

The Hands of Matrimony - On the Wedding Day

This text is to be read to the Bride and Groom after the Statement of Intentions and before the Exchange of Vows, either by the Celebrant or by a couple, relatives or friends of the Bride and Groom.

A man friend says to the Bride, "Beloved Bride, take your fiancé's hands so that you may see what a gift they are to you:

These are the hands, vibrant with love, holding yours now, on your wedding day, that you may place with expectant joy against you, until he too feels his child stir within your womb.

These are the hands that will be so gentle as he holds your baby for the first time; yet become nicked and rough from work to make you more comfortable.

These are the hands that will wipe tears from your eyes and comfort you in illness, fear or grief.

These are the hands that will make the wonder of love come alive for you and tenderly raise your face to look into his eyes; filled with his overwhelming love and desire for you."

A woman friend says to the Groom, "Beloved Bridegroom, take your fiancé's hands so that you may see what a gift they are to you:

These are the hands that hold yours now, on your wedding day, and will become nicked, bruised, lined and rough from work to make you comfortable.

These are the hands that will hold you in excitement when she says you are to have a child and then will hold each child in tender love, disciplining them and soothing them through illness.

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These are the hands that will wring in worry when troubles come, yet massage tension from your neck and back to relax you after you have had a hard day.

These are the hands that through the years will in the passion of love give you joy and also wipe tears from your eyes in wonder and awe that you would cry for her.

The man and woman friends read the following statement to the congregation.

Beloved People of God:

These are the hands of the Sacrament of Matrimony. These four hands are your armour and shield against the evils of the world.

These four hands are God's plan for renewing His Church.

These are the hands that will reach out, first to each other, and then united, will spread your love and sacrament to all they touch.

They will reach out to the teenagers, bring hope to the lonely, teach others the wonders of married love, and heal the abused and hurting children of the world.

These hands are the hope of a troubled humanity. These are the hands that will change the world ~

By Larry & Mary Sue Eck Father Tom Burr