

### Blessing of the Couple Options

(This replaces the ritual that was formerly known as the “giving away of the bride” which is now understood as an outdated, unjust and unacceptable notion of woman as property to be bartered from one man [father] to another man [husband]. The “Blessing of the Couple” replaces this archaic tradition with a more appropriate act that is mutually uplifting to both the groom and the bride as mutual partners in the holy relationship of marriage.)

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Blessing by Father of Bride

(to all who are gathered)

Let us remember that the path of love is meant to be walked together with all who are a part of the human family. All love is nurtured and guided by the love of others.

Each of us counts on relatives, friends, and neighbors for the caring and concern that replenishes our own ability to love.

\_\_\_\_\_ (woman) and \_\_\_\_\_ (man) come together in our midst this day enveloped in the care and friendship of you all and, most especially, in the presence of the love of family.

(to Bride’s Father)

It is in this reality I now ask you \_\_\_\_\_ (name of bride’s father), as \_\_\_\_\_’s(woman) Father, and a representative for all who are members of

\_\_\_\_\_ (man) and \_\_\_\_\_’s(woman) family, for your blessing on the marriage of this couple.

Do you give your blessing and promise the support of your love in the midst of this marriage of \_\_\_\_\_ (woman) and \_\_\_\_\_ (man)?

Father of Bride responds saying, "I do!"

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Blessing by Bride’s parents on behalf of all family members

(to all who are gathered)

It would be naive to think the celebration of this day was only about these two people who come before us to be married. The truth and wisdom of this time is something we are all a part of as family and friends of \_\_\_\_\_ (woman) and \_\_\_\_\_ (man).

We need to remember that the path of love is meant to be walked together with all who are a part of the human family. It is important for \_\_\_\_\_ (man) and \_\_\_\_\_ (woman) to understand that any hope for a future of joy and love relies

greatly upon the nurture and guidance of others, especially those who are members of their families.

It is because of such truth as this that \_\_\_\_\_ (woman) and \_\_\_\_\_ (man) have asked us to be present with them here to celebrate this occasion of their marriage.

Enveloped in the care and friendship of you all and most especially, in the presence of the love of family, they hope we will sustain them and participate with them in the daily celebrations of love to which God calls all of God's children.

In such hope then, I now ask you, \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ (bride's parents), as \_\_\_\_\_'s (woman) parents, and representatives for all family and friends of \_\_\_\_\_ (man) and \_\_\_\_\_ (woman) who gather on this day of celebration Ñ will you offer your blessing on these two who come to be united in marriage.

É And do you promise the support of love and commitment to \_\_\_\_\_ (woman) and \_\_\_\_\_'s (man) future together as wife and husband?

If so, will you respond by saying, "we do."

(Bride's parents respond by saying) "WE DO!"

\_\_\_\_\_

Blessing by ALL family and other guests gathered for wedding

(to all who are gathered)

The truth and wisdom of this marriage celebration is something we are all a part of as family and friends of \_\_\_\_\_ (woman) and \_\_\_\_\_ (man).

We need to remember that the path of love is always meant to be walked together with everyone who is a part of the human family. Thus, it is important for these two who come before us to understand that any hope, for a future of joy and love, relies greatly upon the nurture and guidance of others, especially you who are gathered in this place.

In such truth as this, \_\_\_\_\_ (man) and \_\_\_\_\_ (woman) have asked us to be present with them here, to celebrate this occasion of their marriage. Enveloped in the care and friendship of you all and especially, in the presence of the love of family, they hope we will sustain them, encourage them, and participate with them in the daily celebrations of love to which God calls all of God's children.

It is in this hope, then, I now ask all of you who are gathered here, as family and friends of this couple Ñ will you offer your blessing on these two who come to be united in marriage.

And do you promise the support of love and commitment to \_\_\_\_\_(woman) and \_\_\_\_\_'s(man) future together as husband and wife?

If so, will you respond by saying, "We do."

(All gathered respond by saying)"WE DO!"

(To all who are gathered) Thank you.

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Blessing by Family member other than a Parent

(to all who are gathered)

This relationship requires not only the support of these two people for each other, but also the support of their family and friends.

We need to remember that the path of love is meant to be walked together with all who are a part of the human family. Any hope for a future of joy and love is nurtured and guided by the love of others.

It is in this truth then that \_\_\_\_\_(woman) and \_\_\_\_\_(man) have asked us to be present with them to celebrate the occasion of their marriage. Enveloped in the care and friendship of you all and most especially, in the presence of the love of family, they hope that we will sustain them and participate with them in the daily celebrations of love to which God calls all of God's children.

It is in this reality, then, I now ask you, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, as representative for the families of this couple Ñ will you offer your blessing on these two who come to be united in marriage.

É And do you promise the support of love, and commitment to \_\_\_\_\_(man) and \_\_\_\_\_'s(woman) future together as husband and wife?

If so, will you respond by saying, "I do."

(Family representative responds by saying) "I DO!"

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Blessing by children when groom or/and bride already have children old enough to respond

\_\_\_\_\_ (man), \_\_\_\_\_ (woman), if your marriage is to find such truth -- you will require not only your personal support for each other, but also the support of your family and friends.

(to all who have gathered)

\_\_\_\_\_ (woman) and \_\_\_\_\_ (man) have asked us to be present with them to rejoice in their love and share in their joy. They hope that we will sustain them and participate with them in the daily celebrations of love to which God calls all of God's children.

(to any children of couple)

As indicated by your presence here today, I now specifically ask you \_\_\_\_\_ (names of any/all children), as \_\_\_\_\_'s (man and/or woman's name) children and representatives for all who are members of \_\_\_\_\_'s (man) and \_\_\_\_\_'s (woman) families:

Do you give your blessing, and promise the willing support of your love in this deeper relationship of marriage into which \_\_\_\_\_ (woman) and \_\_\_\_\_ (man) are about to enter?

If so, will you respond by saying, "we will."

(children respond in unison)

"WE WILL!"