

The Order of Celebrating *Marriage*

Diocese of Nashville
19 January 2015

*Ordo celebrandi
matrimonium*

1969

1969 English translation

1990

2015? English translation



Decree (1990)

- “In this second typical edition the same with an enrichment of the Introduction, rites and prayers, and with certain changes introduced in keeping with the norm of the Code of Canon Law promulgated in 1983.



Index

- I. The Order of Celebrating Marriage within Mass
- II. The Order of Celebrating Marriage
- III. The Order of Celebrating Marriage
Layperson
- IV. The Order of Celebrating Marriage
and a Catechumen or a Non-Christian
- V. Various Texts to be Used in the Rite of Marriage and in
the Mass for the Celebration of Marriage

Appendices

I. Examples of the
Universal Prayer

II. The Order of Blessing
an Engaged Couple

III. The Order of Blessing
a Married Couple within
Mass on the Anniversary
of Marriage



Introduction I: Importance and Dignity

1 a covenant deriving force from creation, raised to the dignity of a sacrament

2 an irrevocable consent given freely, lived in fidelity for the sake of children

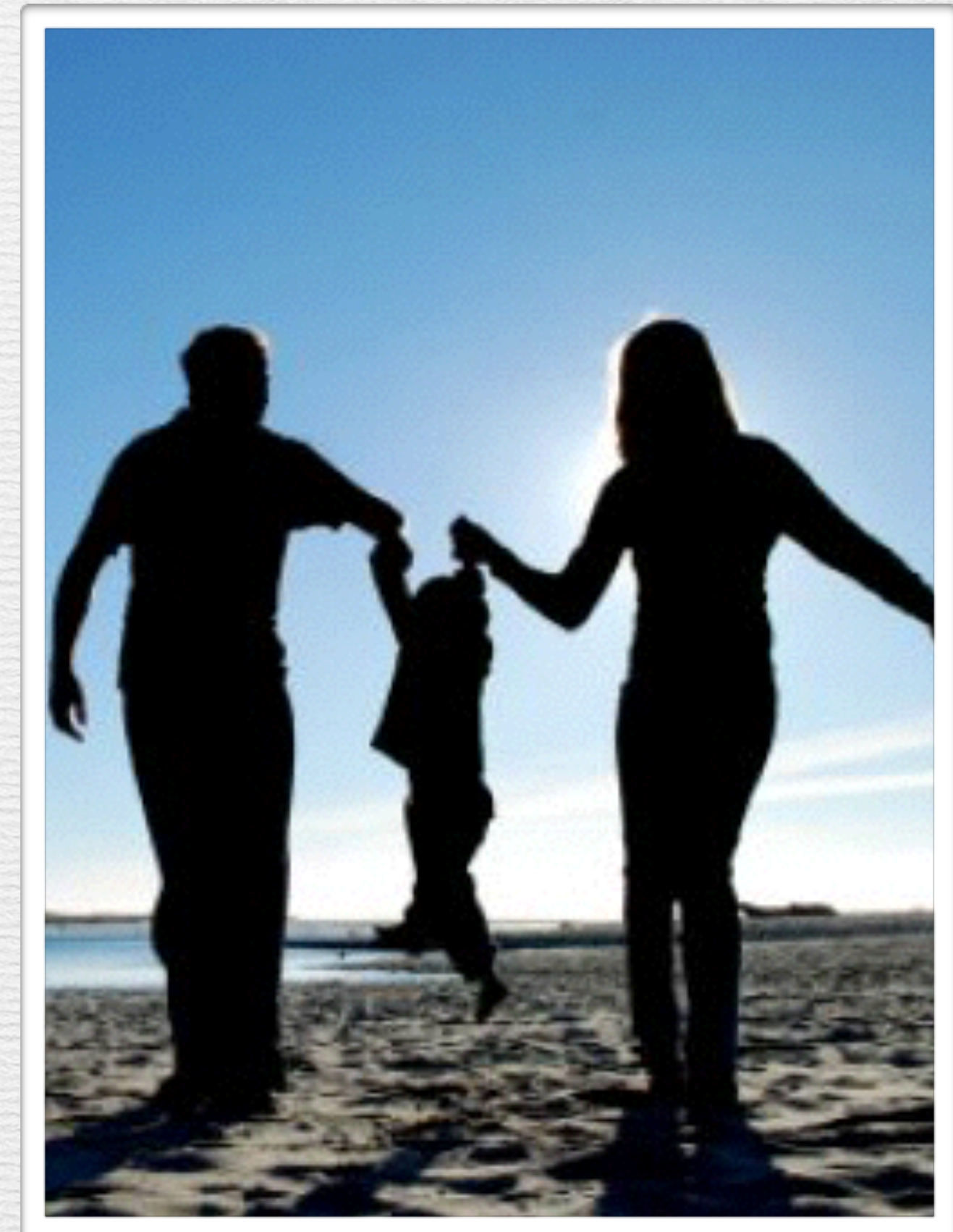


Introduction I: Importance and Dignity

3 children are the supreme gift

4 community of life and love that survived
original sin

5 a sacrament of Christ's covenant with the
Church

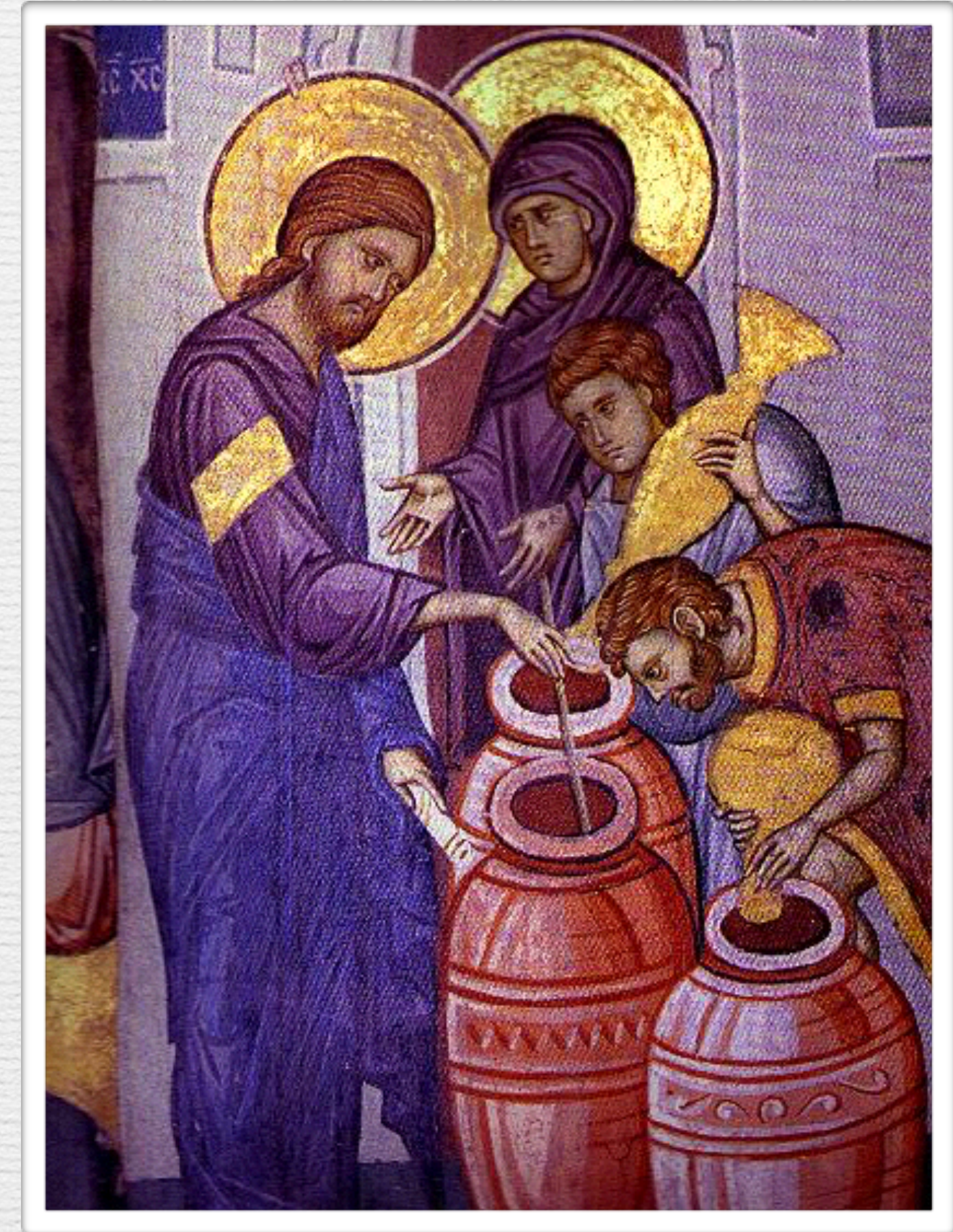


Introduction I: Importance and Dignity

6 the joy of Cana foreshadowed the new covenant

7 a valid marriage between the baptized is always a sacrament

8 Christian spouses participate in the unity and fruitful love of Christ and the Church



Introduction I: Importance and Dignity

9 the Holy Spirit helps Christian spouses

10 Family life cooperates with the
Creator's love

11 God continues to call the couple to
marriage



Duties of pastors

14 preach and instruct about marriage

16 led by love, pastors welcome the engaged and foster faith

18 confirmation should precede marriage if it can be done without grave inconvenience, penance and the eucharist recommended

21

pastor may not admit them to the sacrament since they - not the Church - prevent it

Other duties

23 it is appropriate for the same priest who prepares the couple to give the homily, receive the consent, and celebrate the mass

