**Wedding Ceremony**

Blessing from Parents

The relationship between children and their parents is one that's understated, yet very deep; And one of the rare occasions when it can be publicly acknowledging is at a wedding ceremony.

Who brings this woman to be married today?

(her mother and I do) or (I do)

And are you willing to sustain and strengthen this marriage by giving \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the public commitment for your love and support through all the ups and downs ahead of them.

(we are) of (I am)

Gathering of the Words

Good afternoon, welcome to this most important moment in the lives of this couple. We invite you to leave behind the worries and concerns of everyday life and join us in the celebration of their marriage.

This is an opportunity for us to share not only in the joy of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_'s love but also to reaffirm and appreciate the love and friendship we experience in our own lives.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ view marriage as a coming together at all levels of being-mind, body, and spirit. A marital commitment include the willingness to be open and vulnerable, and the courage to take risks.

Marriage is a conscious act of will. To remain in marriage we must continually renew our will to be married. Marital partners accept the challenges that living together in love offer. They decide that they will face the fears that are a necessary part of establishing and nurturing an intimate relationship. And you \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ have made the commitment to create this conscious partnership.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ commit themselves today to each other in sacred trust. They promise to embrace conflict as well as peace; to work as well as play; to struggle s well as coast; to give as well as to receive; and to be with, stay with, and move toward one another through good times and bad.

Prayer and Blessing

Let us Pray;

Dear Lord, help us to be aware of the blessings of our roots - the love of family and friends, and always Your Love enfolding and embracing all.

May our lives be worthy in Your sight.

May our hearts always rest in love so deep that it bridges the difficulties of life and helps us appreciate the beauty and goodness that our world offers. Bless \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ as they begin their lives together as husband and wife. Follow them as they endure the struggles of everyday life and embrace them as they experience the wonderful things their love for one another will bring.

Honoring the Mothers

Mothers plant so their children may harvest. Mothers cry when their children hurt. Mothers welcome pain and burden to give their sons and daughters the gift of life.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ will now present their mothers with flowers, as symbols of eternal gratitude for their unconditional love, their unyielding strengths in times of hardship, and for all the selfless sacrifices they have made for their children.

Rings

The wedding ring is a symbol of married love, the precious metals show that your love is your most precious possession, and the unending circle symbolizes that your love may never cease.

Repeat after me

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, I give you this ring, as a symbol of my love. I ask you to wear it as a sign to the world that you are my husband. With this ring, I thee wed.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, I give you this ring, as a symbol of my love. I ask you to wear it as a sign to the world that you are my wife. With this ring, I thee wed.

Vows

Do you \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ take \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to be your lawfully wedded husband? From this day forward, to have and to hold, for better, for worse for richer and for poorer, in sickness and in health, til death do you part.

I do

Do you \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ take \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to be your lawfully wedded wife? From this day forward, to have and to hold, for better, for worse for richer and for poorer, in sickness and in health, til death do you part.

I do

Unity Candle

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ have shared with you their vows, their joy, and their hope. And while they did so, two candles burned as symbols of their own unique lives, lighting the world around them.

As they light the center candle today, it symbolizes the beginning of their married life. The light of their love will now cast itself further into life, and affect many others. However, the two candles that represent individual life are not extinguished. For marriage is not something if individuality, it is something that will need to be nurtured and worked on every single day. May each of us, as we see candlelight in the future, be reminded of its symbolic meaning...of two becoming one, and yet remaining two, in the mystery of love at its fullest.

Concluding Prayer

It was love that brought you here today. It's love that makes yours a glorious union. And it will be love that makes your marriage endure.

Love has given you wings, and your journey begins today. Wherever the wind may carry you, you will stay be each other's side.

I therefore join with everyone gathered here today in extending to you our love and support, and our wish for your relationship to just simply flourish and grow throughout a long and happy life together.

Affirmation

Ladies and gentleman, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ have demonstrated in your presence today, their belief in their love, and their desire to live together in marriage. If you also believe in their love and you wish to add your blessing to their marriage today, please respond by now saying, "we do".

"We Do"

By the power invested in me by the state of Illinois, I now pronounce you husband and wife. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, you may kiss your bride!

Ladies and gentleman, family and friends, it is my pleasure to present to you, for the first time the new Mr. and Mrs. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_!!