



# Prayer & Meditation On The Vows of Matrimony

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The matrimonial covenant, by which a man and woman establish between themselves a partnership of the whole of life, is by its nature ordered toward the good of the spouses and the procreation and education of offspring; this covenant between baptized persons has been raised by Christ the Lord to the dignity of a sacrament.

# Genesis 2: 18-24



18The LORD God said: It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suited to him.\* 19So the LORD God formed out of the ground all the wild animals and all the birds of the air, and he brought them to the man to see what he would call them; whatever the man called each living creature was then its name.20The man gave names to all the tame animals, all the birds of the air, and all the wild animals; but none proved to be a helper suited to the man. 21So the LORD God cast a deep sleep on the man, and while he was asleep, he took out one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh!22The LORD God then built the rib that he had taken from the man into a woman. When he brought her to the man, 23the man said: "This one, at last, is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; This one shall be called 'woman,' for out of man this one has been taken."\* 24<sup>m</sup> That is why a man leaves his father and mother and clings to his wife, and the two of them become one body.\*

## Malachi 2: 13-16



13This also you do: the altar of the LORD you cover with tears, weeping, and groaning, Because the Lord no longer takes note of your offering or accepts it favorably from your hand. 14<sup>g</sup> And you say, "Why?" — Because the LORD is witness between you and the wife of your youth. With whom you have broken faith, though she is your companion, your covenanted wife.\* 15<sup>h</sup> Did he not make them one, with flesh and spirit? And what does the One require? Godly offspring! You should be on guard, then, for your life, and do not break faith with the wife of your youth. 16For I hate divorce, says the LORD, the God of Israel, And the one who covers his garment with violence, says the LORD of hosts. You should be on guard, then, for your life, and you must not break faith.

Matthew 19:6



6 So they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore, what God has joined together, no human being must separate."

Hebrews 13:4



4 Let marriage be honored among all and the marriage bed be kept undefiled, for God will judge the immoral and adulterers. <sup>c</sup>

# COVENANT



- ▶ Examples of Covenant in Old Testament
- ▶ He promised to never leave us
- ▶ Marriage – reflect the love God has for us

# SACRAMENT



- ▶ 7 Sacraments
- ▶ Visible sign of God's presence (grace) in our lives
- ▶ Sacrament of Marriage – administered by couple



# CHARACTERISTICS



- ▶ Permanent Commitment
- ▶ Openness to children
- ▶ Loving Fidelity

# Presence of God in Marriage



- ▶ Solemn promise
- ▶ Belongs to God
- ▶ Make the community stronger
- ▶ Belongs to the whole community

# RITE OF MARRIAGE



*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.*

# DECLARE INTENTIONS



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

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

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

# THE CONSENT/MARRIAGE VOWS



*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.*

*I, N., take you, N., to be my wife/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.*

*I, N., take you, N., 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,  
to love and to cherish  
until death do us part.*

# RECEPTION OF CONSENT



*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.*

*Let us bless the Lord.*

# BLESSING AND GIVING OF RINGS



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

*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.*