

## **Convocation**

Welcome friends and family! We are gathered here today to share in a celebration of love, and to join together forever the hearts of Sarah and Michelle. Today in your presence, Sarah and Michelle will join their lives together, two beautiful spirits sharing the most sacred and tender of human relationships. They have invited us all here today to rejoice, celebrate and bear witness to this sacred union. They stand before you bound by their love for each other, and the desire to share this expression of their love with you and with the world. You, their families and friends, form a community of love that together will support and encourage them with an abundance of prayers and blessings on this day and for all of their lives.

## **Invocation**

At this time I ask that you all join me in a prayer and blessing for Sarah and Michelle, as they begin the journey on their path of togetherness.

May God bless them and guide them on their journey together. May the divine Holy Spirit fill their hearts with unconditional love and understanding, and may their continued kindness, compassion, trust and faith in each other and in God, be a constant example of the grace and beauty that the gift of love embodies for all of us. Amen.

## First Reading

We will now ask *insert name* to come and present to Sarah and Michelle a short reading that embodies their individual spirit and secret recipe of success:

### A Good Wedding Cake

4 lb. of love

1 lb. butter of youth

1/2 lb. of good looks

1 lb. sweet temper

1 lb. of blindness for faults

1 lb. of self-forgetfulness

1 lb. of pounded wit

1 lb. of good humor

2 tablespoons of sweet argument

1 pint of rippling laughter

1 wine glass of common sense

1 oz. modesty

Put the love, good looks and sweet temper into a well-furnished house. Beat the butter of youth to a cream, and mix well together with the blindness of faults. Stir the pounded wit and good humor into the sweet argument, and then add the rippling laughter and common sense. Work the whole together until everything is well mixed, and bakes gently forever.

## **Address**

Love is perhaps the greatest gift that God has given all of us. It is our inherent nature and our sole true purpose in life; to love one another. Love provides us with the core sustenance of life; it nourishes our spirits and fuels our souls. Love compels us, motivates us, brings joy to our hearts and truly gives us life. We can endure many things in this world but without being able to share and feel love; our lives would be an empty shell. When we are able to give and receive the gift of love, our life becomes full and energized and hopeful with unbounded possibilities, love truly is life. Sarah and Michelle that you see standing here before you, their souls have made a commitment to each other to love, support, and share life. This is not merely a legal or verbal commitment but a promise of the heart and soul. Today is about love and about celebrating love's purpose and importance in their lives.

## **Second Reading**

We will now ask *insert name* to come and present to Sarah and Michelle a poem that is dedicated for both of them:

Above you are the stars, below you are the stones.

As time passes, remember...

Like a star should your love be constant,

Like the earth should your love be firm.

Have patience with each other,

For storms will come, and they will go quickly,

Forced to dissipate in the light of your love.

Be free in giving of affection and of warmth.

Have no fear, and let not the ways or words of the unenlightened give you unease.

For the God you believe in will always be with you,  
now and always!

## **Consecration**

Together Sarah and Michelle are best friends; they complement and balance each other perfectly, and have fun no matter what they are doing - as long as they are together.

Together they have generous and caring spirits, a strong sense of family values, a mutual respect, and a love and commitment to each other that is immeasurable. Sarah and Michelle's love has grown into a relationship that embraces all the values that create a strong and lasting Marriage.

Sarah and Michelle come here at this moment to share with you the celebration, joy, and happiness that is in their hearts today as they take their relationship to a deeper level of commitment - a symbol of their dedication to each other. I ask you both, as you stand in the presence of your family and friends, to remember that love, loyalty and compassion alone will avail as the foundation of a happy and enduring home. If these sacred vows are honored and kept close to your hearts, and you endeavor to always live according to the best that is within each of you, your life together will be full of joy, peace and love.

## **Expression of Intent**

In the presence of God, family and friends, I ask both of you to state your intentions, with an affirmative I will

Sarah and Michelle, have you come here freely and without reservation to give yourselves to each other in marriage?

Will you love and honor each other as married partners for the rest of your lives?

## Vows

**Now Sarah, I ask you state your intentions for Michelle:**

Do you Sarah, take Michelle to be your life partner, your love and your best friend?

Do you promise this day to share your life with her, to respect her, honor her, support her and love her?

Through life's challenges and celebrations will you stand by her side from this day and for all the days of your life?

**Now Michelle, I ask you state your intentions for Sarah:**

Do you Michelle, take Sarah to be your life partner, your love and your best friend?

Do you promise this day to share your life with her, to respect her, honor her, support her and love her?

Through life's challenges and celebrations will you stand by her side from this day and for all the days of your life?

## Rings

From the Egyptians came the custom of placing the wedding ring on the third finger of the left hand. They believed that from this finger, a '**vein of love**' went directly to the heart. Your rings that circle themselves are natural symbols of unending love.

Do we have the rings?

*Hand Sarah Michelle's ring - Sarah please repeat after me:*

Michelle, This ring I give you In token of my love and devotion

And with my heart, I pledge to you all that I am

With this ring, I marry you and join my life to yours.

*Hand Michelle Sarah's ring – Michelle please repeat after me:*

Sarah, This ring I give you In token of my love and devotion

And with my heart, I pledge to you all that I am

With this ring, I marry you and join my life to yours.

**Pronouncement**

Now that you Michelle, and you, Sarah, have promised to give yourselves to one another and to love each other through your sacred vows and through the giving and receiving of these rings, it gives me great honor and pleasure to now pronounce you  
married.