

# Wedding Bells Are Ringing

Creative Custom Ceremonies For All Occasions



## **Traditional: 'Vow Renewal'**

(50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary)

### **Gathering Words**

Greetings and welcome to you all! This is quite a special occasion that brings us together this afternoon. It is not often, in this day and age, that a family can join together to commemorate a couple's Golden Anniversary, to celebrate a love that has touched so many for so long, and to recognize the many wonderful blessings that have come from the heart of such a commendable marriage.

<Husband> and <Wife Full> come before us today to publicly reaffirm their love; to promise to continue to nurture themselves, each other, and their union. They do so knowing that marriage is at once the most tender, yet challenging, of all relations in life.

<Wife> and <Husband> have not only created an incredible and inspirational marriage together, but have raised <Number> remarkable children as well: <Names>. They have also been blessed with three beautiful grandchildren: <Names>. <Wife> and <Husband> have created a family of loving and caring individuals who will always be there for one another whenever they are needed. And so, <Wife>, <Husband>, <Children and Grandchildren> today we celebrate you as a family as well.

### **Reading**

As we honor <Wife> and <Husband> today, and as we witness the renewal of their wedding vows, we also bear witness to the ways in which a marriage is not created by law or by a ceremony alone. The appreciable bond between <Wife> and <Husband> shows us that marriage is a larger something that occurs exclusively between the hearts of two human beings.

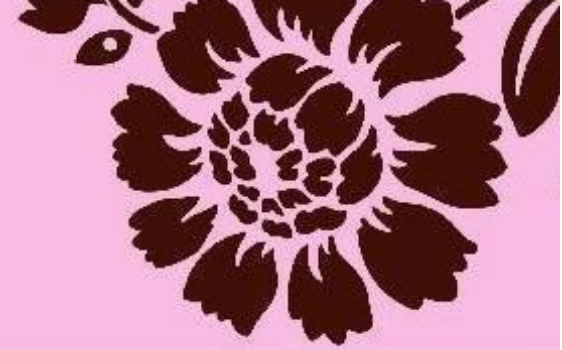
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I will now share with you a piece by e.e. cummings titled, "i carry your heart", that poignantly illustrates just how this is so.

i carry your heart with me (i carry it in  
my heart) i am never without it (anywhere  
i go you go, my dear; and whatever is done  
by only me is your doing, my darling) i fear  
no fate(for you are my fate, my sweet) i want  
no world(for beautiful you are my world, my true)  
and it's you are whatever a moon has always meant  
and whatever a sun will always sing is you

here is the deepest secret nobody knows  
(here is the root of the root and the bud of the bud  
and the sky of the sky of a tree called life; which grows  
higher than soul can hope or mind can hide)  
and this is the wonder that's keeping the stars apart

i carry your heart (i carry it in my heart)

## **Charge & Consent**

<Wife> and <Husband>, you have come here today to reaffirm your promise to forever carry one another's hearts. Your continued devotion to one another and your shared commitment to the sacred and joyous covenant of your marriage is an inspiration to us all.

In acknowledgement of the inspiration that you are as you stand here today, in the presence of the family that you, your marriage, your union, has created, and as you

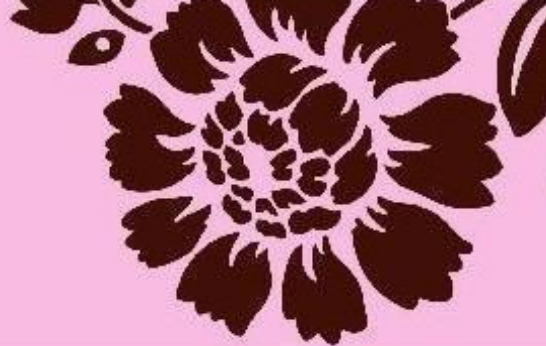
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reflect back over all of your years together as husband and wife, do you now wish to reaffirm the vows that you took 50 years ago? WE DO

## **Renewal of Vows**

Then, if you would, please turn to face one another and join hands as you prepare to renew your marriage vows.

