Good News Is Hard to Beat!

by Mary Ann Kuharski

“The family has a special role to play throughout the life of its members, from birth to death. It is truly ‘the sanctuary of life: the place in which life—the gift of God—can be properly welcomed and protected against the many attacks to which it is exposed, and can develop in accordance with what constitutes authentic human growth.’”

—Evangelium Vitae

Sometimes we receive good news that’s “over the top,” as my kids would say. It’s the kind of news that can pull a family through those not-so-good times that are bound to come for everyone. Good news has the power of putting things in perspective, reminding us anew that God is in His heaven.

Some time ago, the Kuharskis were surprised with that type of good news—twice! First came the engagement of our daughter Kari, and then our daughter Mary and her husband, Tim, gave birth to their first child.

God is indeed good!

Looking back, some may have said Kari’s engagement to her longtime steady boyfriend, Drew, was a foregone conclusion, but as my pragmatic Italian father used to say, “Don’t assume! If you ain’t got a ring, you ain’t got a thing!”

Kari and Drew met in college and dated all the way through. But Kari was our “adventuresome” one, and was always coming up with ways to pack school, work, and travel into her plans. She spent one summer on Mackinac Island, dressed settler-style in a bonnet, long dresses, and smocks à la 1700s as she gave tours on fort history to travelers. Despite the sometimes sultry temperatures of her attic-style dorm residence, Kari relished every minute of it.

Drew waited for her return.

The next year she spent six months in Rome studying for her degree in Catholic studies through St. Thomas University’s Rome program while Drew studied in Spain.

When Kari finally graduated, she quickly let it be known that she had made plans for the entire next year! “I just feel God is asking me to do this first,” Kari said as she prepared to join National Evangelization Team Ministries. “I can find a job ‘in the real world’ and make plans later. Right now I need to do this.” After several weeks of intense training, Kari was sent off with eight other team members to dioceses and parishes across the United States, where they led retreats for Catholic teens.

Again Drew waited, busying himself with college and part-time work, and occasionally playing in a band with friends.

He later confided, “This past year of Kari being gone was the real test! It made me realize how much I loved her and wanted to be with her the rest of my life.”

Those were his words the evening he dropped in to ask John and me for our permission to marry our daugh-
ter. (Ah! There’s nothing quite like a good, strong man of faith and traditional values!) Hugs, congratulations, and tears of joy were our response! We hoped that Drew would be able to lasso our vagabond daughter and settle her down!

Kari’s sisters Mary and Angie later accompanied Drew on his ring-shopping excursion, adding their two-cents-worth of expertise as only they know how! (What’s that old saying? “When you choose a spouse, you choose the whole family!”)

Four days after receiving the news about Kari and Drew’s engagement, we received a late-night call from our son-in-law Tim, announcing the impending arrival of our new grandchild.

The suspense was coming to an end: Mary and Tim had resisted the temptation to find out whether they were having a boy or a girl—a rather quaint approach to parenthood these days—which meant the baby’s room was painted in neutral tones and most of the baby shower gifts came in yellow, green, or white. No matter—they wanted to be surprised. And so they were!

The anticipation and number of phone calls and emails mounted as Mary and Tim went to the hospital the first time and were sent home, only to be admitted the next morning. First babies are notorious for taking their time, and this one was no exception as Mary labored and Tim stood lovingly at her bedside most of the day.

I was invited in for the “finale”—after bribing Tim with a double cheeseburger, fries, and a Coke when he called me miday through Mary’s labor and mentioned he hadn’t eaten anything all day.

Here he was at last—our first bit of “Irish” as this tiny seven-pound towhead burst into the world with a full set of lungs.

It has been said by those not in the know that Christians live a message of “gloom and doom.” Quite the contrary. We are a people of faith, hope, and life. We celebrate baptisms, engagements, weddings, and everything in between. With Kari and Drew’s upcoming wedding and the baptism of our grandson Patrick Dean on its way, we were excited about welcoming two new people into our family, and we could wholeheartedly say, “Let the parties begin!”

“Good news has the power of putting things in perspective, reminding us anew that God is in His heaven.”

On The Web

Sacred Heart Books and Gifts

Ladybug in Town

Landscape Supply • Barkdust
Blended Soils • Decorative Rock
Yard Debris Recycling Center

21600 NW Amberwood Dr.
Hillsboro, OR 97124

www.gotbark.com / (503) 645-BARK

Catholics United for the Faith

Answering your questions on the Catholic faith

www.cuf.org

Emmaus Road Publishing

New Web features:

Easy ordering capabilities • Monthly specials
Promotional sales for new products • Free guides and helps
Special products available only on the web • Authors’ bios

www.emmausroad.org

Sacred Heart
Books and Gifts

www.sacredheartbooksandgifts.com
(816) 415-4301

Emmaus Road Publishing

New Web features:

Easy ordering capabilities • Monthly specials
Promotional sales for new products • Free guides and helps
Special products available only on the web • Authors’ bios

www.emmausroad.org

On The Web

Sacred Heart Books and Gifts

Ladybug in Town

Landscape Supply • Barkdust
Blended Soils • Decorative Rock
Yard Debris Recycling Center

21600 NW Amberwood Dr.
Hillsboro, OR 97124

www.gotbark.com / (503) 645-BARK

Catholics United for the Faith

Answering your questions on the Catholic faith

www.cuf.org