

Friends, we are gathered here at this hour to witness and to celebrate the coming together of two separate lives. We have come to join \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ in marriage, to be with them and rejoice with them in the making of this important commitment. The essence of this commitment is the taking of another person in his or her entirety, as lover, companion, and friend. It is therefore a decision which is not to be entered into lightly, but rather undertaken with great consideration and respect for both the other person and oneself:

Love is one of the highest experiences that we human beings can have, and it can add depth of meaning to our lives. The day-to-day companionship - the pleasure in doing things together, or in doing separate things but in delighting to exchange experiences - is a continuous and central part of what a man and woman who love each other can share.

While marriage is the intimate sharing of two lives, it can yet enhance the differences and individuality of each partner. We must give ourselves in love, but we must not give ourselves away. A good and balanced relationship is one in which neither person is overpowered or absorbed by the other. Thus it is out of the tension between separateness and union that love is born and reborn.

We are here today, then, to celebrate the love which \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ have for each other, and to give social recognition to their decision to accept each other totally and permanently. Into this state of marriage these two persons come now to be united.

\* \* \* \* \*

(Couple turn toward each other)

(to the groom)

\_\_\_\_\_, will you have this woman to be your wedded wife, to have and to hold from this day forth?

"I will."

(Please repeat)

I have chosen you \_\_\_\_\_ / from all of the world / to be my wedded wife / to share my life openly with you / to speak the truth to you in love / I promise to honor you / and tenderly care for you / through all the experiences of our lives.

(to the bride)

\_\_\_\_\_, will you have this man to be your wedded husband,  
to have and to hold from this day forth?

"I will."

Please repeat .....

I have chosen you \_\_\_\_\_ / from all of the world /  
to be my wedded husband / to share my life openly with you / to speak the truth  
to you in love / I promise to honor you / and tenderly care for you /  
through all the experiences of our lives.

\* \* \* \* \*

(to the groom)

\_\_\_\_\_ what pledge do you offer in token of these vows?

"I offer this ring."

(Officiant, to the groom)

As you place this ring, symbol of your commitment in marriage, on the  
third finger of \_\_\_\_\_'s left hand, please repeat ....

With this ring I wed you / and pledge my faithful love.

(to the bride)

\_\_\_\_\_ what pledge do you offer in token of these vows?

"I offer this ring."

(Officiant, to the bride)

As you place this ring, symbol of your commitment in marriage, on the  
third finger of \_\_\_\_\_'s left hand, please repeat ....

With this ring I wed you / and pledge my faithful love.

\* \* \* \* \*

Foreasmuch as \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_  
have consented together in marriage, they have vowed to be loyal and loving  
toward each other, formalizing in our presence the existence of the bond between  
them, I do, by virture of the authority vested in my by the laws of the state  
of Pennsylvania, pronounce that they are now husband and wife. May they  
continue to love one another forever.

\_\_\_\_\_, you may kiss your bride.

(Optional)

It is my pleasure to present Mr. & Mrs. \_\_\_\_\_.