

PHILIPPINE MARRIAGE RITUAL CELEBRATION OF MATRIMONY WITHOUT MASS

1. Solemn Entrance of the Bridal Couple (optional)

The marriage rite fittingly begins with the solemn entrance of the bride and the bridegroom. If circumstances allow, the priest vested in surplice (or alb), stole and cope (both white), preceded by the crossbearer, the candlebearers, and the server carrying holy water, meets the couple at the entrance door of the church. He greets them with a few kind words (for instance, the words of the allocution under. n. 2 which may be placed here. In this case the Liturgy of the Word begins immediately after the procession), and sprinkles them with holy water.

Then the priest with the acolytes leads the couple and their attendants to the sanctuary where they take their respective places. All appearance of theatrical show must be avoided.

Psalm 127, or 22 or 20:2-5 or 44:1-4 and 11-14, or an Entrance Hymn is sung by the congregation or played on the organ. Bridal march music of profane character is prohibited.

If there is no entrance procession, the priest comes from the sacristy, kneels in front of the altar for a moment of silent prayer and meets the couple at their kneelers. All stand including the bride and bridegroom.

2. Allocution

The priest addresses the couple(s):

Dearly beloved, N. and N., you are here today to seal your love with an eternal bond before the

Church. I assure you of the prayers of our community that God may pour His abundant blessings and help you to carry out the duties of the married state.

The priest addresses the community:

And you, dear brethren, may I ask you to help them with your prayers and accept them as a new couple in our Christian community.

3. Liturgy of the Word

- a) (OPTIONAL) *Gen 1:26-28 or 2:21-24 or Is 61:10-11 and 62:3.*
- b) *Eph 5:22-23 or 1 Cor 7:2-10 or 6:15-10; 1 Pet 3:1-9*
- c) (OPTIONAL) *Intermediary chant V.g. one of the Psalms mentioned in n. 1.*
- e) *Homily (or exhortation),..*

Addressing the couple:

May I now ask you to answer truthfully the following questions:

4. Scrutiny

Priest (to the bride):

N., Did you come here of your own free will to bind yourself for ever in the love and service of your husband?

Bride:

Yes, Father.

Priest: (to the bridegroom)

N., Did you come here of your own free will to bind yourself for ever in the love and service of your wife?

Groom:

Yes, Father.

Are you both ready to raise a good Christian the children whom God will give you?

Both:

Yes, Father.

Note: 1. This last question is omitted if both are advanced in age.

2. If more than one couple, the questions are asked only once and all answer together.

5. Exchange of Consent

Priest: (to the couple)

N. and N. Since you wish to contract holy matrimony, please join your right hands and express your intention before God and His Church.

They join their right hands:

First, the priest asks the bride:

N., do you take N. here present, for your lawful husband according to the rite of our holy Mother, the Church?

Bride:

Yes, I do.

Priest:

Do you give yourself to him as his wife?

Bride:

Yes, I do.

- Priest:* Do you accept him as your lawful husband?
- Bride:* Yes, I do.
- Then the priest asks the bridegroom:* N., do you take N. here present, for your lawful wife according to the rite of our holy Mother, the Church?
- Groom:* Yes, I do.
- Priest:* Do you give yourself to her as her husband?
- Groom:* Yes, I do.
- Priest:* Do you accept her as your lawful wife?
- Groom:* Yes, I do.
- Priest:* Now, please say together (or after) me:

(In case of validation, the second and third questions are optional.)

The couple(s) says together with the priest (or after him)

Grant us, O Lord / to be one heart and one soul / from this day forward / for better, for worse / for richer, for poorer / in sickness and in health / until death do us part.

(If more than one couple, this prayer is said together by all.)

6. Confirmation of the Marriage Bond

(to be said only once if more than one couple)

And I, by the authority of the Church, calling on all those present here as witnesses, confirm and bless the bond of marriage which you have contracted.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son + and of the Holy Spirit.

All:

Amen.

7. Blessing of the Arrhae and Rings

(to be said only once if more than one couple)

A server brings the plate with the arrhae and the rings.

Priest:

(N. and N.), we shall now bless your arrhae and rings.

Priest:

The Lord be with you.

All:

And with your spirit.

Priest:

Let us pray: Bless + O Lord, Your servants (N. and N.) with sufficiency of material possessions which these arrhae symbolize so that they may use them to attain eternal life. Through Christ our Lord.

All:

Amen.

Priest:

Let us pray: Bless † O Lord, these rings so that your servants (N. and N.) who wear them may ever live in mutual love and in unbroken loyalty. Through Christ our Lord.

All:

Amen.

Then the priest sprinkles the arrhae and the rings with holy water.

Even though the rings and arrhae are used in other weddings and therefore have already been blessed, the blessings are not on that account to be omitted. They are intended for the contracting parties rather than for the objects blessed.