24 Deacons may preside and give nuptial blessing

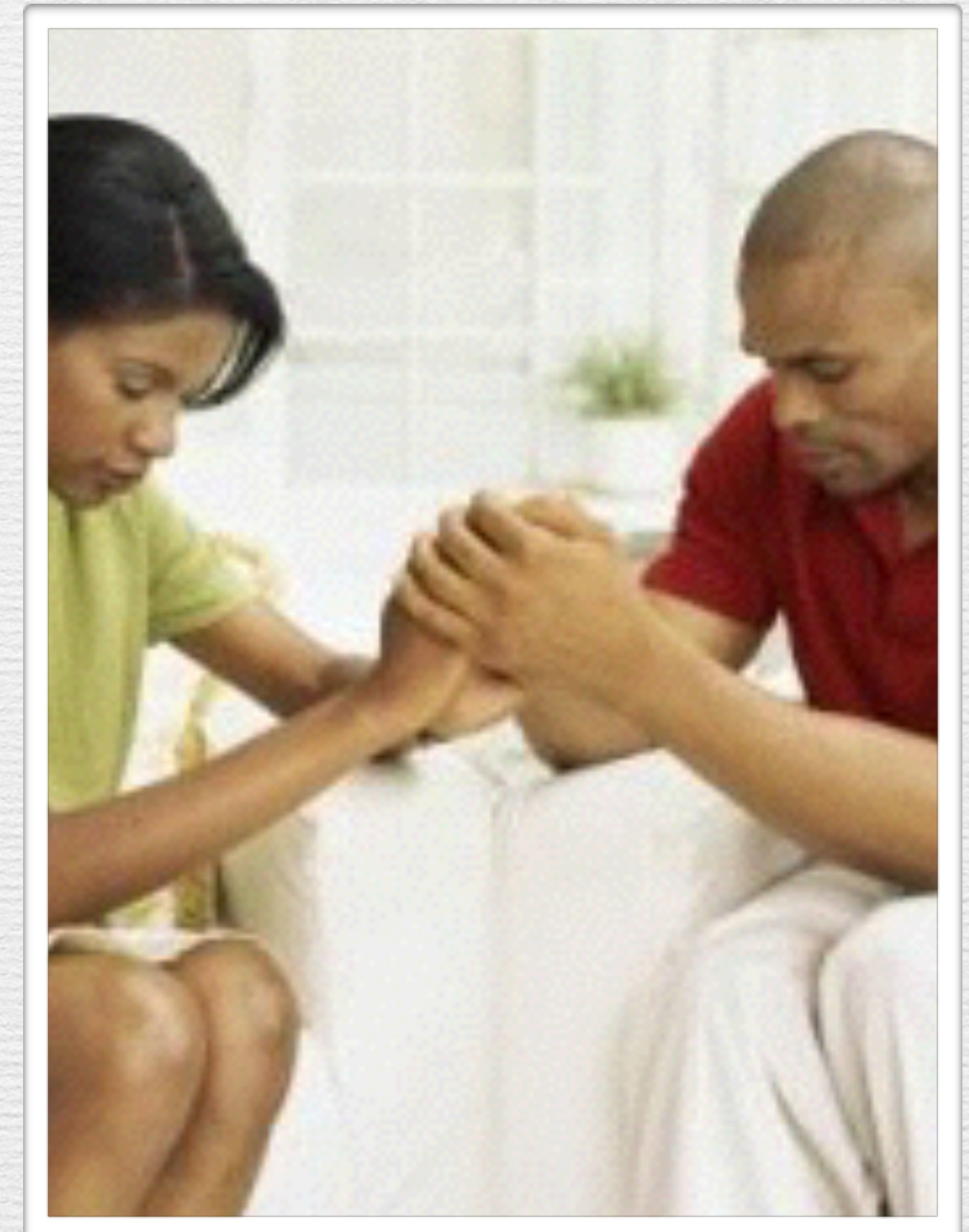
25

lacking, after a vote by the conference of bishops and approval of apostolic see

Preparation

29

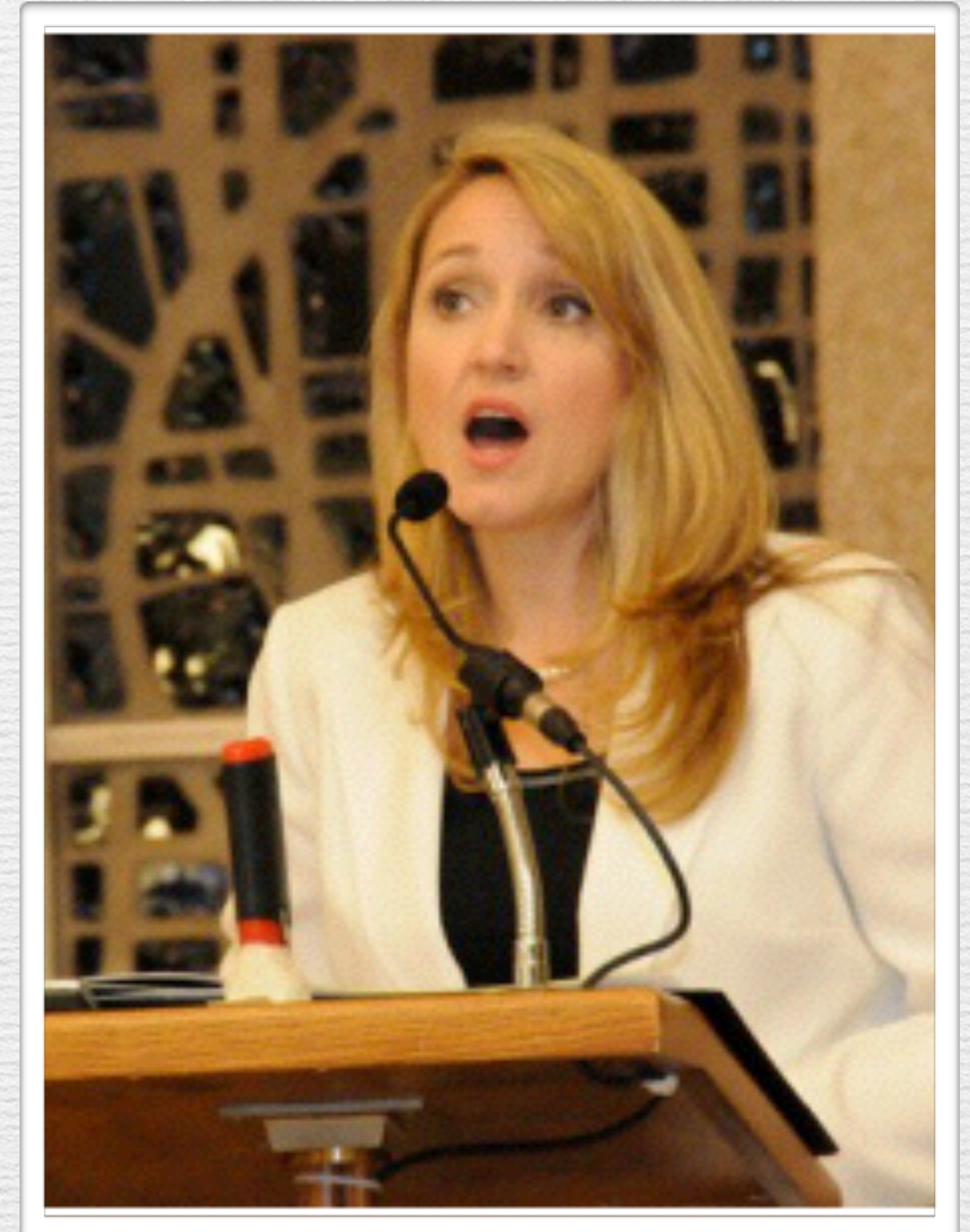
but pastor may judge based on the couple and those present to have marriage outside of mass; if appropriate the couple should assist to choose the readings, the form of consent, formularies for the rings, nuptial blessing, universal prayer, chants; other local customs



Preparation

30 chants should express the faith of the church, especially the Responsorial Psalm -
“What is said concerning the chants applies also to the selection of other musical works.”

32 no weddings on Good Friday or Holy Saturday



Canon 1248/1

T by assistance at a Mass which is celebrated anywhere in a Catholic rite either on the holy day or on the evening of the preceding day.



The Rite to be Used

34 the ritual mass and white or festive vestments

- but on 1-4 on Table of Liturgical days use that mass with nuptial blessing and if appropriate the final blessing
- at parish Sunday masses during Christmas and Ordinary Time, use the Sunday mass texts, but one lectionary

Table of Liturgical Days

1 The Paschal Triduum of the Passion and Resurrection of the Lord.

2 The Nativity of the Lord, the Epiphany, the Ascension, and Pentecost. Sundays of Advent, Lent, and Easter. Ash Wednesday. Weekdays of Holy Week from Monday up to and including Thursday. Days within the Octave of Easter.

3 Solemnities inscribed in the General Calendar, whether of the Lord, of the Blessed Virgin Mary or of Saints. The Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed.

4 Proper Solemnities, namely: a) The Solemnity of the principal Patron of the place, city or state. b) The Solemnity of the dedication and of the anniversary of the dedication of one's own church. c) The Solemnity of the Title of one's own church. d) principal Patron of an Order or Congregation.

The Rite to be Used

36 for a marriage between a Catholic and a baptized non-Catholic

- **within mass with the consent of the local Ordinary**
- **for eucharistic communion, follow the**
- **for marriage between a Catholic and a catechumen or non-Christian, use the special rite**

Directory for the Application of Principles and Norms on Ecumenism

- Communion may be shared with non-Catholic Christians if the local bishop judges the following: “that the person be unable to have recourse for the sacrament desired to a minister of his or her own church or ecclesial community, ask for the sacrament of his or her own initiative, manifest Catholic faith in this sacrament and be properly disposed”
- the “particular situation” of weddings (159-160)

I.

