

Subject: Two Rose Ceremonies

Submitted by: Rev. Scott Awbrey

Rose Ceremony

It is now my privilege to be the first to address you as husband and wife, who you now are, and to present you with your first gift as a married couple. In the language of flowers, a red rose is the symbol of love, and in this instance I think there may be some additional symbolism, with (bride) representing the beautiful petals, and (groom) the thorns. Our gift to you is the gift of love. Will you please exchange your red roses? In this exchange, you have given to each other your first gift as husband and wife -- the gift of love.

And it would be our hope that where you may make your home, that there be a specially appointed place in it for red roses. And that on each anniversary of today you celebrate it, at least in part, by each of you bringing to that appointed place a red rose as a re-statement of love, and as an acknowledgement of the vows which you have made this day.

And in every marriage, occasionally issues arise, and it may be difficult to find the right words to resolve the discord between you. If and when such issues might come to your marriage, if either of you will just remember and bring to the appointed place a red rose, the other will see it and understand it as a statement of love and accept it, because love is the gateway to all answers.

Corinthians: "Love is patient; love is kind and envies no one. Love is never boastful, nor conceited, nor rude; never selfish, and not quick to take offense. Love keeps no score of wrongs; does not gloat over other's mistakes, but delights in the truth. There is nothing love cannot face; there is no limit to its faith, hope, and its endurance. In a word, there are three things that last forever: Faith, hope, and love...and the greatest of these is love."

Ladies and gentlemen, it is my privilege to present to you Mr. and Mrs.

_____.

The Vessel and the Rose

It is my privilege to be the first to address you as husband and wife. The marriage you have entered into is a commitment to learning to care for one another in mutually fulfilling ways. It is a life-long relationship always in the making.

In symbolizing this commitment, _____ and _____ have chosen a marriage vessel and these roses. The vessel is a symbol of strength and endurance. It is created to hold something, and the miracle of the vessel is that it not only protects that which it contains, but it is enriched by that which it holds.

Will you each please take a rose?

These roses, born of the tiniest of seeds, symbolize the potential and the beauty contained in love's promises. And in this instance I think there may be some additional symbolism, with (bride) _____ representing the beautiful petals, and (groom) _____ the thorns. Will you please exchange your red roses? In this exchange, you have given to each other your first gift as husband and wife...

And it would be our hope that where you may make your home, that there be a specially appointed place in it for this marriage vessel and for red roses. And that on each anniversary of today you celebrate it, at least in part, by each of you bringing a rose and placing it in the vessel, understanding that this rose is a restatement of your love, and as an acknowledgement of the vows...

And in every marriage, occasionally issues arise, and it may be difficult to find the right words to resolve the discord between you. If and when such issues might come to your marriage, if either of you will just remember and bring to the vessel a red rose, the other will see it and understand it as a statement of love and accept it, because love is the gateway to all answers.

Now please place your rose in the vessel, and know that in the merging of this strength and this beauty we proclaim a new relationship, a new future, one which love has unfolded and is unfolding before our very eyes.

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