



*The Marriage Ceremony*

*Of*

*[Bride]*

*And*

*[Groom].*

*On*

*[Date]*



## *Welcome*

Welcome, to all. We're here today not to witness the beginning of what will be, but rather what already is! We don't create this marriage, because we cannot. We can and do, however, celebrate with [Bride] and [Groom] the wondrous and joyful occurrence what has already taken place in their lives, and the commitment they make today.

## *Definition of Marriage*

[Bride] and [Groom], marriage is perhaps the greatest and most challenging adventure of human relationships. No ceremony can create your marriage; only you can do that – through love and patience; dedication and perseverance; talking and listening, helping and supporting and believing in each other; through tenderness and laughter; learning to forgive, to appreciate your differences, by learning to make the important things matter, and to let go of the rest. What this ceremony can do is witness and affirm the choice you make to stand together in life as partners.

**To All:** Into this union [Bride] and [Groom] have come to be joined. If any man can show just cause why they may not be lawfully wed, speak now, or else forever hold your peace.

## *Declaration of Intent*

As an expression of your total willingness to commit yourself to one another, I invite you to face each other and join hands.

***Bride and Groom Join hands***

### **To Groom:**

[Groom], do you come before this gathering to proclaim your love and devotion for [Bride]? Do you promise to affirm her, respect her, and care for her during times of joy and hardship? Do you commit yourself to share your feelings of happiness and sadness? Do you pledge to remain faithful to her?

*Groom Responds: I do.*

### **To Bride:**

[Bride], do you come before this gathering to proclaim your love and devotion for [Groom]? Do you promise to affirm him, respect him, and care for him during times of joy and hardship? Do you commit yourself to share your feelings of happiness and sadness? Do you pledge to remain faithful to him?

*Bride responds: I do.*

**Who gives this woman to be married to this man?**

### ***Homily***

Over time, we come to understand that love is more than valentines and romance movies; that real and true love is the most important thing in our lives - for it is the creator of our favorite memories and the foundation of our fondest dreams. Without love, we merely exist. With it, we truly live! It is a promise always kept, a fortune that can never be spent; a seed to flourish in even the most unlikely place. This radiance that never fades is the greatest treasure of all - one known only by those who truly love.

It has been said: “The most wonderful of all things in life is the discovery of another human being with whom our

relationship deepens over time. This inner manifestation of love is a marvelous thing that cannot be found by looking or wishing for it. It is a Divine destiny.”

Today should also be special to you as guests. Those who are married may wish to silently reaffirm your vows by gently taking the hand of your partner during the ceremony. Others are encouraged to think about what it means to be a friend, for marriage is built first on friendship. There are no ties on earth so sweet, nor so tender as those [Bride] and [Groom] are about to assume; no vows so solemn as those they are about to make; no institution so sacred as that of the union they will form; for a true home is not only the place in which we live, but also the dwelling where each lives in the heart and mind of the other.

### ***Charge to the Couple***

[Bride] and [Groom], marriage is the holiest of all earthly unions, to be entered into reverently and with full understanding of its significance. To be complete, it must be spiritual as well as physical. When it is spiritual it becomes the peaceful and happy union of a couple. It is true only when based upon a deep, inner communion of two souls who find completion in each other. Today, your separate lives merge into one.

Happiness in marriage does not just happen; it must be created and in so-doing, little things are important. Never be too old to hold hands. Remember to say, “I love you” (out loud), every day. Never go to sleep angry, nor take the other for granted -- for that which is taken for granted, disappears. Do things for each other, not with an attitude of

duty or sacrifice, but in a spirit of joy. Speak words of appreciation and demonstrate gratitude in thoughtful ways. Foster the capacity to forgive and forget. Share an atmosphere in which you both can grow; a common search for the good and the beautiful in each other; not expecting [Groom] to wear a halo; nor [Bride] the wings of an angel.

