

The Essential Elements of Marriage Vows

Intentions:

1. Free choice
2. Irrevocability and irreplaceability
3. Complete mutual gift of self, which is by definition open to life as a gift (not holding back the gift fertility). See *Humanae Vitae* for clarification.

Before making their wedding vows the priest or deacon will ask the couple:

"Have you come here freely and without reservation to give yourselves to each other in marriage?"

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

"Will you accept children lovingly from God, and bring them up according to the law of Christ and his Church?"

Then the Priest or deacon says, "Since it is your intention to enter into marriage, join your right hands, and declare your consent before God and his Church."

Marriage Vows:

Groom: I, (name), take you, (name), to be my wife. 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.

Bride: I, (name), take you, (name), to be my 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.

