

The language for this “Catholic like” ceremony is taken from the Roman Catholic tradition in order to be familiar and comfortable for Catholic family members and others who might prefer it. I do not pretend to be a priest nor to suggest that this is in any way sanctioned by the Roman Catholic Church.

The Wedding of

BBBB & GGGG

*July 30, 2009 at the Hilton Hotel
Portland, Oregon*

- **Groom's Men** escort the **Mothers** down the isle and return to the wedding party.
- **Mothers** go forward, light tapers for the **Unity Candle** and return to their seats.
- **GGGG** and **Griffen** walk together down the isle to their places at center stage.
- The **Groom's Men** escort the **Bride's Maids** down the central isle to their places on either side of the **Groom** and **Griffen**.
- **BBBB** makes her entrance on her **Father's** arm and walks to the front row.

- *Once everyone is in place, **Griffen** will say the following **Words of Welcome***

Invitation

We invite you to be with us today as we gather
to witness and to celebrate
the union of **G G G G (FULL NAME)** and **B B B B (FULL NAME)**.

As these two formally become husband and wife,
we actually do nothing here
that binds them together.

We merely recognize
and come forward to bless and support
a relationship
which is, in deed, already well established.

Their bonds are made of love and respect,
kindness and honor.

The love and commitment between them
brings together the hopes and the dreams -
in deed, the very lives of two families.

You have the opportunity today
to declare your support
and to help make strong
the bonds of love that unite **B B B B** and **G G G G**
so they may live long and happy lives together,
whatever fortunes the future may bring.

Toward that end,
on behalf of **G G G G** and **B B B B, and their families**
I welcome you all.

Who presents **B B B B to be married to **G G G G**?**

- ***B B B B's father** answers for her mother, her family, and himself.*
- ***G G G G** steps to **B B B B**, takes her hand from her father and places her arm in his. Together, they walk to **Griffen**.*
- ***G G G G** stands to **Griffen's** left, **B B B B** to his right, each facing at an angle toward the congregation.*
- ***Maid of Honor** arranges **B B B B's** dress as needed.*
- *Once everyone is in place and settled, **Griffen** offers a Prayer*

[Please be seated... and join me in a word of prayer...](#)

Invocation

Father,
You have made the bond of marriage
a holy mystery,

a symbol of Christ's love for his church.
Hear our prayers for **BBBB** and **GGGG**.
With faith in You
and in each other
they pledge their love today.
May their lives always bear witness
to the reality of that love.
We ask you this
through Jesus Christ,
your Son,
Who lives and reigns with You
and the Holy Spirit,
one God,
forever and ever. Amen

Scripture Reading

Love is the foundation
for *all* of the most successful relationships...
from the family to the work place.
We are not speaking of romantic love,
which is a wonderful element in a marriage,
but is not substantial enough
to support a couple through the hard times.
The ancient Greeks called this substantial love "Agape'."
It is a self-less love
that exists for no apparent reason,
but for its own sake.
It requires nothing of the loved one,
not even love in return.
It is the stuff
that truly binds hearts together.

Listen now to the description of Agape'
presented by St. Paul
to the First Century church in Corinth:
[A reading from First Corinthians 13: "The Love Chapter"](#)

If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels,
but do not have love,
I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal.

And if I know the mind of God,
and understand all mysteries and all knowledge,
and if I have all power,
so as to remove mountains,
but do not have love,
I am nothing.

If I give away all my possessions,
and if I hand over my body so that I may boast,
but do not have love,
I gain nothing.

Love is patient;
love is kind;
love is not envious
nor boastful
nor arrogant
nor rude.

It does not insist on its own way;
it is not irritable or resentful;
it does not rejoice in wrongdoing,
but rejoices in the truth.

It bears all things,
believes all things,
hopes all things,
endures all things.

Love never ends.

As for power, it will subside;
as for tongues, they will cease;
as for knowledge, it will come to an end.

Now faith, hope and love,
These three will last;
But the greatest of these is love.

Additional Readings / Special Music

Declarations of Intent

My dear friends,
you have come together in this place
so that the Lord may seal and strengthen your love
in the presence of the Church's Minister and this community.

