

Formal Wedding Ceremony Script that Honors Parents and Family and  
Catholic Vows

Reverend Victoria Meyer  
Marry Me In Indy! LLC  
[www.marrymeinindy.com](http://www.marrymeinindy.com)

Bride is escorted down the aisle by her father. He hugs and kisses her  
and shakes Groom's hand and places her hand in his.

Who gives this woman to be marriage?

Father: Her mother and I do.

Thank you.

He then takes his seat.

I take your hand in mine. It is a symbolic gesture, filled with meaning  
throughout centuries of time.

It symbolizes friendship and I promise now to be a true and loyal  
friend to you.

It symbolizes union and I promise to keep our union uppermost in my  
life. It symbolizes help and caring and I promise to be here to help you  
whenever and however you need me.

Most of all, it symbolizes love: joyous love, total and complete. Such a  
love is what I feel for you.

I take your hand in mine-for this hour, for this day, for this lifetime.

Welcome! Thank you for being here today!

We are gathered here today to celebrate and to witness the joining of Bride and Groom in marriage.

As they promise to love, trust in that love, honor one another as individuals, and anticipate with joy spending the rest of their lives together.

They are surrounded by you - their friends and family. Thank you for gathering here to witness their marriage and to share in the joy of this special occasion.

The Bride and Groom would like to take a moment to especially thank their parents for everything they've done for them. Not only for everything they've done to help make this day possible but for being their parents and providing the love and support needed to become the people they are today. (Don't worry other family members and friends, they hold you in equally high esteem and each and every one of you are important and play or have played a part in their lives!) (Groom's mom is a step-mom and although they are close, it would be better to thank parents as a whole here at this part!:) )

We would also like to take a moment to remember all those loved ones who have recently passed away and were not able to make it here today. They are with us in our hearts and although we miss them everyday, we so feel their presence today in this room with us as we join our lives together forever.

Bride and Groom, Today, as you two are joined in marriage, there is a vast and unknown future stretching out before you. The possibilities and potentials of your married life are great. We join with you in

hoping you make real your dreams! That you are reborn in each other as you share your loves and dreams, wants and desires and together are enriched by them.

Through your commitment to each other, may you grow and nurture a love that makes both of you better people, a love that continues to give you great joy, and also a passion for living that provides you with energy and patience to face the responsibilities of life.

There was a time when your lives were two separate paths. Gradually, they were joined as you grew closer together. Today, you proclaim to the world your choice to stay on the same path together. May you be enriched by the unique view of the other!

The first reading is:

**WHY MARRIAGE?**

~ By: Mari Nichols-Haining ~

Because to the depths of me, I long to love one person,  
With all my heart, my soul, my mind, my body...

Because I need a forever friend to trust with the intimacies of me,  
Who won't hold them against me,  
Who loves me when I'm unlikable,  
Who sees the small child in me, and  
Who looks for the divine potential of me...

Because I need to cuddle in the warmth of the night  
With someone who thanks God for me,  
With someone I feel blessed to hold...

Because marriage means opportunity  
To grow in love in friendship...

Because marriage is a discipline  
To be added to a list of achievements...

Because marriages do not fail, people fail  
When they enter into marriage  
Expecting another to make them whole...

Because, knowing this,  
I promise myself to take full responsibility  
For my spiritual, mental and physical wholeness  
I create me,  
I take half of the responsibility for my marriage  
Together we create our marriage...

Because with this understanding  
The possibilities are limitless.

The second reading is:

"You have known each other from the first glance of acquaintance to this point of commitment. At some point, you decided to marry. From that moment of yes to this moment of yes, indeed, you have been making promises and agreements in an informal way. All those conversations that were held riding in a car or over a meal or during long walks - all those sentences that began with "When we're married" and continued with "I will and you will and we will" - those late night talks that included "someday and somehow and maybe"- and all those promises that are unspoken matters of the heart. All these common

things, and more, are the real process of a wedding. The symbolic vows that you are about to make are a way of saying to one another, "You know all those things we've promised and hoped and dreamed- well, I meant it all, every word." Look at one another and remember this moment in time. Before this moment you have been many things to one another- acquaintance, friend, companion, lover, dancing partner, and even teacher, for you have learned much from one another in these last few years. Now you shall say a few words that take you across a threshold of life, and things will never quite be the same between you. For after these vows, you shall say to the world, this- is my husband, this- is my wife"

Vows:

Bride and Groom, have you come here freely and without reservation to give yourselves to each other in marriage?

Will you honor each other as man and wife for the rest of your lives?

Will you accept children lovingly from God, and bring them up according to the law of Christ and his Church?

Since it is your intention to enter into the covenant of marriage, join your right hands, and declare your consent before God.

Groom, please repeat after me:

I Groom, take you, Bride, 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, please repeat after me:

I, Bride, take you, Groom, to be my husband. 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.

Will all of you witnessing these promises do all in your power to uphold these two persons in their marriage?

We will

Ring Exchange:

The rings are the universal symbols of marriage. They mean many things. From now on you will wear these rings and they will remind you... They will remind you of the endless circle that they are. Like love, there is no beginning and no end. They will remind you daily that you are married. Sometimes they will remind you of the commitment that you have made - for better or worse. But, may they always remind

you that there is one other person in the world that has pledged to love you forever, through thick and through thin and with all that they have.

repeat after me:

Bride, I give you this ring with all that I am and all that I ever will be.  
Wear it and know that I love you.

