

# ... Christian Marriage Celebration ...

The following is an outline of the Christian Marriage Celebration as it is observed in the Catholic Church.

1. Procession: altar boys, clergy, attendants, witnesses, bride with parents,

groom with parents, or traditional procession.

2. Music: organ, folk — approval of the pastor should be obtained. Singing: congregational singing at procession, offertory, communion, recession or

choral singing at same times.

3. Prayer of the Day: choice of one out of four.

4. Scriptural Readings: Old Testament Reading (one out of eight choices); New Testament Reading (one out of ten choices); Gospel Reading (one out of ten choices); The groom or bride, best man or maid of honor, or another layman or laywoman may read the Old and New Testament Readings.

5. Homily.

6. Rite of Marriage.

a.) Questioning of Groom and Bride by the priest;

b.) Vows exchanged by the Groom and Bride (preferably the Groom and Bride recite their vows, rather than repeat them

after the priest; the Groom and Bride may turn to face the Congregation for the declaration of vows, if they wish.) Groom and Bride may formulate their own vows — with approval of priests;

c.) Blessing of rings by the priest (one out of three choices);

d.) Exchange of rings by groom and Bride (Again it is preferred that the Groom and Bride recite the prayer, rather than repeat it after the priest.)

7. General Intentions: intentions may be submitted beforehand by the Groom and Bride (intentions may be read by layman-laywoman).

8. Offertory Procession: The bread, the wine and water may be brought to the altar by the Groom and Bride. Others might be

involved in Offertory procession.

9. Prayer over the Gifts: one out of three choices.

10. Preface to the Eucharistic Prayer: one out of three choices.

11. Eucharistic Prayer: one out of four choices.

12. Nuptial Blessing: This follows the Lord's Prayer. Again there is a choice of one out of three.

13. Greeting of Peace: This may involve all attending or just the wedding

party or just the Groom and Bride.

14. Holy Communion: Both the Host and Chalice are given to the Groom and Bride, and perhaps to all in the Wedding Party as well as the members of the immediate family.

15. Prayer after Communion: one out of three choices.

16. Final Blessing: one out of three choices.

17. Recessional: Groom and Bride, witnesses, attendants.

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