

The Order of Marriage

The priest addresses the couple:

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

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

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

The bridegroom and bride each say:

I am

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

The priest invites them to declare their consent:

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

First he asks the bridegroom:

N, do you freely and willingly take N here present, for your lawful wife according to the laws of God and of holy Mother Church?

The bridegroom answers:

I do

Then he asks the bride:

N, do you freely and willingly take N here present, for your lawful husband according to the laws of God and of holy Mother Church?

The bride answers:

I do

The priest then says:

N & N, join your right hands.

Form A

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,
till 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,
till death do us part.

Form B

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 honour 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 honour you
all the days of my life.

The Reception of Consent

The priest says:

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

The Blessing and Giving of Rings

The priest says:

Bless, O Lord, these rings, which we bless in your name, so that those who wear them may remain entirely faithful to each other, abide in peace and in your will and live always in mutual charity. Through Christ our Lord.

The husband says:

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.

The wife says:

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.