Groom, I give you this ring with all that I am and all that I ever will be.  
Wear it and know that I love you.

Still holding hands...

These are the hands of your best friend, young and strong and full of love for you, that are holding yours on your wedding day as you promise to love each other today, tomorrow and forever.

These are the hands that will work along side yours as together you build your future.

These are the hands that will countless times wipe the tears from your eyes, tears of sorrow and tears of joy.

These are the hands that will give you support and encouragement to chase down your dreams.

These are the hands that will give you strength when you need it.

These are the hands that will lift your chin and brush your cheek as they raise your face to look into eyes that are filled with overwhelming

love for you.

And lastly, these are the hands that even when wrinkled and aged will still be reaching for yours, still giving you the same unspoken tenderness with just a touch.

### Sand Ceremony

There are 3 containers of sand to be poured. One for each set of parents and one for Bride and Groom as a whole.

Bride and Groom have decided to commemorate this day and this ceremony by performing a sand ceremony. They want this to not only be a day they remember forever but they also want to remember this as a milestone in their lives as they become one and create their own family. Earlier in the ceremony we took a moment to thank Bride and Groom's parents for shaping them and helping them become the people they are today. Both the Bride and Groom had their own separate families who raised them and who are here today witnessing their love for one another. It's the vows made today at this celebration of marriage between bride and groom that will bring together 2 separate families into one large family and will also create the coming together of Bride and Groom as a new family as they embark on their journey together and create their own family with more jack russell terriers and of course children.

The sand poured by the parents symbolizes just that, the 2 separate families becoming one. Mike and Amanda's sand will symbolize the making of their own family and the sand once poured all together will symbolize them all coming together as one big family.

The finished masterpiece will be a constant reminder of not only Bride and Groom's love and the beginning of their journey as man and woman in marriage, but also will be a reminder of the support they have from their families who have become one today.

Two family members will bring the sand down the aisle to the front where the parents will receive the sand. They will then bring it to the table. Groom's parents will step forward and pour the sand in together. Then Bride's parent's will step forward and pour the sand in together. The Bride and Groom will pour sand in. Then everyone together will pour sand at the same time Signifying the families actually becoming one. After this, Bride and Groom will give a rose to both mother's then the parents will go sit down and this will end the sand ceremony.

We have gathered here today to celebrate the union of Bride and Groom and to honor their commitment to not just gazing at one another, but to looking outward together in the same direction. Today they proclaim their love to the world, and we are happy for them.

As families and friends, all of you here form the community of support That surrounds Them. This is why gathering as a community is such an important part of a wedding ceremony. Each of you, by your presence here today, Is being called upon to uphold them In honoring and loving each other. Always stand beside them, Never between them. Offer them your love and support, Not your judgment. Encourage them with your kindness and loving hearts, And honor this marriage into which they have come to be joined today.

Because they are now taking a new form as a married couple they need

a blessing as they go down this path called life together. Bride and Groom couldn't see any better way to have this send off than to have Bride's brother, read to them as he once read to his own twin brother, Oh the Places You Will Go! by Dr. Seuss. Bride and groom saw this as only fitting since she was the only sibling that had not had the honor of her brother reading this to her, and what better way to have it read to her than on this day, the day her life will forever change for the better. The poem not symbolizes Bride and Groom's playful and goofy nature but, more importantly, it symbolizes life's path that can sometimes be wonderful and full of joy, but also can be scary and hard. It is during these hard times that they must hold onto one another and support each other in order to make it to the wonderful and joyous times. Without further adieu...Here is the Bride's Broth sending Bride and Groom off on their journey!

Oh the Places You will Go!  
Dr. Seuss

"Congratulations! Today is your day.  
You're off to Great Places! You're off and away!  
You have brains in your head. You have feet in your shoes.  
You can steer yourself any direction you choose.  
You're on your own. And you know what you know.  
And YOU are the couple who'll decide where to go.  
You'll look up and down streets. Look 'em over with care.  
About some you will say, "We don't choose to go there."  
With your heads full of brains and your shoes full of feet,  
You're too smart to go down, any not-so-good street.  
And you may not find any you'll want to go down.  
In that case, of course, you'll head straight out of town.

It's opener there in the wide open air,  
Out there things can happen and frequently do  
to people as brainy and footsy as you.  
And when things start to happen, don't worry. Don't stew.  
Just go right along. You'll start happening too.

### OH! THE PLACES YOU'LL GO!

You'll be on your way up! You'll be seeing great sights!  
You'll join the high fliers who soar to great heights!  
You won't lag behind, because you'll have all the speed.  
You'll pass the whole gang, and you'll soon take the lead.  
Wherever you fly you'll be best of the best.  
Wherever you go, you will top all the rest.  
Except when you don't. Because sometimes, you won't.  
You'll get mixed up of course, as you already know.  
You'll get mixed up with so many strange birds as you go.  
So be sure when you step.  
Step with great care and great tact  
and remember that Life's a Great Balancing Act.  
Just never forget to be dexterous and deft.  
And never mix up your right foot with your left.  
And will you succeed?  
Yes! You will indeed!  
(98 and  $\frac{3}{4}$  percent guaranteed.)

I now pronounce you Husband and wife!

You may kiss the bride!  
I now pronounce you Mr. and Mrs.

Marr