8. Giving of the Wedding Rings and the Arrhae

The priest picks up the wedding rings from the tray and says:

Now give these rings to one another and say after me:

The groom takes the bride's ring from the priest and puts it on the bride's ring finger, saying after the priest:

N., wear this ring/ as a sign of my love and loyalty. / In the name of the Father/ and of the Son/ and of the Holy Spirit.

Then the bride takes the groom's ring from the priest and puts it on the groom's ring finger saying after the priest:

It is a very old custom in the Philippines to have the wedding rings of the groom and the bride on the ring finger of the right hand.

The groom takes the arrhae in both hands; the bride places her cupped hands under those of the groom. The groom lets the pledges fall into her hands, saying after the priest:

The bride, accepting the arrhae, says after the priest:

The bride places the arrhae on the tray held by a server.

N., wear this ring/ as a sign of my love and loyalty./ In the name of the Father/ and of the Son/ and of the Holy Spirit.

I give you these arrhae/ as a pledge of my dedication/ to your welfare./ In the name of the Father/ and of the Son/ and of the Holy Spirit.

And I accept them.

9. Prayers of the Faithful

Priest:

Dearly beloved, let us now pray for the Church and for our newly wedded couple whose marriage reflects her union with Christ.

- Leader:* For the Holy Church spread over the world, for its leaders and for the rulers of our nation, let us pray to the Lord.
- All:* Lord, graciously hear us.
- This answer may be replaced by any of the approved formulas (see Twenty Five Prayers of the Faithful.)*
- Leader:* For the poor and the sick and all those in trial and affliction, let us pray to the Lord.
- All:* Lord, graciously hear us.
- Leader:* For N. and N. that He may keep their hearts united forever let us pray to the Lord.
- (If more than one couple)* (For our newly wedded couples *that...*)
- All:* Lord, graciously hear us.
- Leader:* That He may protect them from evil, lighten their burdens and fortify them in their trials, let us pray to the Lord.
- All:* Lord, graciously hear us.
- Leader:* That He may stir up the grace of the sacrament in all the married couples here present, let us pray to the Lord.
- All:* Lord, graciously hear us.

Priest:

Almighty, eternal God, look down with favor upon your servants. Grant them to remain faithful to You and to one another. At the end of a long and well-spent life, reward them with eternal happiness together with their children and with all those who love them, through Christ our Lord.

All:

Amen.

10. The Nuptial Blessing

Now two candles are lit, one at the right and one at the left side of the couple. Then friends of the couple lay a white veil on the shoulders of the husband and the head of the wife; if preferred, the veil of the bride may be laid across the husband's shoulders. Besides, if desired, and where it is the custom, a cord, called yugal, is placed in the form of an 8 over the shoulders of both; this is a symbol of the burdens of matrimony now to be carried by husband and wife in common.

The priest addressing the couple says:

Priest:

Let us pray:
Look down from heaven, Lord, on this union, and enrich it with your † blessings. Once you sent

to Tobias and Sara, the daughter of Raguel. Now, Lord, send your blessing upon this husband and this wife, so that they may continue in your grace, be faithful to your will, and live in your love. Through Christ our Lord.

All:

Amen.

With his hands elevated and extended above (the server holding the book), the priest says:

Priest:

May the Lord God almighty bless you abundantly, and may you see your children's children to the third and fourth generations, and may you have the long life that will fulfill your desires. Through Christ our Lord.

All:

Amen.

11. The Sevenfold Blessing

Still holding his hands elevated extended over the spouses to bless them, the priest says, all responding:

Priest:

May God bless you by the Word of His mouth.

All:

Amen.

Priest:

May He unite your hearts in enduring bond of pure love.

All:

Amen.

The following blessing is omitted if the spouses are too old to expect children.

Priest:

May you be blessed in your children, and may the love that you lavish on them be returned, a hundredfold.

All:

Amen.

Priest:

May the peace of Christ dwell always in your hearts and in your home; may you have true friends to stand by you, both in joy and in sorrow.

All:

Amen.

Priest:

May you be ready with help and consolation for all those who come to you in need; and may the blessing promised to the compassionate descend in abundance on your house.

All:

Amen.

Priest:

May you be blessed in your work and enjoy its fruits. May cares never cause you distress, nor the desire for earthly possessions lead you astray; but may your hearts' concern be always for the treasures laid up for you in the life of heaven.

All:

Amen.

Priest:

May the Lord grant you fullness of years, so that you may reap the harvest of a good life and after you have served Him with loyalty in His kingdom on earth, may He take you up into His eternal dominions in heaven.

And with his hands joined:

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, His Son, Who lives and reigns with Him in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever.

All:

Amen.

Now the long veil and the yugal are removed by friends of the couple.

Conclusion

The priest sprinkles the couple with holy water and adds:

Priest:

(N. and N.). Now that you have received the blessing of our Mother, the Church, I admonish you to remain faithful to one another. Husband, love your wife as Christ loves His Church and live together in the holy fear of the Lord.

The newlyweds and the witnesses sign the documents preferably before the recessional.