

## CATHOLIC WEDDING VOWS

Catholic wedding vows are usually preceded by three questions from the priest (The Order of Celebrating Matrimony #60):

"(Name) and (name), have you come here to enter into Marriage without coercion, freely and wholeheartedly?"

**Bride & Groom: *I do***

"Are you prepared, as you follow the path of Marriage, to love and honor each other for as long as you both shall live?"

**Bride & Groom: *I do***

"Are you prepared to accept children lovingly from God and to bring them up according to the law of Christ and his Church?"

**Bride & Groom: *I do***

The Order for Celebrating Matrimony (#61-63) offers four options for Catholic wedding vows. The standard version goes like this:

**Priest** (or deacon): Since it is your intention to enter into the covenant of Holy Matrimony, join your right hands, and declare your consent before God and his Church.

**Groom:** I, (name), take you, (name), to be my wife. I promise to be true to you in good times and in bad, in sickness and in health. I will love you and honor you all the days of my life.

**Bride:** I, (name), take you, (name), to be my husband. I promise to be faithful to you in good times and in bad, in sickness and in health, to love you and to honor you all the days of my life.

*It's ideal if you memorize the words of consent; doing so emphasizes that your consent to be married is truly heartfelt. Memorizing the words of consent in the weeks and months leading up to the wedding is also a good spiritual practice that will help you to focus on the deeper meaning of your marriage.*

*If you're worried about forgetting the words, or being too emotional to say them clearly, many priests and deacons will have you repeat the words of consent after them, phrase by phrase.*