

DIOCESAN COMMISSION FOR LITURGY, VASAI



The Order of Blessing a Married Couple within Mass on the Anniversary of Marriage



On the main anniversaries of Marriage, as for example, on the twenty fifth, fiftieth, or sixtieth anniversary it is fitting to hold a special remembrance of the Sacrament by means of the celebration of the proper Mass with the prayers indicated in The Roman Missal (Masses and Prayers for Various Needs and Occasions, 11. On the Anniversary of Marriage provided it's a private mass and there is no other special celebration like, Solemnity, Feast or obligatory memoria.) After the homily

Priest: **N.** and **N.** on the anniversary of that celebration at which you joined your lives in an unbreakable bond through the Sacrament of Matrimony, you now intend to renew before the Lord the promises you made to one another. Turn to the Lord in prayer, that these vows may be strengthened by divine grace.

Then the couple renew their commitment quietly. If, however, the couple, taking circumstances into account, wish to renew their commitment publicly, the form provided here is used.

The husband: Blessed are you, Lord, for by your goodness I took **N.** as my wife.

The wife: Blessed are you, Lord, for by your goodness I took **N.** as my husband.

Both: Blessed are you, Lord, for in the good and the bad times of our life you have stood lovingly by our side. Help us, we pray, to remain faithful in our love for one another, so that we may be true witnesses to the covenant you have made with humankind.

The Priest: May the Lord keep you safe all the days of your life. May he be your comfort in adversity and your support in prosperity. May he fill your home with his blessings through Christ our Lord. **R.** Amen.

The Blessing of Rings

Then the Priest, if appropriate, says this prayer:

Increase and sanctify Lord, the love of your servants **N.** and **N.** who once gave each other these rings as a sign of faithfulness that they may always grow in the grace of the sacrament through Christ our Lord. **R.** Amen.

And the rings may be honoured with an incensation.

If, however, new rings are presented, the Priest says this prayer of blessing:

Bless and sanctify the love of your servants, O Lord; let these rings, a sign of their faithfulness, remind them of their love for one another and recall the grace of the Sacrament through Christ our Lord. **R.** Amen.

Then follows the Universal Prayer of the Faithful in the form usual at Mass, or prayer in common in the form provided here:

Celebrant : Let us call upon the mercy of God the almighty Father, who in his most provident plan willed that the history of salvation be signified in marital love and fidelity. (marital love, fidelity and fruitfulness.)

R. Renew the fidelity of your servants, Lord.

1. Holy Father, who are called faithful, requiring and rewarding the observance of your covenant, be pleased to fill with your blessings these your servants who celebrate the (twenty-fifth, fiftieth, sixtieth) Anniversary of their marriage. **R.**
2. Holy Father, who with the Son and the Holy Spirit enjoy from eternity perfect oneness of life and communion of love, grant that these your servants may always remember and faithfully keep the covenant of love they made in the Sacrament. **R.**
3. Holy Father, who in your providence order all the experience of human life so as to lead the faithful to share in the mystery of Christ, grant that these your servants, serenely accepting both good times and bad, may strive to cling to Christ and live for him alone. **R.**
4. Holy Father, who willed that the partnership of Marriage should be an example of Christian living, grant that all married couples may be witnesses in the world to the mystery of your Son's love. **R.**

Celebrant: O God, in whose plan family life has its firm foundation, hear with compassion the prayers of your servants and grant that, following the example of the Holy Family, they may praise you without end in the joy of your house. Through Christ our Lord. **R. Amen.**

In the liturgy of the Eucharist everything takes place according to the order of Mass, except what follows. If appropriate, at the presentation of the Gifts, the husband and wife may bring bread, wine, and water to the altar.

.After the Our Father, the prayer Deliver us, is omitted. The Priest, facing the couple, with hands extended, says: We praise you, O God, we bless you, Creator of all things, who in the beginning made man and woman that they might form a communion of life and love. We also give you thanks for graciously blessing the family life of your servants **N.** and **N.**, so that it might present an image of Christ's union with the Church. Therefore look with kindness upon them today, and as you have sustained their communion amid joys and struggles, renew their Marriage covenant each day, increase their charity, and strengthen in them the bond of peace, so that (together with the circle of their children that surrounds them,) they may forever enjoy your blessing. Through Christ our Lord. **All reply:** Amen.

After The peace of the Lord has been said, if appropriate, in accordance with local customs, the couple and all others offer one another a sign that suitably expresses peace and charity. The couple may receive communion under both kinds.

At the end of the Mass, the Priest blesses the couple and those present either in the usual manner or with a more solemn formula, for example, in the following way.

The Deacon invites those present to receive the blessing:

Bow down for the blessing.

Then the priest, with hands extended over the couple, says:

May God the all-powerful Father grant you his joy, **R. Amen.**

May the Only Begotten Son of God

stand by you with compassion in good times and in bad. **R. Amen.**

May the Holy Spirit always pour forth his love into your hearts. **R. Amen.**

Finally, he blesses all present, adding:

And may almighty God bless all of you, who are gathered here, the Father, and the Son, + and the Holy Spirit. **R. Amen.**