Don't look for perfection, but cultivate flexibility, patience, understanding and a sense of humor. You must not only MARRY the right partner, but also BE the right partner. This is a great adventure when it's the outward expression of a great love, characterized by compassion and courage. Such a marriage allows you to see through to your partner's essence, to be in total support of their well-being, goals, purpose and spirit; helping them to be all they can be. Such a love requires you to be totally honest with yourself and your mate, to ask for what you want, to take action despite your fear, to share your feelings and to listen, but leave your partner free to be who they really are. In other words, always love the other for who they are, not for who you think they should be. Be ever mindful of the fact that, "Relationships are something that must be worked on all the time, not only when they are broken and need to be fixed. Never stop doing the things that brought you together in the first place."

We, as your friends gathered here today, wish for you a love that brings out your magnificence; that gives you the courage and the willingness to stand together. Most of all we wish, that at the end of time, you may look into each other's eyes and say: "Because you have loved me, you have given me faith in myself, and because I have faith in

myself, I have loved my fellow man. My life with you has been complete."

***Turn Bride and Groom to face the guests.***

Two people in love do not live in isolation. Their love is a source of strength with which they nourish not only each other but also the world around them. And in turn, we, their family and friends, have a responsibility to them. By our steadfast care, respect, and love, we can support their marriage and the new family they are creating today.

Regardless of their age – these are our children, today and for all time. From the day they were born we have dedicated ourselves to loving and supporting them in all that they are. Our obligation does not end here – but expands into something ever more wonderful.

***All please rise.***

***TO THE FAMILY AND FRIENDS GATHERED HERE I ASK:***

Will you surround [Bride] and [Groom] in love, offering them the joys of your friendship and supporting them in their marriage?

*All: We will*

***Please be seated.***

***[Tradition]***

## *Wedding Vows*

We've come to the point of your ceremony where you're going to offer your vows to one another. But first, I ask you to remember that love – rooted in faith, trust, and acceptance - will be the foundation of an abiding and deepening relationship. Cherish the vows you make today, not because of any religious or civic law, but out of a desire to love and be loved fully by another person, without limitation; then your life will have joy and the home you establish will be a place in which you both will find the direction of your growth, your freedom, and your responsibility.

Working together in preparation for today, I have been pleased to watch the two of you relate to each other. I have seen the playfulness, laughter, and affection that are so crucial to a loving relationship. Never lose that. Laugh together often. Be best friends. Hold hands frequently to let the world see this is your partner in life. Above all, tell each other of your love each and every day, and demonstrate it in all you say and do together. Never tire of saying it or hearing it. Every part of your life together needs to be nurtured.

***Now, please read the vows you have written for each other. Speak loud and clear, with pride and conviction, for all those gathered to hear.***

***May we now have the rings?***

***Rings in open palm . . .***

From the earliest times, an unbroken and never-ending

circle has been a symbol of completeness, of a commitment to love that is also never-ending. As often as either of you behold these rings, be reminded of your commitment to love each other made today.

***To Groom:***

[Groom], take this ring and place it upon [Bride's] finger, and as you do, repeat after me:

***[Bride], as a sign from my heart / that I desire to be your husband from this day forward, / and that you may remember forever that I have chosen you above all others, / I give you this ring as a symbol of my love and devotion.***

***To Groom:***

[Bride], take this ring and place it upon [Groom's] finger, and as you do, repeat after me:

***[Groom], as a sign from my heart / that I desire to be your husband from this day forward, / and that you may remember forever that I have chosen you above all others, / I give you this ring as a symbol of my love and devotion.***

“[Bride] and [Groom], seek from within yourselves the serenity to accept the things you cannot change; the courage to change the things that you must; and the wisdom to know the difference.

Live each day, one day at a time, enjoying your time together.

Seek the wisdom of experience, learning all that you can from each other.

Accept hardships as the building blocks of experience, realizing that both the good and the bad



are simply a part of being alive.  
Strive to make as many things right  
as is humanly possible in your life together,  
that you may be forever happy  
in the life you share from this day forward”

### ***Declaration***

By the power of your love and commitment declared to each other and before these witnesses today, and with the authority extended to me by the State of Florida, I now declare that you are married!

***You may seal your promise with a kiss!***

It is now my genuine pleasure to introduce for the first time

**Mr. and Mrs. [Bride] and [Groom]**