

## 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

Welcome, one and all. How beautiful is the day that is touched by love!

We have come together in the presence of God to celebrate the marriage of Bob and Sis and to witness the recommitment of their love for one another.

We as family and friends rejoice in their continuing love for each other. We are grateful for the ties of love which bind us together, giving dignity, meaning, worth and joy to all our days.

As a public affirmation, they will declare to us their very special love and reaffirm their lasting commitment as partners in love for life. The promises they are about to make affirm their continuing love to be a special commitment which will continue to strengthen their lives and prepare them for whatever situations they may face with the strength and courage of two.

Again they commit to a love that involves the unselfish giving to one another; not in the attitude of duty or sacrifice, but in the spirit of joy. They agree to accept each other totally, creating a safe and loving space for each other to grow as individuals and partners and to mature in the faith and unshakable trust they have for each other.

Bob and Sis, when you first joined hands and hearts, you did not know where love would lead you. You promised to love, honor and cherish one another through all things. Life has surely brought you both wonderful blessings as well as the challenges that come with the joining of two people in love. You have fulfilled your promise. And God is smiling!

Love is more than verses on valentines and romance in movies.

We know that love is here and now, real and true, the most important thing in our lives. For love is the creator of our favorite memories and the foundation of our fondest dreams.

Without love, we merely exist. With love, we truly begin to live!

For love is a promise that is always kept, a fortune that can never be spent, a seed that can flourish in even the most unlikely place. And this radiance that never fades, this mysterious and magical joy is the greatest treasure of all - one known only by those who truly love.

Someone once said: "The most wonderful of all things in life, is the discovery of another human being with whom one's relationship has a growing depth, beauty and joy as the years increase. This inner progressiveness of love between two human beings is a most marvelous thing; it cannot be found by looking for it or by passionately wishing for it. It's a Divine destiny."

Bob and Sis, the state of matrimony is true marriage only when it is based upon a deep, inner communion of two souls who find completion, each in the other.

Happiness in marriage is not something that just happens. A good marriage must be created. In the art of marriage the little things are the big things.

It is never being too old to hold hands.

It is remembering to say, "I love you" (out loud), at least once a day.

It is never going to sleep angry.

It is forming a circle of love that gathers in the whole family.

It is at no time taking the other for granted. . . for what you take for granted, disappears.

It is speaking words of appreciation and demonstrating gratitude in thoughtful ways.

It is not expecting the husband to wear a halo or the wife to have the wings of an angel.

It is not looking for perfection in each other.

It is cultivating flexibility, patience, understanding and a sense of humor.  
It is having the capacity to forgive and not bring it up later.  
It is giving each other an atmosphere in which each can grow.  
It is a common search for the good and the beautiful in each other.  
It is not only marrying the right partner, it is BEING the right partner.

Marriage can be a great adventure when it is the outward expression of a great love; such a love is characterized by compassion, passion and courage.

It allows you to see through to your partner's essence, willing to be in total support of your partner's well-being, goals, purpose and spirit; and unwilling for your partner to be less than all he or she can be spiritually, mentally, and physically.

Such a love requires that you be totally honest with yourself and your mate, that you ask for what you want, take action even though you are afraid, share your feelings and listen but leave your partner free to be who they really are. In other words, always love your partner for who they are, not for who you think they should be.

Always remember, "Relationships are something that must be worked on all the time, not only when they are broken and need to be fixed. Never stop doing the things that brought you together in the first place."

We as your friends gathered here today, accept for you a love that continues to bring out your magnificence, a love that gives you the courage to stand apart and the willingness to stand together.

Most of all, we want that, at the end of your lives on this planet, you will look into each others eyes and be able to say:

"Because you have loved me, you have given me a faith in myself, and because I have faith in myself, I have loved my fellow man. My life with you has been complete."

Let Us Pray

Dear Heavenly Father our hearts are filled with great happiness as Bob and Sis renew their marriage vows and today reaffirm their faith and love for one another.

Grant that they may ever be true and loving, living together in such a way as to never bring shame or heartbreak into their marriage. Temper their hearts with kindness and understanding, rid them of all pretense or jealousy. Help them to remember to be each other's sweetheart, helpmate, friend and guide, so that together they may meet the cares and problems of life more bravely. And with the passage of time, may they find great contentment in the rich joy of senior companionship.

May the home they are reaffirming today truly be a place of love and harmony, where Your Spirit is always present. Bless this marriage we pray and walk beside Bob and Sis throughout all of their lives together. We Ask these things in Jesus name; Amen

Vows:

Bob and Sis, have you come here freely and with the intention of a renewal of your marriage vows? (Both answer, We Have)

Will you continue to love and honor each other as man and wife every day as you have promised to do? (Both answer, We Do.)

Will you love, comfort and honor, keeping each other forever more? (Both answer We Will)

Bob do you again take Sis as your wife, will you continue to be faithful to her in tender love and honor, offering encouragement and companionship and will you continue to live with her and cherish her? (Bob answers I do)

Sis do you again take Bob as your husband, will you continue to be faithful to him in tender love and honor, offering encouragement and companionship and will you continue to live with him and cherish him? (Sis answers I do)

Rings:

Your rings are circles and a circle is the symbol of the sun, the earth, the universe, of wholeness, perfection, peace and unity. Like circles, your rings have no beginning and no ending. Bob, hold Sis's hand, touch her ring, symbolically giving it to her again, and say to her these words.

From this day on, I recommit myself to you, and this ring is a symbol of my pledge.

Sis, hold Bob's hand, touch his ring, symbolically giving it to him again, and say to him these words.

From this day on, I recommit myself to you, and this ring is a symbol of my pledge.

Let these rings serve not as locks binding you together, but as keys, unlocking the secrets of your hearts for each other to know, and thus bringing you closer together forever.

Pronouncement:

May your joys be sweet as spring flowers that grow

As bright as a fire when winter winds blow

As countless as leaves that float down in the fall

As serene as the Love that keeps watch over all.

I now pronounce that you have today reaffirmed your life's commitment to one another, go forth in love and friendship for the rest of the days of your lives.

Closing:

May the sun bring you new energy by day.

May the moon softly restore you by night.

May the rain wash away your worries.

And may you live the days of your lives in peace, love, and happiness.