

Many Blessings Standard Ceremony # 2

Welcome:

Good afternoon (morning/evening)! We are gathered here today, not to witness the beginning of what will be, but rather what already is! We do not create this marriage, because we cannot. We can and do, however, celebrate with **Bride** and **Groom** and their friends and families the wondrous and joyful occurrence that has already taken place in their lives.

Who accompanies this **Bride** to the marriage ceremony?

Whoever is escorting responds: I do.

Prayer (Optional)

God of Light, who gives us the longing for love and the capability of loving, we give you thanks for **Bride and Groom**, for their open hearts and willing spirits, and for the example of love that they embody here in our presence.

Be with them on this joyous occasion of showing their love and making their vows, and be with us, their witnesses, that we may all be changed by what is said and witnessed here today.

The Celebration Of Marriage

Marriage is a supreme sharing of experience, and an adventure in the most intimate of human relationships. It is the joyous union of two people whose comradeship and mutual understanding have flowered in romance. Today **Bride** and **Groom** proclaim their love and commitment to the world, and we gather here to rejoice, with and for them, in the new life they now undertake together.

On Marriage, By Edmund O'Neill

Marriage is a commitment to life - to the best that two people can find and bring out in each other. It offers opportunities for sharing and growth that no other human relationship can equal, a joining that is promised for a lifetime. Within the circle of its love, marriage encompasses all of life's most important relationships. A wife and a husband are each other's best friend, confidant, lover, teacher, listener, and critic. There may come times when one partner is heartbroken or ailing, and the love of the other may resemble the tender caring of a parent for a child. Marriage deepens and enriches every facet of life. Happiness is fuller; memories are fresher; commitment is stronger; even anger is felt more strongly, and passes away more quickly. Marriage understands and forgives the mistakes life is unable to avoid. It encourages and nurtures new life, new experiences, and new ways of expressing love through the seasons of life. When two people pledge to love and care for each other in marriage they create a spirit unique to themselves, which binds them closer than any spoken or written words. Marriage is a promise, a potential, made in the hearts of two people who love, which takes a lifetime to fulfill.

Love

Mingling in marriage is a mutual dedication, a cooperative venture in every sense. It is a relationship based on love, respect, and a determination by both partners to adjust to each other and support one another, in health and in

sickness, in joy and in sadness, in ease and in hardship.

Through this co-operation, we give ourselves, our lives and love. into the hands of the one we love. We do so trustingly and generously. And so, each of us receives a gift: the life and love of the other. We receive this gift, not only from the one we love, but also from the parents who brought us into the world, and from our friends and families as well.

And so as **Bride and Groom's** friends and family, we are here to share with them this joy and hope, and to see them off on the path they will walk together. May it be a path of blessedness, bright with flowers of prosperity and spiritual awakening; a path of ever deepening, ever broadening love that they will travel, arm in arm. through out eternity.

The Commitment

Bride and Groom this celebration is a union created by your loving purpose and kept by your abiding will. It is in this spirit and for this purpose that you have come here to be joined together.

Blessing of the Rings

Minister: Who holds the rings?

Best Man or Sponsor: I do

Minister: These are the rings that **Bride and Groom** will wear for the rest of their lives, that express the love that they have for one another. Let us take a moment and send our prayers, our thoughts and our love to these rings, so that as they wear them, they will carry our love with them as well.

(Best man holds his hand up to display the rings and holds them up to be blessed by the Minister.)

Minister: Let us all bless these rings! These rings are circles, symbols that remind us of the Sun, and the Earth, and the universe. Symbols of holiness, of perfection and peace ... that which has no beginning and no end. And so, in this moment, let us all bring our blessings to these rings to also be symbols of unity, of joining and of commitment. Let us grant that the love which **Bride and Groom** have for each other now may always be just this way.

Exchange of Vows and Rings

Bride and Groom as you dedicate yourselves to one another, we are mindful of the Love around us represented by our Family and friends.

Each holds the hand of the other, slides the ring half way on, then repeats the vows after Minister

Groom to Bride: we entered into each others lives and experienced love and happiness. Today I am confirming my promise for all of my life to love and respect you, to be faithful and honest with you, to give you encouragement, strength and trust, to stand together in our times of joy and of sorrow. I pray that our home will be one of love and understanding and patience ... not to remain the same, but to grow better and stronger with the passing of time, and through the love we have for one another. I am promising from this day forward that I will be your husband, to walk with you throughout all your

tomorrows. I love you. With this ring, I thee wed.

Bride to Groom: we entered into each others lives and experienced love and happiness. Today I am confirming my promise for all of my life to love and respect you, to be faithful and honest with you, to give you encouragement, strength and trust, to stand together in our times of joy and of sorrow. I pray that our home will be one of love and understanding and patience ... not to remain the same, but to grow better and stronger with the passing of time, and through the love we have for one another. I am promising from this day forward that I will be your wife, to walk with you throughout all your tomorrows. I love you. With this ring, I thee wed.
(Then finish putting the ring on the finger.)

Apache Wedding Blessing

Now you will feel no rain, for each of you will be the shelter for each other.
Now you will feel no cold, for each of you will be the warmth for the other.
Now you are two persons, but there is only one life before.
Go now to your dwelling to enter into the days of your life together.
And may your days be good and long upon the earth.

Conclusion

Bride and Groom: remember to treat both yourself and each other with respect, and remind yourselves often of what brought you together. Give the highest priority to the tenderness, gentleness and kindness that your connection deserves. When frustration, difficulty or fear assail your relationship – as they threatened all relationships at one time or another – remember to focus on what is right between you, not only the part that seems wrong. In this way, you can ride out the times when clouds hide the face of the sun in your lives – remembering that even if you lose sight of it for a moment, the sun is still there. And if each of you takes responsibility for the quality of your lives together, your life together will be marked by abundance and delight.

Pronouncement

Inasmuch as you have consented together in this ceremony to live in wedlock and have sealed your vows in the presence of this company and by the giving of these rings, it gives me great pleasure to pronounce that you are now husband and wife.

Kiss

Announcing the Couple:

Minister: Would everyone please stand and give a big, warm round of applause as we greet for the first time in public as husband and wife,

Mr & Mrs. _____