Marriage within Mass

Introductory Rites

(2 forms)

45 Priest greets couple kindly at door

46 procession: servers, priest, couple accompanied at least by parents and 2 witnesses during the entrance chant

47 priest bows to and kisses the altar and goes to the chair

48 priest and servers go to the place for the couple or his chair

49 the couple arrive and the priest greets them kindly

50 during the entrance chant, the altar, bows to and kisses it, goes to his chair

51 sign of the cross, greeting

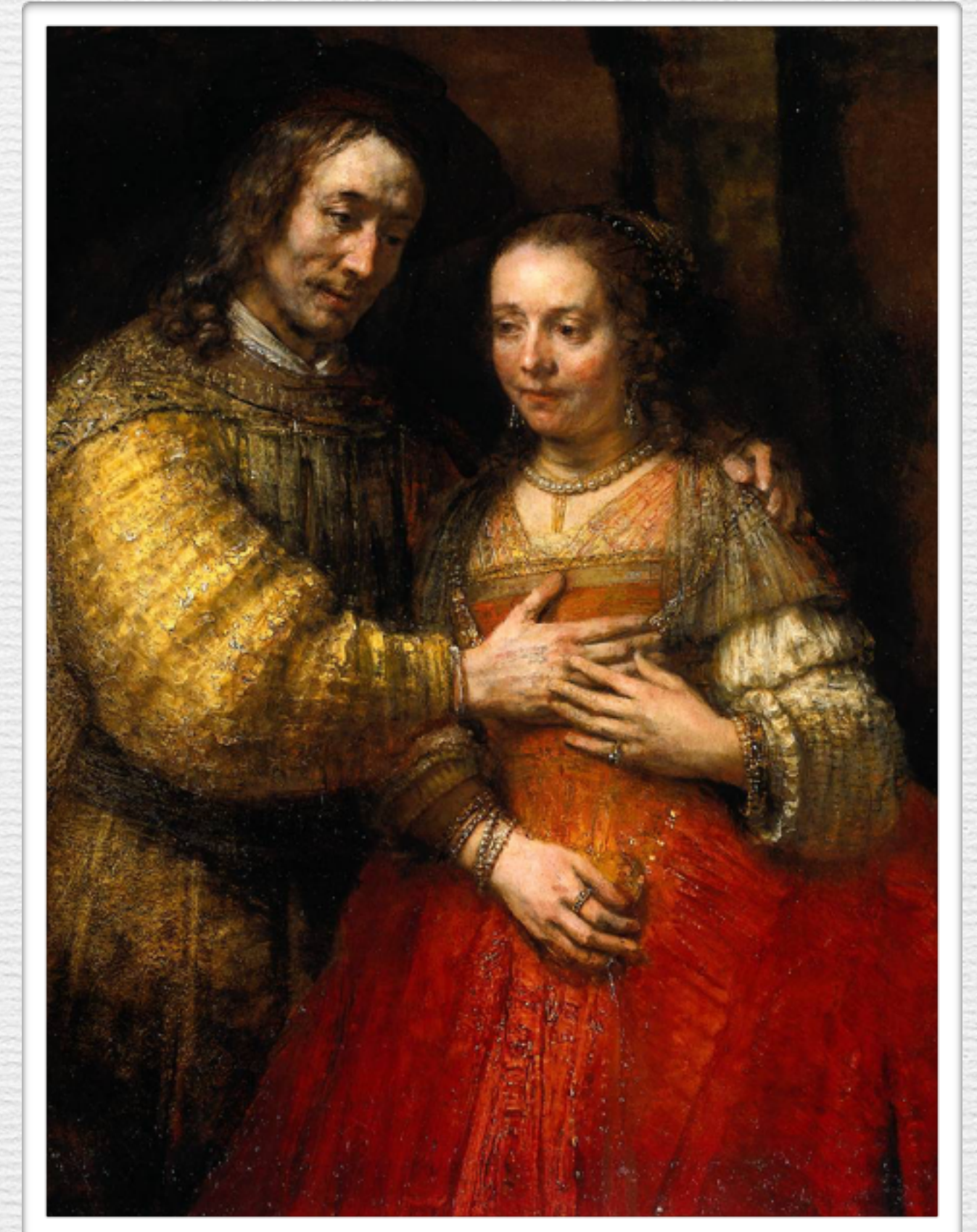
52-53 priest greets the couple and those present

- the penitential rite is omitted
- the Gloria is said or sung (RM)
- Proper collect
 - RM: prayers within sets may be exchanged

Liturgy of the Word

55 There may be three readings

- The first is from the Old Testament
 - except during Easter when Revelation is used
- At least one reading must explicitly speak of marriage



56 When ritual mass is not said, one reading from wedding lectionary may be used

- except on 1-4 of table of days
- [“A reading from the Letter of the Blessed Apostle Paul to the Ephesians”]

57 the homily expounds on dignity of conjugal love, the grace of the Sacrament, and the responsibilities of married people

The Celebration of Marriage

58 If two or more marriages are taking place, obtain consent individually, but other parts including nuptial blessing may go to the plural

59 Introduction in these or similar words, all stand

60 Questions before the consent

61 Priest's introduction

62 Bride and groom join right hands and give consent

63 Priest may obtain the consent through questions

64 Reception of the consent

65 “Let us bless the Lord.” / “Thanks be to God.” -
or some other acclamation

66 The priest blesses the rings, sprinkling optional

67

67b

68 A hymn or canticle of praise may be sung by all

[unity candle?]

69 The universal prayer (prayer of the faithful) as usual

the creed when called for

70 Bride and Groom may bring bread and wine to the altar



You created man in **love** to share your divine life.

We see his high destiny in the **love** of husband and wife,

Which bears the imprint of your own divine **love**.

Love is man's origin,

Love is his constant calling,

Love is his fulfillment in heaven.

The **love** of man and woman is made holy in the sacrament of marriage,

and becomes the mirror of your everlasting **love**.

Through Christ . . .

*Qui hominem
relinqueres tui
aeternae tuae*

Cuius connubii sancti mysterium / dum tuae

**For you willed that the human race,
created by the gift of your
should be raised to such high dignity
that in the**

you might bestow a true image of your

For those you created out of

you call to the law of

ceasing

and grant them a share in your eternal

charity

And so, the Sacrament of holy Matrimony,

as the abiding sign of your own

consecrates the

through Christ our Lord.

Commemoration

Eucharistic Prayer I:

Lord, we pray:

graciously accept this oblation of
our service,

the offering of your servants
and

and of your whole family,

who entreat your majesty on their
behalf;

and as you have brought them to
their wedding day,

so

the children they desire and

bring them in your kindness

to the length of days for which
they hope.

