

Processional song

Opening words

On behalf of Mary and Joe, I welcome you to this special moment in their lives. When two people gather together with their families and friends to participate in a wedding ceremony, it is to celebrate what in fact has already occurred. Emotionally, they have been married before today, but they are here now to publicly declare the love already present and guiding their relationship into the future. This public declaration is neither an end nor a beginning, but rather a time of momentary pause before continuing and changing and growing over the months and years to come.

It is fitting and appropriate that you, the families and friends of Joe and Mary are here to witness and participate in their wedding, for the ideals, the understanding, and the mutual respect which they bring to their marriage, have their roots in the love, friendship and guidance given to them by you. Marriage makes us aware of the changes wrought by time, but the new relationship will continue to draw much of its beauty and meaning from the intimate associations of the past.

Recognition of family and friends

Thus it is also important to recognize both those of you who are here, and to remember those that cannot be

with us this day. We especially remember Jim Ragan, Mary's father, now passed on and her brother Jimmy Ragan, also passed on. We know that were these men alive they would have been here in body, and we know that they are with us in spirit. For the spirit of love does not die with the body, but lives on in the love that is shared with one another. Jim, Jimmy, we welcome your presence and the love that you bring this day.

And so we gather, those near and far, to celebrate the now and future of this love.

Gospel Reading - Romans Chapter 12 (Joe's daughter-Kylie)

Romans 12:9-18 New International Version (NIV)

Love in Action

9 Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. 10 Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves. 11 Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. 12 Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. 13 Share with the Lord's people who are in need. Practice hospitality. 14 Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. 15 Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with

those who mourn. 16 Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position.[\[a\]](#) Do not be conceited.

17 Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everyone. 18 If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.

Homily

At another wedding, not long ago, much bigger and more noticed by the world, Bishop Michael Curry told Prince Harry & Meghan Markle this-

“there's ... power in love. Not just in its romantic forms, but any form, any shape of love. There's a certain sense in which when you are loved, and you know it, when someone cares for you, and you know it, when you love and you show it - it actually feels right.

There is something right about it. And there's a reason for it. The reason has to do with the source. We were made by a power of love, and our lives were meant - and are meant - to be lived in that love. That's why we are here.”

There is indeed a power in love. A power present in this day and in this couple, and in these families that are joining together at this moment. But it is not just power that is present in these people, in this couple, here today.

There are world, whole worlds that existed before you met one another, before you prepared to commit to one another's tending and care.

In the tradition I serve we remember the words of A Powell Davies who said that

“When two individuals meet, so do two private worlds. None of our private worlds is big enough for us to live a wholesome life in. We need the wider world of joy and wonder, of purpose and adventure, of toil and tears... Love is what we need. To love and to be loved. Let our hearts be open; and what we would receive from others, let us give. For what is given still remains to bless the giver--when the gift is love.”

And in that love is the heart of all relationships worthy of our devotion. All the more so when it is a marriage like this one, a relationship that has its origin in the long ago. It began with the life story of this man and this woman long before they meet one another. Mary and Joe, you bring with you the lives that touched and helped to form you, but more than anything else, you bring the fiercely burning flame that makes you each undeniably who you are. Finally, you both bring to this moment the vitality of who you are, a vitality born of past joys, celebrations and revelations of body and spirit. And each of you brings the

dream kept in the shadows of your mind, the image of your need satisfied in reality.

Together you can form a bond that no person, no problem can dissolve, as you are strength for each other and for the world beyond your home. May you find joy and sustenance in the possibilities of your one life together. May you challenge each other to do things that you might have otherwise overlooked if you had been alone. Listen to her call you away from your task...listen to him when he takes you from your own interests. This is the way of long commitment.

It is our hope that you will always share some opposite opinions. May you not change the other to be like yourself, but transcend the difference with a deepening love. Where you discover sharper differences that are not so easily transcended may you both remember how to bend toward each other in forgiveness.

That this relationship inspires awe in each of you is notable, for it is a mature recognition that understands that the merging of two lives in marriage is worthy of amazement, excitement and the fear of the immensity of the task of loving each other well. In this loving may your lives be enhanced.

May the aliveness that you have felt for each other and through each other cause you to know that this relationship, this commitment brought you to such a deep

awareness of living. May your life be like a bell that is lifted up and struck, a bell that resounds together.

-adapted from a selection by Elizabeth Banks

Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come; thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever.

Amen.

Exchange of Vows & Rings- rings are with Mary and Joseph

"I, Joe/Mary, take you, Mary/Joe, for my lawful wife/husband, to have and to hold from this day forward, for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, until death do us part. I will love and honor you all the days of my life."

May these rings be forever symbolic of the unbroken circle of love. Love freely given has no beginning and no end, no giver and no receiver - for each is the giver and each is

the receiver. May these rings remind you always of the vows you have made here today. -Rudolph W. Nemser (adapted)

“With this ring I thee wed, and join my life with yours.”

Wedding Blessing (Emily Ragan reads it)

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

Now you will feel no cold, for each of you will be warmth to the other.

Now there will be no loneliness, for each of you will be 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/Closing Words

The bride and groom invite all our gathered guests to get a drink while we tend to the paperwork of the wedding license, and we'll all come back in 10 minutes for photos.

Mary and Joe have spoken their vows to one another, exchanged rings (and taken from the wine of life). They have made their commitment together with much joy. May all that life brings them strengthen the bond they have declared this day. May all their loved ones, those present, and those here in spirit only, continue to rejoice in the warmth of the love that has united them. By the witness of all gathered here, I now declare you husband and wife.

You may kiss one another

Recessional Song-