

## Ceremony:

Dearly beloved, we are gathered here in the presence of God, family, and friends, to join together this man **Jon Doe**, and this woman **Jane Smith** in holy matrimony.

Marriage is an honorable institution, not to be entered into lightly, but reverently, discreetly, and solemnly. These two persons now present have come to be joined into this holy union.

Doubly blessed is the couple which comes to the marriage altar with the approval and blessings of their families and friends. Who has the honor of presenting this woman to be married to this man?

The following was written by Edmund O'Neil.

Marriage is a commitment to life - to the best that two people can find and bring out in each other. It offers opportunities for sharing and growth that no other human relationship can equal, a joining that is promised for a lifetime.

Marriage encompasses all of life's most important relationships. A wife and a husband are each other's best friend, confidant, lover, teacher, listener, and critic.

Marriage deepens and enriches every facet of life. Happiness is fuller; memories are fresher; commitment is stronger; even anger is felt more strongly, and passes away more quickly.

Marriage understands and forgives the mistakes we are unable to avoid. It encourages and nurtures new experiences and new ways of expressing love through the seasons of life.

When two people pledge to love and care for each other in marriage they create a spirit unique to themselves, which binds them closer than any spoken or written words. Marriage is a promise made in the hearts of two people who love each other - which takes a lifetime to fulfill.

Please face each other and join hands.

**Jon**, will you have this woman to be your wedded wife, to live together in holy matrimony? Will you love her, comfort her, honor and keep her in sickness and in health, and, forsaking all others, keep yourself only unto her, so long as you both shall live? (*Jon's response*)

**Jane**, will you have this man to be your wedded husband, to live together in holy matrimony? Will you love him, comfort him, honor and keep him in sickness and in health, and, forsaking all others, keep yourself only unto him, as long as you both shall live? (*Jane's response*)

Jon please repeat after me.

"I **Jon** take you, **Jane**, to be my wedded wife, to have and to hold, from this day forward, for better for worse, for richer for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, till death do us part."

Jane, please repeat after me.

"I **Jane**, take you, **Jon**, to be my wedded husband, to have and to hold, from this day forward, for better for worse, for richer for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, till death do us part."

May we please have the rings?

**Jon**, please place **Jane's** ring on her finger and repeat after me:

“I give you this ring as a symbol of my love, my faith in our strength together, and my covenant to learn and grow with you.”

**Jane**, please place **Jon's** ring on his finger and repeat after me:

“I give you this ring as a symbol of my love, my faith in our strength together, and my covenant to learn and grow with you.”

By the power vested in me by the great state of Florida, and here in the presence of God, family, and friends, I now pronounce you husband and wife. You may now kiss.

Ladies and gentlemen, I present to you Jon and Jane Doe.