(

Eucharistic Prayer II:

**Be mindful also, Lord, of
whom you have brought to their wedding day,
so that by your grace
they may abide in mutual love and in peace.**

Eucharistic Prayer III:

**Strengthen, we pray, in the grace
of Marriage**

**whom you have brought happily to
their wedding day,**

that under your protection

**they may always be faithful in
their lives**

**to the covenant they have sealed in
your presence.**

**In your compassion, O merciful
Father,**

**gather to yourself all your children
scattered throughout the earth.**

**To our departed brothers and
sisters**

71b

72 After the Our Father, omitting “Deliver us”, the priest faces the bride and groom and invokes the blessing. This is never omitted. He may omit the words about having children if the couple are advanced in years.

73 Couple approach the altar or remain at their place and kneel. The priest invites all to pray in silence

74 The nuptial blessing

From Nuptial Blessing A

Send down on them the
grace of the Holy Spirit
and pour your love into
their hearts,
that they may remain
faithful in the Marriage
covenant.



From Nuptial Blessing B

Graciously stretch out
your right hand
over these your servants
(N.
and pour into their
hearts the power of the
Holy Spirit.



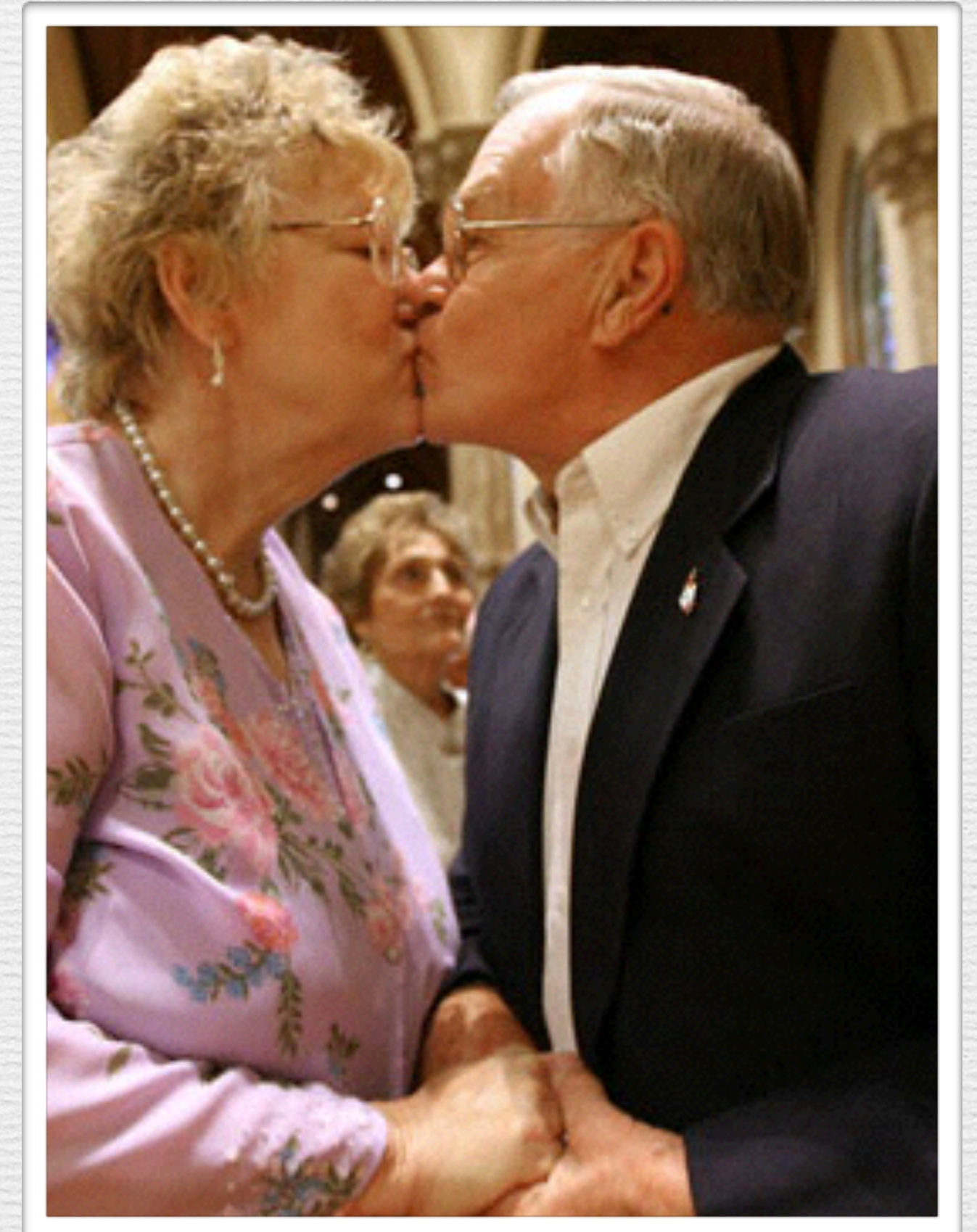
from Nuptial Blessing C:

May your abundant blessing,
Lord,
come down upon this bride,
and upon
life,
and may the power of your Holy
Spirit

set their hearts aflame from on
high,
so that, living out together the
gift of Matrimony,
they may
children
and

