

The Priest, with hands joined, calls upon those present to pray, saying:

Dear brothers and sisters,
let us humbly pray to the Lord
that on these his servants, now married in Christ,
he may mercifully pour out
the blessing of his grace
and make of one heart in love
(by the Sacrament of Christ's Body and Blood)
those he has joined by a holy covenant.

And all pray in silence for a while.

Then the Priest, with hands extended over the bride and bridegroom, continues:

O God, who by your mighty power
created all things out of nothing,
and, when you had set in place
the beginnings of the universe,
formed man and woman in your own image,
making the woman an inseparable helpmate to the man,
that they might no longer be two, but one flesh,
and taught that what you were pleased to make one
must never be divided;

O God, who consecrated the bond of Marriage
by so great a mystery
that in the wedding covenant you foreshadowed
the Sacrament of Christ and his Church;

O God, by whom woman is joined to man
and the companionship they had in the beginning
is endowed with the one blessing
not forfeited by original sin
nor washed away by the flood.

Look now with favor on these your servants,
joined together in Marriage,
who ask to be strengthened by your blessing.
Send down on them the grace of the Holy Spirit
and pour your love into their hearts,
that they may remain faithful in the Marriage covenant.

May the grace of love and peace
 abide in your daughter **N.**,
 and let her always follow the example of those holy women
 whose praises are sung in the Scriptures.
 May her husband entrust his heart to her,
 so that, acknowledging her as his equal
 and his joint heir to the life of grace,
 he may show her due honor
 and cherish her always
 with the love that Christ has for his Church.

And now, Lord, we implore you:
 may these your servants
 hold fast to the faith and keep your commandments;
 made one in the flesh,
 may they be blameless in all they do;
 and with the strength that comes from the Gospel,
 may they bear true witness to Christ before all;
 (may they be blessed with children,
 and prove themselves virtuous parents,
 who live to see their children's children).

And grant that,
 reaching at last together the fullness of years
 for which they hope,
 they may come to the life of the blessed
 in the Kingdom of Heaven.
 Through Christ our Lord.

R. Amen.

The prayer Lord Jesus Christ is omitted, and The peace of the Lord is said immediately.

Then the bride and bridegroom and all present offer one another a sign, in keeping with local customs, that expresses peace, communion and charity.

Communion Antiphon

Cf. Eph 5: 25, 27

Christ loved the Church and handed himself over for her,
 to present her as a holy and spotless bride for himself (**E.T.** alleluia).