

THE RITE OF MARRIAGE:

The Choice of Address Formulary

(Bride) and (Groom) and their witnesses (Chief bridesmaid) and (Best man) stand. The Priest addresses them in these words.

1. Dear children of God, you have come to this church so that the Lord may seal your love in the presence of the priest and this community.

Christian marriage is a sacred union which enriches natural love. It binds those who enter it to be faithful to each other for ever; it creates between them a bond that endures for life and cannot be broken; it demands that they love and honour each other, (that they accept from God the children he may give them, and bring them up in his love). To help them in their marriage the husband and wife receive the life-long grace of the sacrament.

Is this your understanding of marriage?

Bride and Groom: It is.

OR

2. Dear children of God, you have come to this church so that the Lord may seal your love in the presence of the priest and this community. Christ blesses this love. He has already consecrated you in Baptism; now, by a special sacrament, he strengthens you to fulfil the duties of your married life.

(Priest) then questions the bride and groom.

Priest: (Bride) and (Groom), you are about to celebrate this sacrament. Have you come here of your own free will and choice and without compulsion to marry each other?

Bride and Groom: We have

Priest: Will you love and honour each other in marriage all the days of your life?

Bride and Groom: We will

Priest: Are you willing to accept with love the children God may send you and bring them up in accordance with the law of Christ and his Church? *[this question may be omitted, e.g. if the couple is advanced in years]*

Bride and Groom: We are.

OR

3. Dear children of God, you have come today to pledge your love before God and before the Church here present in the person of priest, your families and friends.

In becoming husband and wife you give yourselves to each other for life. You promise to be true and faithful, to support and cherish each other until death, so that your years together will be the living out in love of the pledge you now make. May your love for each other reflect the enduring love of Christ for his Church.

As you face the future together, keep in mind that the sacrament of marriage unites you with Christ, and brings you, through the years, the grace and blessing of God our Father. Marriage is from God: he alone can give you the happiness which goes beyond human expectation, and which grows deeper through the difficulties and struggles of life.

Put your trust in God as you set out together in life. Make your home a centre of Christian family life. (in this you will bequeath to your children a heritage more lasting than temporal wealth).

The Christian home makes Christ and his Church present in the world of everyday things. May all who enter your home find there the presence of the Lord; for he has said: "Where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them."

Now, as you are about to exchange your marriage vows, the Church wishes to be assured that you appreciate the meaning of what you do, and so I ask you:

Priest: Have you come here of your own free will and choice and without compulsion to marry each other?

Bride and Groom: We Have

Priest: Will you love and honour each other in marriage all the days of your life?

Bride and Groom: We will

Priest: Are you willing to accept with love the children God may send you and bring them up in accordance with the law of Christ and his Church?

Bride and Groom: We are.