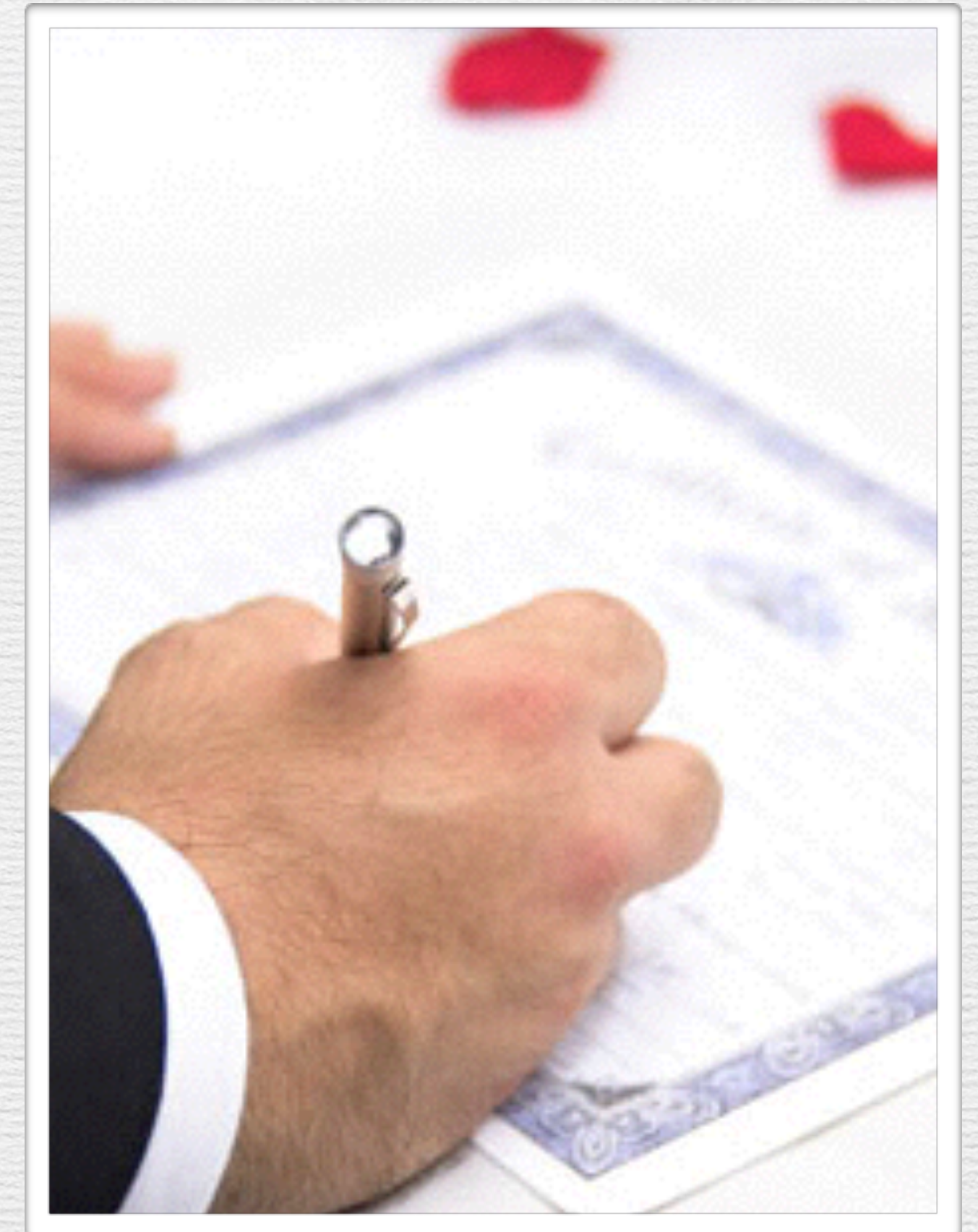
75 “Lord Jesus Christ” is omitted, and the priest says, “The peace of the Lord...” then all “offer one another a sign that expresses peace and charity.”

76 Communion under both kinds is permitted for the couple, parents, witnesses and relatives



The Conclusion of the Celebration

- **77 Solemn blessing**
- **78**
witnesses and the minister sign the **Marriage record**. The signing may take place either in the vesting room or in the presence of the people; however, it is not to be done on the altar.



II. The Order of Celebrating Marriage without

Liturgical Notes

80 alb or surplice and stole, cope or dalmatic optional

85 The entrance chant and kiss of the altar are mentioned in the first form, not in the second

86 other greetings from outside the missal are permitted

90 The number of readings is not specified

92ff Celebration speaks of “minister” instead of “priest”

103 Universal Prayer - intentions should harmonize with but not repeat the nuptial blessing

- **after the petitions, if communion will not be distributed, comes the Lord's Prayer**
- **then the concluding prayer is omitted**

104-105 Nuptial blessing

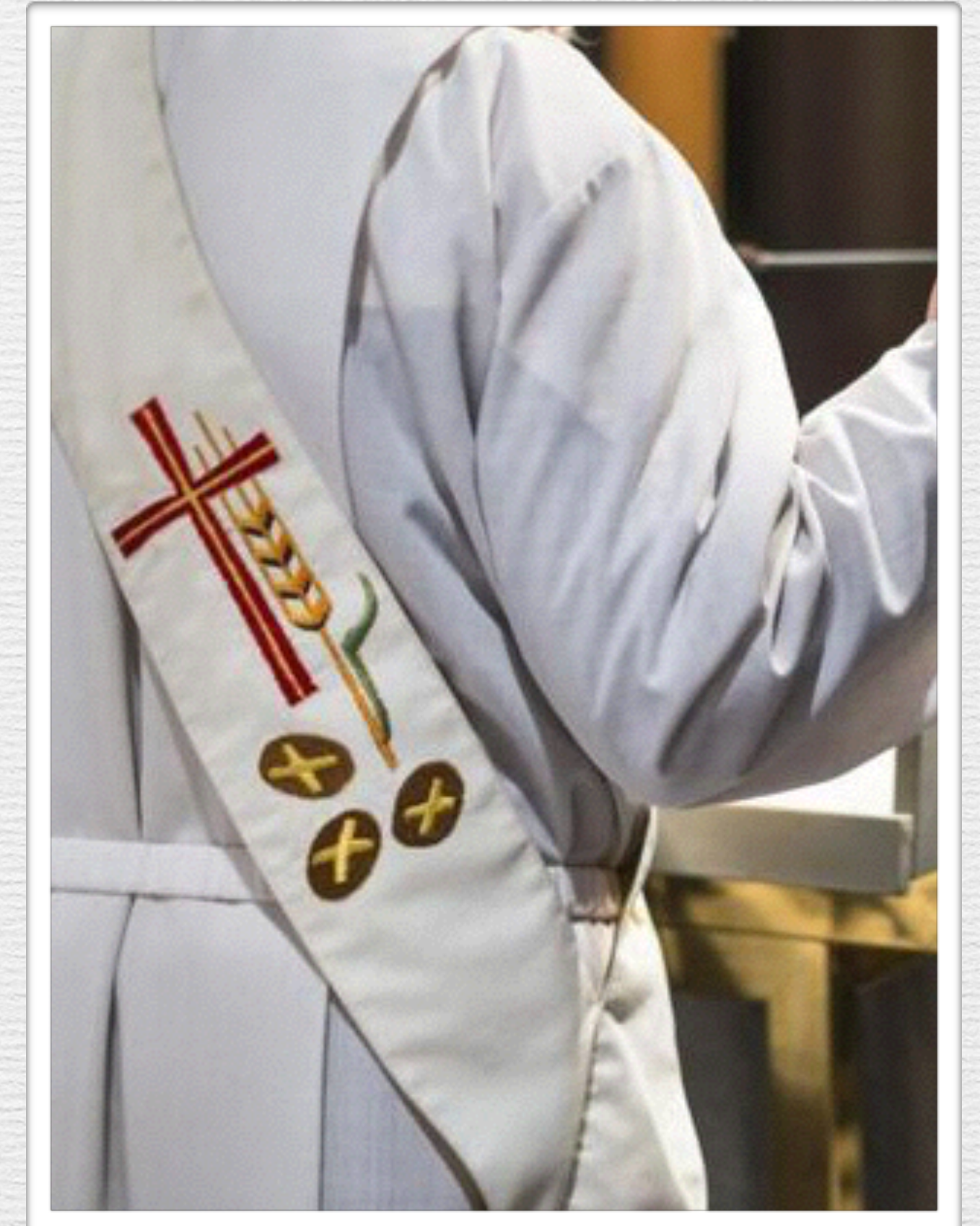
106-107 If no communion, final blessing and optional chant

