

THE ROMAN RITUAL

**RENEWED BY DECREE OF
THE MOST HOLY SECOND ECUMENICAL COUNCIL OF THE VATICAN,
PROMULGATED BY AUTHORITY OF POPE PAUL VI
AND REVISED AT THE DIRECTION OF POPE JOHN PAUL II**

THE ORDER OF CELEBRATING MATRIMONY

**ENGLISH TRANSLATION ACCORDING
TO THE SECOND TYPICAL EDITION**

For Use in the Dioceses of the United States of America

**Approved by the
United States Conference of Catholic Bishops
and Confirmed by the Apostolic See**



**CATHOLIC BOOK PUBLISHING CORP.
NEW JERSEY**

2016



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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:

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:

**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:

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

R). Amen.

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.**

150.

7

Song of Songs 2:8-10, 14, 16a; 8:6-7a

A reading from the Song of Songs

Stern as death is love.

Hark! my lover—here he comes
springing across the mountains,
leaping across the hills.

My lover is like a gazelle
or a young stag.

Here he stands behind our wall,
gazing through the windows,
peering through the lattices.

My lover speaks; he says to me,
“Arise, my beloved, my dove, my beautiful one, and
come!

“O my dove in the clefts of the rock,
in the secret recesses of the cliff,

Let me see you,
let me hear your voice,
For your voice is sweet,
and you are lovely.”

My lover belongs to me and I to him.
He says to me:

“Set me as a seal on your heart,
as a seal on your arm;
For stern as death is love,
relentless as the nether world is devotion;
its flames are a blazing fire.
Deep waters cannot quench love,
nor floods sweep it away.”

The word of the Lord.

*151.

8

Sirach 26:1-4, 13-16 (Vg. 26:1-4, 16-21)

A reading from the Book of Sirach

*Like the sun rising in the LORD's heavens,
the beauty of a virtuous wife is the radiance of her home.*

Blessed the husband of a good wife,
twice-lengthened are his days;

A worthy wife brings joy to her husband,
peaceful and full is his life.

A good wife is a generous gift
bestowed upon him who fears the LORD;

Be he rich or poor, his heart is content,
and a smile is ever on his face.

A gracious wife delights her husband,
her thoughtfulness puts flesh on his bones;

A gift from the LORD is her governed speech,
and her firm virtue is of surpassing worth.

Choicest of blessings is a modest wife,
priceless her chaste soul.

A holy and decent woman adds grace upon grace;
indeed, no price is worthy of her temperate soul.

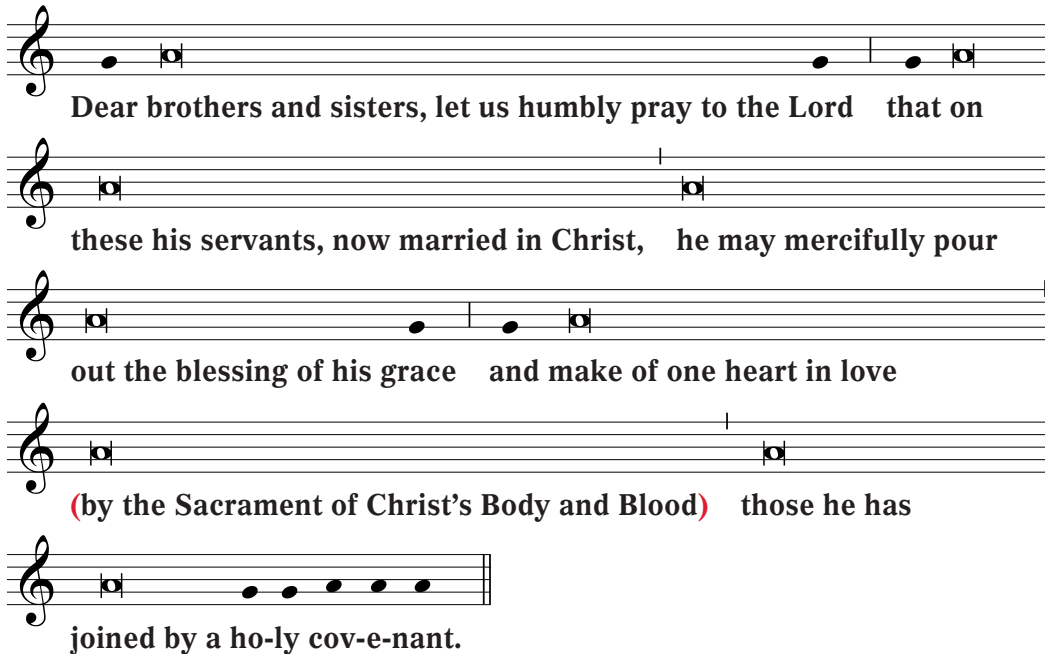
Like the sun rising in the LORD's heavens,
the beauty of a virtuous wife is the radiance of her
home.

The word of the Lord.

VII. OTHER PRAYERS OF NUPTIAL BLESSING

205. In the invitation, if one or both of the spouses will not be receiving Communion, the words in parentheses are omitted. In the prayer, the words in parentheses may be omitted if it seems that circumstances suggest it, for example, if the bride and bridegroom are advanced in years.

205A. The Priest (or Deacon), with hands joined, calls upon those present to pray, saying:



Dear brothers and sisters, let us humbly pray to the Lord that on
 these his servants, now married in Christ, he may mercifully pour
 out the blessing of his grace and make of one heart in love
 (by the Sacrament of Christ's Body and Blood) those he has
 joined by a ho-ly cov-e-nant.

Dear brothers and sisters,
 let us humbly pray to the Lord
 that on these his servants, now married in Christ,
 he may mercifully pour out
 the blessing of his grace
 and make of one heart in love
 (by the Sacrament of Christ's Body and Blood)
 those he has joined by a holy covenant.

Or: