

Exchange of Consent

1962

1969

My dear friends At the discretion of the priest, other words which seem more suitable under the circumstances, such as friends, or dearly beloved or brethren may be used. This also applies to parallel instances in the liturgy., you have come together in this church 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 by a special sacrament so that you may assume the duties of marriage in mutual and lasting fidelity. And so, in the presence of the Church, I ask you to state your intentions.

The priest then questions them about their freedom of choice, faithfulness to each other, and the acceptance and upbringing of children:

N. and N., have you come here freely and without reservation to give yourselves to each other in marriage? Will you love and honor each other as man and wife for the rest of your lives?

The following question may be omitted if, for example, the couple is advanced in years.

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

Each answers the questions separately.

The priest invites the couple to declare their consent:

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

They join hands.

OPTION 1-A

The bridegroom (bride) says:

I, N., take you, N., 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.

OPTION 1-B

In the dioceses of the United States, the following form may be used: The bridegroom (bride) says:

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, until death do us part.

OPTION 2-A

If, however, it seems preferable for pastoral reasons, the priest may obtain consent from the couple through questions. He asks the bridegroom (bride)

First the priest asks the groom:

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

The bridegroom responds: I do.

Then he asks the bride:

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

She replies: I do.

The consent of one does not suffice, but consent must be given by both—expressed in words, if possible, but otherwise through equivalent signs, whether personally or through a proxy.

After he has received the consent of the parties, the priest tells them to join their right hands, and says:

By the authority of the Church I ratify and bless the bond of marriage you have contracted. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Then he sprinkles them with holy water.

Next the priest blesses the ring saying:

V. Our help is in the name of the Lord.

R. Who made heaven and earth.

V. O Lord, hear my prayer.

R. And let my cry come to you.

V. The Lord be with you.

R. And with thy spirit.

N., do you take N. to be your wife (husband)? Do you promise to be true to her in good times and in bad, in sickness and in health, to love her and honor her all the days of your life?

The bridegroom (bride): I do.

OPTION 2-B

In dioceses of the United States the following form may be used:

First he asks the bridegroom:

N., do you take N. for your lawful wife, to have and to hold, from this day forward, for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, until death do you part?

The bridegroom (bride): I do.

Then he asks the bride::

N., do you take N. for your lawful husband, to have and to hold, from this day forward, for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, until death do you part?

The bride: I do.

If pastoral necessity demands it, the conference of bishops may decree, in virtue of the faculty in no. 17, that the priest should always obtain the consent of the couple through questions.

Receiving their consent, the priest says:

You have declared your consent before the Church. May the Lord in his goodness strengthen your consent and fill you both with his blessings. What God has joined, men must not divide. R. Amen.

Blessing and Exchange of Rings

1962

Let us pray.

Bless O Lord, this ring, which we are blessing in Thy name, so that she who wears it, keeping faith with her husband in unbroken loyalty, may ever remain at peace with Thee, obedient to Thy will, and may live with him always in mutual love. Through Christ our Lord. R. Amen.

The priest then sprinkles the ring with holy water. The husband, taking the ring from the priest's hand, places it upon the ring finger of his wife's left hand, saying:

Take and wear this ring as a sign of our marriage vows. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Amen.

Then the priest adds:

V. Strengthen, O God, what you have wrought in us.
R. From your holy temple, which is in Jerusalem.

Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

Our Father silently as far as...
V. And lead us not into temptation.
R. But deliver us from evil.
V. Save your servants.
R. Who trust in you, my God.
V. Send them help, O Lord, from your sanctuary.
R. And sustain them from Sion.
V. Be a tower of strength for them, O Lord.
R. Against the attack of the enemy.
V. O Lord, hear my prayer.
R. And let my cry come to you.
V. The Lord be with you.
R. And with thy spirit.

Let us pray.
We beg you, Lord, to look on these your servants, and graciously to uphold the institution of marriage established by you for the continuation of the human race, so that they who have been joined together by your authority may remain faithful together by your help. Through Christ our Lord. R. Amen.

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Priest:

OPTION A

May the Lord bless these rings which you give to each other as the sign of your love and fidelity. R. Amen.

OPTION B

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. R. Amen.

OPTION C

Lord, bless and consecrate and in their love for each other. May these rings be a symbol of true faith to each other, and always remind them of their love. Through Christ our Lord. R. Amen.

The bridegroom places his wife's ring on her ring finger. He may say:

N., take 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.

The bride places her husband's ring on his ring finger. She may say:

N., take 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.