



The newlyweds leave the chapel and head for the dining room after they are joined in the Sacrament of Marriage.

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touched by St. Joseph's are not family by blood, but theirs is a deep bond. Monique PauPaw came from her home in Las Cruces, N.M., to stand witness for Miss Tejada, who cared for Ms. PauPaw's sister, Annette, a resident of St. Joseph's until she died in April. "Karla was wonderful, she helped me and my family when we came to see my sister, and she stayed with us to the end. I'm just so thrilled to see something grand happen here, something happy. And I know my sister is happy."

"Happy" is not a word anyone would associated with St. Joseph's at the time of its founding, in 1987. At that time, a diagnosis of HIV/AIDS was a death sentence, and Catholic Charities, under the leadership of then-Bishop Eusebius J. Beltran and executive director Dr. Ed Maillet, established the house on North Denver Avenue as a place where people could receive compassionate and loving care in their final days.

Today, HIV/AIDS remains a relentless, ruthless and sometimes deadly disease, but as the marriage ceremony symbolized, it also is a condition that allows room for hope.

Catholic Charities staffers swarmed all over the house as 5 p.m. approached; Associate Director Quentin Henley, who gave away the bride, sat in the living room with the nervous groom. Down the south hall of the residence, several women helped Miss Tejada with last-minute hair and make-up preparation in her room.

"I don't have my shoes on yet!" exclaimed

Joan Hayes, St. Joseph's director and the maid of honor, who raced through the house as the starting time came and went.

The all-but-inevitable delay served its purpose; at 5:15 p.m., Karen Robson, St. Joseph's nurse, was still printing copies of the wedding program on the copy machine in Mrs. Hayes' office.

Guests in the living room sat on a couple of couches, armchairs, kitchen stools, folding chairs and on the floor. They were of all ages and all races, some on walkers as well as young children and a babe in arms.

Right before the exchange of vows, Father Medina advised the couple to "just relax," confessing he was nervous, too. When the groom's ring didn't fit on his finger, the priest said, "We'll skip it, OK?" followed by, "Now the husband can kiss the wife."

The couple exited the chapel, turned left and walked up the main hall past the kitchen and into the dining room where toasts were exchanged, dinner was served, the cake was cut. The couple later opened wedding gifts.

Father Medina, director of the Hispanic Apostolate, celebrated most of the Mass in English, though he spoke directly to Miss Tejada in Spanish, and the two guitarists sang Mexican songs.

"I pray for all people working at St. Joseph Residence, to strengthen their faith, love and charity. Thank you for inviting all of us to share your happiness and your love," the priest said.



Father Medina reads the Gospel as Maid of Honor Joan Hayes, St. Joseph's director, and Catholic Charities Associate Director Quentin Henley, who gave away the bride, stand as witnesses.



Staff members, who at St. Joseph's Residence go by their first names, are, from center, O'Neil, Eileen, Suzanne, Nan, Jackie, Darlene, Jeff and Nadine.



Joan Hayes catches the bouquet Mrs. Chadwick threw toward the end of the reception.



Msgr. Patrick Gaalaas, vicar general and ecumenical director for the Diocese of Tulsa, arranged for Catholics to have a front-row seat at the Interfaith Prayer Breakfast that began Oklahoma Centennial Statehood Day at the Greenwood Cultural Center.

Catholics celebrate state's centennial

Msgr. Gaalaas, Sister M. Therese Gottschalk, CEO of St. John Healthy System, and Msgr. James Halpine rise to their feet to clap and sing along to "Oklahoma!" performed by the Tulsa Children's Chorus.



Archie Mason of the Osage Nation began the "Praying for Our Future" part of the program.



Father James D. White, historian and archivist for the Diocese, holds high the centerpiece depicting the centennial logo, with Msgr. Gaalaas.



Msgr. Gaalaas says the Lord's Prayer in Latin. Also offering prayers were, from left, Dr. Sandra K. Rana of the Islamic Society of Tulsa, the Rev. Dr. G. Calvin McCutchen of Mount Zion Baptist Church, the Rev. Marlin Lavanhar of All Souls Unitarian Church, and Dr. Victor Orta II, Iglesia El Pueblo de Dios.