

DIOCESAN COMMISSION FOR LITURGY, VASAI



The Order of Blessing an Engaged Couple



This celebration must be adapted to suit particular circumstances. The order supplied here, therefore, may be used by the parents, or by a Priest, a Deacon, or another layperson, who, while maintaining the chief elements and structure of the rite, should adapt the individual parts to the circumstances. If the engagement has already taken place, this order of celebration may also be used when couples are brought together for catechetical preparation for Marriage. A betrothal or a special blessing of an engaged couple, however, is never to be combined with the celebration of Mass.

Hymn : *(suitable hymn)*

Introductory Rites

Grace to you and peace from our Lord Jesus Christ, who loved us and gave himself for us.

All reply: And with your spirit.

If the minister is a lay person, after the Sign of the Cross has been made, he or she greets those present saying

Brothers and sisters let us praise our Lord Jesus Christ, who loved us and gave himself up for us. **All reply:** Amen.

Then, in these or similar words, the minister disposes those present for reception of the blessing

We know that God's grace is a constant need for everyone, at all times. Yet no one can doubt that members of Christ's faithful have special need of that grace when they are preparing to form a new family. And so, let us ask God's blessing upon our brother and sister (**N** and **N.**), that they may grow in mutual respect, love each other more truly and approach the celebration of holy Matrimony chastely through appropriate companionship and prayer together.

Reading of the Word of God

Then one of those present or the minister reads a text of Sacred Scripture.

John 15: 9 -12 **or** 1 Corinthians 13: 4-13 **or** Hosea: 2: 21-23 **or** Philippians 2:1-5

If appropriate, there may be said or sung the following Responsorial Psalm or another suitable liturgical song.

Psalm: 144 (145): 8-9,10,15,17-18 Response: How good is the Lord to all.

The one who presides may briefly address those present, shedding light on the biblical reading.

Prayers

The common prayer follows. From the intercessions provided below, the one who presides may select those that seem more suitable or may add others that apply to particular circumstances:

With confidence, let us call on God the Father, who so loved all people that he made them his children in Christ and revealed them to the world as witnesses of his love.

Response : Keep us in your love for ever, Lord.

1. You willed that mutual love should make the brothers and sisters of Christ known as your true children. **R.**
2. You place upon men and women the gentle demands of your love, so that they may find happiness in accepting them. **R.**
3. You bring a man and a woman together in mutual delight that the family thus formed may joyfully be crowned with children. **R.**
4. Through Christ's paschal sacrifice, by which he loved the Church and presented her to you washed clean in his Blood, you mystically foreshadowed the fullness of wedded love in the Sacrament of Matrimony. **R.**
5. You call **N.** and **N.** to a full communion of love, so that they may become one in mind and heart as members of the Christian family. **R.**

As per the need intentions could be added.

In accord with local custom, before the prayer of blessing, the engaged couple may express some sign of their promise to each other, for example, by signing a document or by the giving of rings or other gifts. The engagement rings or gifts may be blessed with the following formula:

Safeguard the gifts you have exchanged, so that you may fulfil in due time the pledge you have offered each other.

R. Amen.

Prayer of Blessing

Then the one who presides says the prayers with hands joined; if, however, he is a Priest or Deacon, he says the prayer with hands extended:

Leader : We give you praise, O Lord, who in your gentle wisdom call and prepare your son and daughter **N.** and **N.** to love each other. Graciously strengthen their hearts, we pray, so that, by keeping faith and pleasing you in all things, they may come happily to the Sacrament of Marriage, Through Christ our Lord.

R. Amen.

or, when a Priest or Deacon presides:

Priest or Deacon : Lord God, wellspring of all love, **N.** and **N.** have met each other through your providential plan. Mercifully grant as they seek your grace in preparing for the Sacrament of Marriage, that, sustained by heavenly + blessing, they may grow in mutual respect and may love each other with true charity through Christ our Lord.

R. Amen.

Conclusion of the Rite

Then, the one who presides concludes the rite, saying:

May the God of love and peace dwell within you, direct your steps, and strengthen your hearts in his love.

All: Amen.

It is a praiseworthy practice to end the celebration with a suitable hymn.