Marriage without Mass

108 If communion is distributed, after the nuptial blessing the minister goes to the place of reservation, takes the ciborium, places it on the altar and genuflects

109-110 introduction and Lord's Prayer, sign of peace optional

111 minister genuflects, lifts host for "Behold the Lamb of God" / "Lord I am not worthy"



Marriage without Mass

112 distribution of communion [communion of minister not indicated]

113-114 optional communion chant, silence or canticle of praise

115-116 prayer after communion, blessing



III. The Order of Celebrating
Marriage
Assisting Layperson

Liturgical Notes

121 when all have gathered, the layperson and servers receive the couple and greet them kindly

- [“assisting layperson” instead of “minister”]

122 opening dialogue

125 choose 1 or 2 readings, give exhortation or homily prepared by a bishop or priest

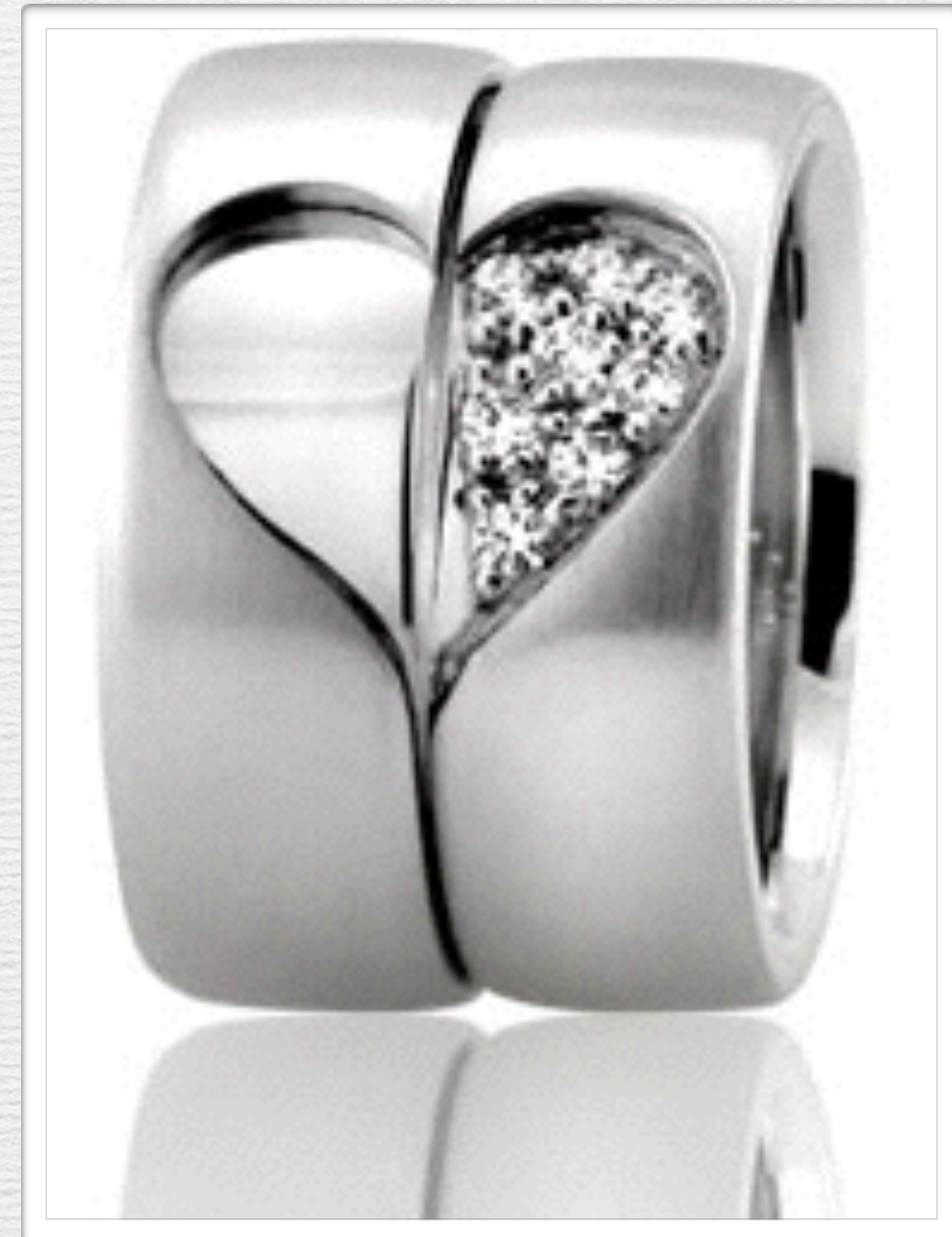
127 Dearly beloved
you have come together here before me,
the delegate of our Bishop to assist at this
celebration, and in the presence of the community
of the Church,
so that your intention to commit yourselves to
Marriage may be strengthened by the Lord with a
sacred seal....

Assisting Layperson

134 rings blessed, no sign of the cross

140 nuptial blessing with acclamations, hands joined

150 final prayer, the layperson signs himself or herself with cross



IV: The Order of Celebrating
Marriage Between a Catholic and
a Catechumen or a Non-Christian

152 also between two catechumens, or a catechumen with a non-Christian

- takes place in church or another suitable place
- if a layperson is the assisting minister, the nuptial blessing changes and appropriate attire is worn

153 vested, the minister goes to the door to receive the couple and greets them kindly

- presider, servers, couple, witnesses and all present go to their seats

154 introduction includes this: “Believers look to God as the wellspring of love and faithfulness because God is love.”

