

Giordano's Weddings

Giving of the Bride:

Who brings this woman to be given in marriage?

Statement of Purpose:

Marriage should not be entered into lightly, but rather undertaken with great consideration and respect.

Love can be one of the highest experiences that comes to mankind. At its best, it reduces our selfishness, deepens our personalities, and makes life far more meaningful.

Marriage symbolizes the ultimate intimacy between a man and a woman.

It is a joining of two lives..... the physical and emotional union of two individuals who have separate families and histories..... separate destinies and goals.

It can be the intermeshing not only of two bodies and two personalities, but also of two life stories.

Marriage then is more than just the sentimental formalizing of a feeling..... it is a vote of confidence and a deed of conviction.

It deepens and enriches every facet of life. Memories are fresher and commitment is stronger..... even anger passes away more quickly.

And within this circle of love, a husband and wife are best friends, teachers, listeners, and lovers.

They create a spiritual union unique to themselves which binds them closer than any spoken word.

It is a promise, a potential made in the hearts of two people with which to nourish one's soul and sweetly keep the promise they make on their wedding day.

Marriage is a wonderful and challenging adventure..... a journey paved with both smooth and rough roads.... roads which lead you to learn more about yourselves, each other, and the world around you.

Enjoy and learn from your journey together for that's the essence and beauty of marriage.

We are here today to give social recognition to the decision Eric and Jaclyn have made to accept each other totally and permanently, and to celebrate the love which they have for each other.

Optional Scripture Reading:

"Love is patient, Love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres."

(Groom Name) and (Bride Name) come now to be united in marriage.

Please turn and face one another. [pause]

Take a moment right now. Remember this place, remember this time. This is your wedding day.

[pause]

Vows

(Groom Name), repeat after me: I, (Groom Name), take thee (Bride Name), to be my lawful wedded wife, to have and to hold, from this day forth, to love, honor, and cherish, to comfort and to respect, in sorrow or in joy, in hardship or in plenty, so long as we both shall live.

(Bride Name), repeat after me: I, (Bride Name) take thee (Groom Name), to be my lawful wedded husband, to have and to hold, from this day forth, to love, honor, and cherish, to comfort and to respect, in sorrow or in joy, in hardship or in plenty, so long as we both shall live.

Exchange of Rings:

(Groom Name) and (Bride Name) wish to exchange rings as symbols of their vows.

Option A:

No Introduction

Option B:

May I have the rings?

The wedding ring is an unbroken circle which symbolizes unending and everlasting love and is a visible symbol which represents your inner commitment to one another.

Heavenly Father, we are gathered here today in celebration of the marriage of Eric and Jaclyn we ask that you bless these rings, and may their marriage be blessed with peace, love and prosperity in all things.

Option C:

In the Bible, God chose to give symbols to illustrate the depth and permanence of His covenant. The ring is a symbol of your love and the permanence of the joining of the two of you together.

Ring Exchange

Eric, as you place the ring on (Bride Name) hand, repeat after me: This is my beloved, and this is my friend. With this ring, I thee wed, and join my life with yours.

Jaclyn, as you place the ring on (Groom Name) hand, repeat after me: This is my beloved, and this is my friend. With this ring, I thee wed, and join my life with yours.

Wine Ceremony # 1

Officiant: *The years of life are as a cup of wine poured out for you to drink. This "Cup of Life" contains within it a wine with certain properties that are sweet and symbolic of happiness, joy, hope, peace, love and delight. This same wine also holds some bitter properties that are symbolic of disappointment, sorrow, grief, despair, and life's trials and tribulations. Together the sweet and the bitter represent "Life's Journey" and all of the experiences that are a natural part of it. Those who drink deeply from the "Cup of Life" with an open heart and willing spirit, invite the full range of challenges and experiences into their being.*

Officiant pours wine into goblet and holds it up and says.

This "Cup of Life" is symbolic of the pledges you have made to one another to share together the fullness of life. As you drink from this cup, you acknowledge to one another that your lives, until this moment separate, have become one. Drink now, and may the cup of your lives be sweet and full to running over."

Officiant hands glass to groom, who drinks, then hands it to bride, who drinks, who passes it back to officiant.

Officiant: *As you have shared this cup of wine, so may you share your lives. May all the sweetness that it holds for you be the sweeter because you taste it together. May you find life's joys heightened, it's bitterness sweetened, and all of life enriched by God's blessings upon you.*

Sand Ceremony

(Groom Name) and (Bride Name), you have just sealed your relationship by the giving and receiving of rings and the exchange of a kiss, and this covenant is a relationship pledge between two people who agree that they will commit themselves to one another throughout their lives. The most beautiful example of this partnership is the marriage relationship. You have committed here today to share the rest of your lives with each other. Today, this relationship is symbolized through the pouring of these two individual containers of sand one, representing you, (Groom Name) and all that you were, all that you are, and all that you will ever be, and the other representing you, (Bride Name), and all that you were and all that you are, and all that you will ever be. As these two containers of sand are poured into the third container, the individual containers of sand will no longer exist, but will be joined together as one. Just as these grains of sand can never be separated and poured again into the individual containers, so will your marriage be.

Optional Benediction:

Now you will feel no rain, for each of you will be the shelter for the other.

Now you will feel no cold , for each of you will be the warmth of the other. Now there will be no loneliness, for each of you will be the companion to the other. Now you are two persons, but there is only one life before you. May beauty surround you both in the journey ahead and through all the years. May happiness be your companion and your days together be good and long upon the earth.

Pronouncement of Marriage:

Before these loved ones and friends, (Groom Name) and (Bride Name) have pledged themselves to each other and have symbolized this by giving and receiving rings. By the grace given me by the State of California and the Spiritual Community which I serve, I pronounce you husband and wife.

You may kiss the Bride. Mr. and Mrs. (Groom **FULL** Name).