

Weddings ... Most little girls dream about the day they will walk down the aisle holding onto their dads' arm. Many mothers of little girls also dream of the dream wedding and already have in their minds the picture of the wedding day often by the time the child is 6 years old. But sometimes those precious dreams don't pan out.

Recently, I was invited to be a con-celebrant at a wedding of the daughter of dear friends of mine from Lafayette. They decided to have the wedding in New Orleans at the beautiful Jesuit Church on Baronne Street. The reception was at the New Orleans Board of Trade building, and by all standards, it was going to be a fairy tale wedding.

But then it happened ... It started raining around 3:00 that Saturday afternoon. The wedding was scheduled for 6:00. The rain didn't stop. So much so, the streets flooded with 10 inches of water and getting to the Church was an impossibility for me and most. Of the hundreds invited, only seventy-five people made it to the Mass which had to start an hour late because the organist couldn't get there. (I feared more overnight flooding and tried to get home, only to find stalled cars blocking the entrance ramp to I-10. In fact, my car, dry but in 10 inches of water, stopped but then I was able to restart). I am told most of the guests made it to the reception, but sadly the food didn't arrive until 10pm that night.

The bride and the bride's mother and father could have considered this a disaster. But the young bride, a woman of great faith, and her very faith filled new husband, the bride's mother and father, and her new mother-in-law were nothing but happy. The bride's aunt told me that the bride and her new husband had the time of their life at the reception despite the calamities.

This is what happens when a person of faith faces challenges and disappointments - happiness instead of bitterness.

I am reminded of something Jesus said regarding these challenges and disappointments:

"Everyone who listens to these words of mine and acts on them will be like a wise man who built his house on rock. The rains fell, the floods came and the wind blew and buffeted the house. But it did not collapse; it had been set solidly on rock." (Matthew 7:24-26)