- [no sign of the cross, no dialogue, no opening prayer]

155 this introductory rite may be omitted

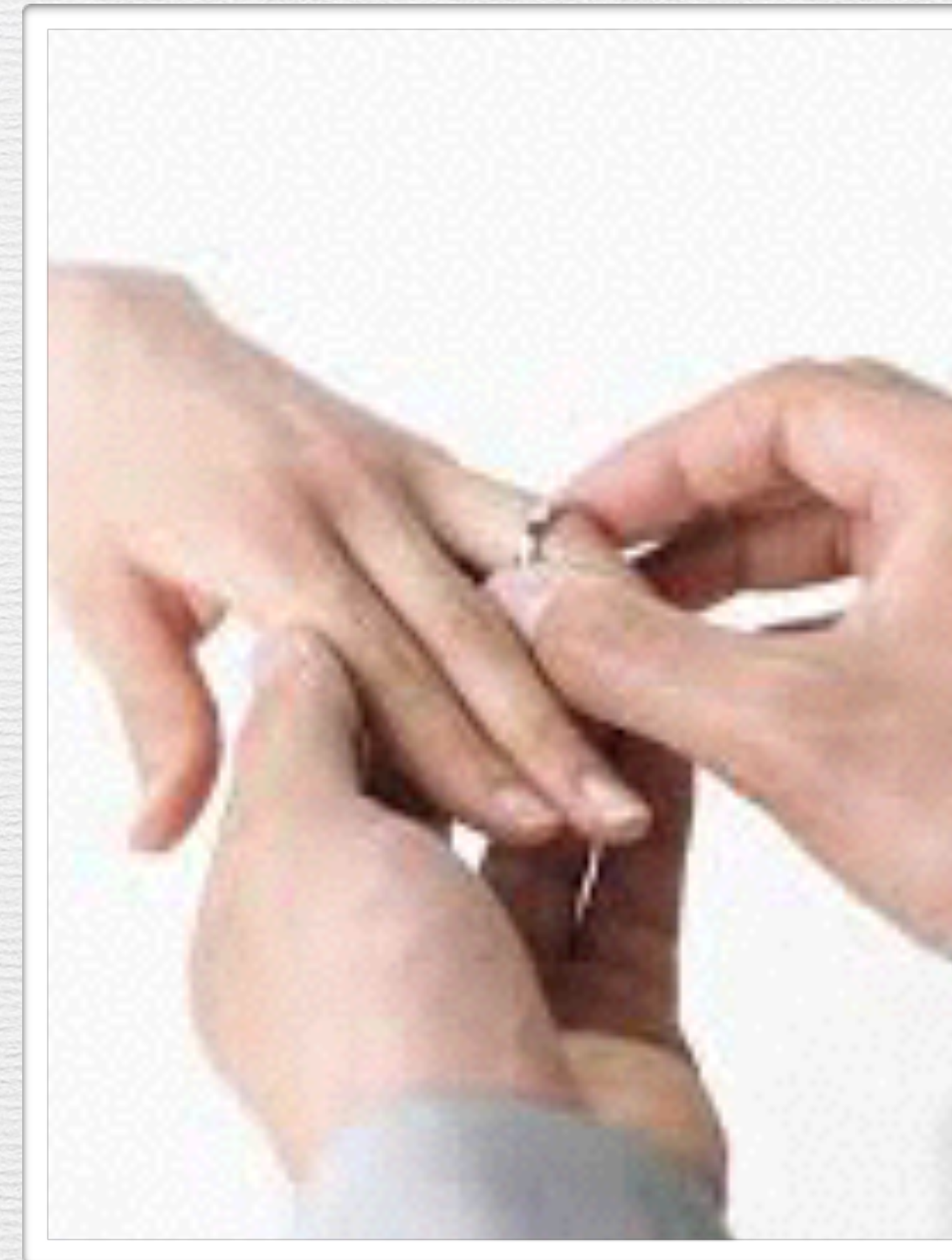
156 choose 1 or 2 readings

157 homily or exhortation

165 blessing and giving
of rings may be done as
usual

Or omitted

Or the Catholic party
alone may recite the text



170 introduction to the Lord's Prayer: "Let those who are Christian call upon him in the prayer of God's family," "and all the Christians continue: 'Our Father...'"

171 usually the Nuptial blessing, but it may be omitted and replaced with
174

- bride and groom may kneel

175-177 blessing, optional song

V. Various Texts

Appendices

I. Biblical readings [some have asterisks]

II. Collects [first not to be used with first nuptial blessing]

III. Blessing of rings

IV. Prayers over the Offerings

V. Prefaces

VI. Commemoration of Couple in Eucharistic Prayer

VII. Nuptial Blessings [including circumstances when one is not receiving communion or couple too old to bear children]

VIII. Prayers after Communion

IX. Blessings at the End of the Celebration

Appendix I: Examples of Universal Prayer

Order of Blessing an Engaged Couple

253 A ceremony of betrothal of Christians is a special ceremony for two families; this celebration may be adapted

254 A parent may preside, if priest or deacon is present he presides, but do not confuse with wedding

255 Presider may be parent, priest, deacon, layperson

256 May also be used when couples begin catechesis for marriage, but not combined with mass

257 Sign of the cross, greeting (similar words)

258 Layperson sign of the cross and dialogue

259 Minister addresses people

260-262 Reading

263 Responsorial psalm

264 Address to shed light on the reading

265 Common prayer

266 Engaged couple may give a sign - sign a document, exchange rings or gifts

267 Blessing of the gifts

268-269 Blessing

270-271 Final prayer, optional chant

Order of Blessing
Couple within Mass on the
Anniversary of Marriage

272 Appropriate mass from VNO 11 - On the Anniversaries of Marriage

273 Readings from lectionary For the Celebration of Marriage (179-222) or Mass for Giving Thanks to God (LM 943-947)

274 Homily on the mystery and the grace of Christian married life

275 Priest invites the couple to pray

276 The couple renew their commitment privately

277

“Blessed are you, Lord,
for by your goodness I
took
husband.”

Then both
you, Lord

for in the good and the
bad times of our life

you have stood lovingly
by our side.

Help us, we pray,
to remain faithful in our
love for one another,
so that we may be true
witnesses

to the covenant you have
made with humankind

Priest
your life.

May he be your comfort in adversity
and your support in prosperity.

May he fill your home with his blessings.

Through Christ our Lord

R

”

278 Blessing of wedding rings if appropriate, the rings may be honored with incense

279 Or new rings may be exchanged

280-281 Universal Prayer

282 Husband and wife may bring bread, wine and water to the altar

283 After Lord's Prayer, "Deliver us" is replaced with another prayer

284 All offer a sign of peace

285 Couple may receive communion under both kinds

286 Blessing

Requested US Adaptations

- Litany of the saints
- Hispanic customs in English
- Optional moving the nuptial blessing end of mass

