

THE CELEBRATION OF MATRIMONY



58. If two or more Marriages happen to be celebrated at the same time, the Questions before the Consent, the Consent itself, and also the Reception of the Consent must always take place individually for each Marriage; the remaining parts, however, including the Nuptial Blessing, should be spoken once for all in the plural.

59. With all standing, including the couple and the witnesses, who are positioned near them, the Priest addresses the couple in these or similar words:

**Dearly beloved,
you have come together into the house of the
Church,
so that in the presence of the Church's minister and
the community
your intention to enter into Marriage
may be strengthened by the Lord with a sacred seal.
Christ abundantly blesses the love that binds you.
Through a special Sacrament,
he enriches and strengthens
those he has already consecrated by Holy Baptism,
that they may be faithful to each other for ever
and assume all the responsibilities of married life.
And so, in the presence of the Church,
I ask you to state your intentions.**

THE QUESTIONS BEFORE THE CONSENT

60. The Priest then questions them about their freedom of choice, fidelity to each other, and the acceptance and upbringing of children, and each responds separately.

N. and N., have you come here to enter into Marriage without coercion, freely and wholeheartedly?

The bridegroom and bride each say:

I have.

The Priest continues:

Are you prepared, as you follow the path of Marriage, to love and honor each other for as long as you both shall live?

The bridegroom and bride each say:

I am.

The following question may be omitted, if circumstances suggest this, for example, if the couple are advanced in years.

Are you prepared to accept children lovingly from God and to bring them up according to the law of Christ and his Church?

The bridegroom and bride each say:

I am.

THE CONSENT

61. *The Priest invites them to declare their consent:*

**Since it is your intention to enter the covenant of
Holy Matrimony,
join your right hands and declare your consent
before God and his Church.**

They join their right hands.

A

62. *The bridegroom says:*

I, **N.**, take you, **N.**, to be my wife.
I promise to be faithful to you,
in good times and in bad,
in sickness and in health,
to love you and to honor you
all the days of my life.

The bride says:

I, **N.**, take you, **N.**, to be my husband.
I promise to be faithful to you,
in good times and in bad,
in sickness and in health,
to love you and to honor you
all the days of my life.

B

The following alternative form may be used:

The bridegroom says:

I, **N.**, take you, **N.**, for my lawful wife,
to have and to hold, from this day forward,
for better, for worse,
for richer, for poorer,
in sickness and in health,
to love and to cherish
until death do us part.

The bride says:

I, **N.**, take you, **N.**, for my lawful husband,
to have and to hold, from this day forward,
for better, for worse,
for richer, for poorer,
in sickness and in health,
to love and to cherish
until death do us part.



63. If, however, it seems preferable for pastoral reasons, the Priest may obtain the consent of the contracting parties through questioning.

First, he asks the bridegroom:

**N., do you take N., to be your wife?
Do you promise to be faithful to her
in good times and in bad,
in sickness and in health,
to love her and to honor her
all the days of your life?**

The bridegroom replies:

I do.

Next, the Priest asks the bride:

**N., do you take N., to be your husband?
Do you promise to be faithful to him
in good times and in bad,
in sickness and in health,
to love him and to honor him
all the days of your life?**

The bride replies:

I do.

D

The following alternative form may be used:

First, he asks the bridegroom:

N., do you take **N.** for your lawful wife,
to have and to hold, from this day forward,
for better, for worse,
for richer, for poorer,
in sickness and in health,
to love and to cherish
until death do you part?

The bridegroom replies:

I do.

Next, the Priest asks the bride:

N., do you take **N.** for your lawful husband,
to have and to hold, from this day forward,
for better, for worse,
for richer, for poorer,
in sickness and in health,
to love and to cherish
until death do you part?

The bride replies:

I do.

THE RECEPTION OF THE CONSENT

64. Then, receiving their consent, the Priest says to the bride and bridegroom:

- A** May the Lord in his kindness strengthen the consent you have declared before the Church, and graciously bring to fulfillment his blessing within you.
What God joins together, let no one put asunder.

Or:

- B** May the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, the God of Jacob, the God who joined together our first parents in paradise, strengthen and bless in Christ the consent you have declared before the Church, so that what God joins together, no one may put asunder.

65. The Priest invites those present to praise God:

Let us bless the Lord.

All reply:

Thanks be to God.

Another acclamation may be sung or said.

THE BLESSING AND GIVING OF RINGS

66. The Priest says:

A May the Lord bless ☩ these rings,
which you will give to each other
as a sign of love and fidelity.

R. Amen.

B **C** Other formulas for blessing the rings, nos. 194-195.

He sprinkles the rings, as the circumstances so suggest, and gives them to the bride and bridegroom.

67A. The husband places his wife's ring on her ring finger, saying, as the circumstances so suggest:

N., receive this ring
as a sign of my love and fidelity.
In the name of the Father, and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

Likewise, the wife places her husband's ring on his ring finger, saying, as the circumstances so suggest:

N., receive this ring
as a sign of my love and fidelity.
In the name of the Father, and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.