<Husband>, if you will, please repeat after me:

<Wife>, I stand here with you today, to reaffirm my vow to stand with you forever. You are my wife of fifty years and the love of my life. I take you today and for all days as my wedded wife, to have and to hold, for better or for worse, for richer and for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, till death do us part.

<Wife>, if you will, please repeat after me:

<Husband>, I stand here with you today, to reaffirm my vow to stand with you forever. You are my husband of fifty years and the love of my life. I take you today and for all days as my wedded husband, to have and to hold, for better or for worse, for richer and for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, till death do us part.

For better or for worse, for richer and for poorer, in sickness and in health, as you continue to cherish and enjoy one another, may your life together carry on as a living example of what true love can be.

## **Exchanging of Rings**

What tokens of love and respect do you offer one another on this day?

*(Rings are presented to the couple)*

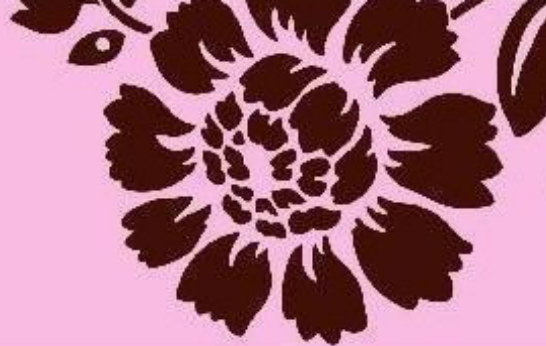
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The wedding ring, and its partner the anniversary band, are both outward and visible signs of an inward and spiritual bond which unites two loyal hearts in endless love. As you exchange these rings with one another today, you do so as a sign of your continued commitment to one another, to your family, and to your marriage. Just as these rings have no end, neither shall your love for one another.

<Husband>, as you present <Wife> with her anniversary ring and re-affirm your pledge to give her your life and your love forever, will you please repeat after me:

<Wife>, I give you this ring as a symbol of my love. With all that I am, and all that I have, I promise to love and honor you always. With this ring, I thee wed.

And <Wife>, as you present <Husband> with his anniversary band and re-affirm your pledge to give him your life and your love forever, will you please repeat after me:

<Husband>, I give you this ring as a symbol of my love. With all that I am, and all that I have, I promise to love and honor you always. With this ring, I thee wed.

## **Pronouncement**

<Husband> and <Wife>, fifty years ago you entered into this marriage with hope, commitment, and a newfound love. Today, you stand before us reaffirming a commitment that has stood the test of time; that has strengthened you as individuals, and has taught you about the power of love in your lives. It is an honor and a blessing for each of us to be here with you today, celebrating your love and commitment to each other and to your family. And so, it is with great honor and joy that, by the power of the beautiful love that you share, I now pronounce your marriage to be reborn.

## **Blessing**

May you continue to find delight in each other, and may your love continue to grow and

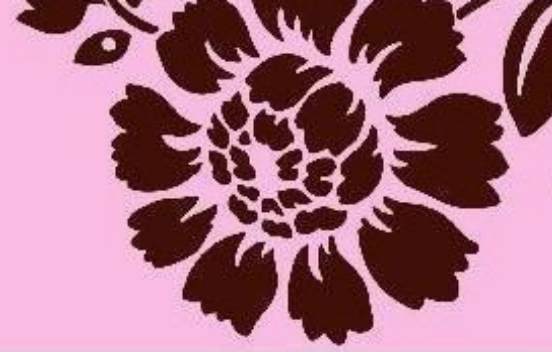
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to nurture you all the days of your lives. I wish you the strength to continue to keep the vows you have made, and I wish you the good fortune to find ever greater tenderness, joy, and comfort in the love you share. May your home continue to be a place of peace and health, filled with blessings and joy. May you endlessly delight one another, and may you love and fulfill each other always. Go in peace. Live in joy. Thanks be to God.

Congratulations! <Husband>, you may now kiss your bride!

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