~~for one another~~ *between two people* to being the sign of the absurd

Yes to all of life and the demonstration of caring for the world and serving all men.

The marriage covenant, which gives content to this union, is contentless. The promises

are three ~~things~~: to love, to honor and to obey. Now I am an old hand at putting

content on those promises, ~~thirty-one~~ *married* years, and ~~it~~ *I* took ~~15~~ *15* years ~~to~~ *for me* discover that the

beginning point of loving Joe was to be a self. ~~I~~ *I* spent ~~fifteen~~ *fifteen* years ~~in~~ *inventing* an un-self

~~related~~ to proving <sup>e</sup> to him that I ~~was~~ was: First phase, a good wife and mother;

Second phase, a tireless community worker; Third phase, a dedicated ~~churchwoman~~ churchwoman--~~my~~

X all designed by what I imagined would please him. You can imagine ~~the~~ <sup>my</sup> despair ~~of~~ <sup>when</sup>

the Lord calling ~~me~~ <sup>ed</sup> ~~fixes~~ all of that into question. ~~But~~ <sup>the</sup> Love is to be a self, embracing

the fact that ~~finally~~ <sup>finally</sup> I can justify my life before no man. To love is to risk the

exposure of my own weakness, my ~~own~~ <sup>own</sup> contingency. To be a self ~~finally~~ <sup>finally</sup> related/to the

Mystery is what it means to love another human being, ~~a husband or a wife.~~ <sup>HP</sup> And what

does it mean to honor? Honor is not possible, save we live in the redemptive Word

of Jesus Christ. ~~You and I~~ <sup>we</sup> cannot honor ~~our~~ <sup>the</sup> neighbor when we hate life <sup>and</sup> hate ~~ourselves~~ <sup>ourselves</sup>.

All ~~the~~ <sup>of our</sup> compassion is, ~~to objectify~~ <sup>spent objectifying</sup> that hatred, ~~and as~~ <sup>can</sup> a wife, become a shriek--sometimes

in the most kittenish of ways; or ~~as~~ <sup>now</sup> a husband to become a bully--sometimes in the

most obsequious ways. ~~stopped at it~~ Oh, you can work out some

social ground rules of what honor looks like, <sup>one, for instance, is never to</sup> ~~such as you never~~ call

your mate into question outside the privacy of your own family. The way

we have always talked about that is, "We don't wash our dirty linens

in public." ~~And I think~~ <sup>I think</sup> By the way, <sup>rule</sup> that that is a very good grounding.

But, you get strapped by the rules. ~~and~~ <sup>I</sup> inevitably comes the occasion <sup>comes</sup>

<sup>when</sup> ~~when~~ <sup>when</sup> ontological hatred and anger break through physically,

demonically, destructively. To honor the spouse is to live in the

Word that "I am loved," <sup>which then</sup> releasing me ~~then~~ to honor the unrepeatable, unique weaknesses and strengths of my mate ~~and~~ with an integrity that moves <sup>far</sup> way beyond anything the world can understand. <sup>To</sup> call for ~~the~~

~~the~~ yearning to be loved by God, That is what it means to honor. <sup>There is the promise of</sup> ~~that was~~ <sup>that was</sup> Finally, ~~that comes as~~ obedience. Well, ~~that~~ probably was struck

out of the marriage <sup>vows</sup> promises <sup>in some</sup> included ~~in the church~~ because it was interpreted <sup>to mean</sup> as "you are to do what I say." But obedience, to one another, in the context of dignifying the mystical union between

Christ and the Church, is obedience to the future's calling, the inclusive demand. Disobedience is the refusal to respond <sup>compre-</sup>hensively and futurically to what the world requires, ~~to be cared for.~~

Many mundane arenas Much of my life ~~a neat house~~, and clothes hung ~~in~~ up rather than dropped,

(to say nothing about those irrational toothpaste tubes) all demand that I ~~find myself~~ <sup>my</sup> giving little heeding myself, obedience to that ~~demand~~ <sup>which</sup> and is rendered <sup>out of</sup> to me <sup>about</sup> by the decision of what needs to happen

for the sake of all men and the next 1,000 years. <sup>TP</sup> These promises

, to love, to honor, and to obey, are filled full by the decision <sup>foundationally</sup> to be <sup>to the Mystery,</sup> ~~covenanted,~~ <sup>one's</sup> each in his own solitariness, ~~foundationally~~ to

<sup>TP</sup> the ~~mystery.~~ <sup>T</sup> Now ~~not only is~~ the marriage covenant <sup>is not only</sup> ~~contentless,~~ <sup>most</sup> but, <sup>important,</sup>

but ~~is~~, most important, <sup>it is</sup> endless--until death do us part." ~~Not~~, Now,

"until death do us part" is an awe-filling promise. It appears to be <sup>seems</sup> narrowing <sup>life</sup> down like just a little bit too much. It seems to be taking

away ~~my~~ freedom. Yet, it is that justification which tests, ~~my~~ binds, <sup>and</sup>

symbolizes our covenant with the <sup>M</sup>mystery. Once the covenant is made

it is just eternal and forever in history. It is taking that

~~Re~~, making that PROMISE <sup>with</sup> that utter depth seriousness that

breathes spirit into the marriage relationship. The three-day plunge

~~onto skid row or the six month stint on the assembly line have been~~

~~employed to to know what it is all about, can at best be only~~

~~externally illuminating. Even as play is ~~a~~ illuminating.~~ The "until

death do us part grounds the struggle into the deeps of life. Marriage

then becomes not a happening or a not-happening, but a <sup>building</sup> ~~growing~~ block

by block. <sup>Non</sup> <sup>in</sup> In the crest and/the trough of that encounter, with the

totally other, building the relationship that necessarily transcends

itself, that unites two destinies into one thrust, repenting for the

innocent suffering of the world, calling forth new life, forging the

structures that will serve and care for all men. ~~And so~~ <sup>thus</sup> it is that

marriage, in the Christian sense, becomes ~~both~~ a sign of what it means to love God, ~~to~~ love the <sup>M</sup>mystery. They <sup>reach</sup> ~~key~~ of authentic decision

~~(decision)?~~ <sup>the</sup> is  
and the joy of ~~on-behalf-of~~ expenditure/demonstrated, beckoning all  
men to live in the deeps of ~~marrying them~~ bearing the weight of the  
whole world.

(Or, was it "the peace of authentic decision and the joy of....")

~~Prise~~ <sup>TR</sup> be to God, the Father Almighty for the ~~be~~ blessings of  
this day.