Christ abundantly blesses this love.

He has already consecrated you in baptism
and now he enriches and strengthens you
so that you may assume the duties of marriage
in mutual and lasting fidelity.

And so,
in the presence of these your friends and families,
I ask you your intentions.

BBBB and **GGGG**,
have you come here freely
and without reservation
to give yourselves to each other in marriage?

Each answers "I have"

Will you love and honor each other
as man and wife
for the rest of your lives?

Each answers "I will"

Will you accept children lovingly from God?

Each answers "I will"

Since it is your intention to enter into marriage,
join your right hands,
and declare your consent
before God and this company.

I GGGG / BBBB
take you BBBB / GGGG
to be my wife / husband.

I promise to be true to you
in good times and in bad,
in sickness and in health.
I will love you and honor you
all the days of my life.

You have declared your consent
before God and this company.

May the Lord in his goodness
strengthen your consent
and fill you both with his blessings.

What God has joined, men must not divide.

Each answers, "Amen."

The Rings

GGGG and **BBBB**: Please present your rings.

Rings are ancient symbols,
blessed and simple.
Round like the sun,
like a perfect pearl,
like arms that embrace.
May these rings remind you that your love,
like the sun,

illuminates;
that your love,
like the pearl,
grows in luster;
and that your love,
like arms that embrace,
is a grace upon this world.

- *abBBBB and GGGG place their rings in GGGG's right hand.*
- *abBBBB places her hand on top, covering the rings.*
- *abGriffen places his hand on top of theirs and says...*

Lord, bless these rings
which we bless in your name.
Grant that those who wear them
may always have a deep faith in each other.
May they do your will
and always live together
in peace, good will, and love.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

- *abEach to the other*

BBBB / GGGG,
accept 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.

Unity Candle & Special Music

Just as **GGGG** and **BBBB** join their lives together today,
to follow a single path;
So now they unite the flames of separate candles
To create a single flame.

GGGG and BBBB:

The individual candles
Represent your lives before today,
As individuals
And as members of your particular families.

Lighting the center candle
Represents the union of your lives
Into one bright light,

And through your union,
The blending of your families
Into one greater family.

Take one of the lighted candles
And together light the center candle.

- *abGriffen steps aside (Music begins ?).*
- *abBBBB and GGGG go to the Unity Candle.*
- *abStanding on either side of or behind the table, they each take a lighted taper and together, light the central candle.*
- *abThey return to their places and join hands facing each other (until music ends).*
- *abGriffen remains to one side and says...*
- *ab*

Prayer

Holy Father,
creator of the universe,
maker of man and woman in your own likeness,
source of blessing for the married life,
we humbly pray to You for this bride
who today is united with her husband
in the bond of marriage.
May Your fullest blessing come upon her and her husband
so that they may together
rejoice in Your gift of married love.
May they be noted for their good lives,
and be parents filled with virtue.
May they both praise You
when they are happy
and turn to You in their sorrow.
May they be glad that You help them in their work,
and know that You are with them in their need.
May they reach old age in the company of their friends,
and come at last to the kingdom of Heaven.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Pronouncement

Before God and in the presence of this company,
BBBB and **GGGG** have made solemn vows to each other.
They have confirmed their promises
by joining hands and exchanging rings.

Therefore, by the authority vested in me
by the State of Oregon as a Christian minister,
I proclaim that they are now husband and wife.

You may seal your promises with a kiss...

Catholic Benediction

God the eternal Father
keep you in love with each other,
so that the peace of Christ
may stay with you
and be always in your home.

May your children bless you,
your friends console you
and all people live in peace with you.

May you always bear witness
to the love of God in this world
so that the afflicted and the needy
will find in you generous friends,
and welcome you into the joys of heaven.

And may almighty God bless you all,
the Father,
and the Son,
and the Holy Spirit.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honor to be the first to introduce to you:

Mr. & Mrs. GGGG and BBBB SURNAME

- ***abGGGG*** escorts ***BBBB*** down the isle and to a place to sign papers.
- ***ab***The other ***Groom's men*** dismiss the guests a row at a time who follow the parents to the reception site.