

### Leading the Our Marriage Prayer at the end of mass

*This first page is addressed to the speaker and his bride – Do not read this during mass!*

*After communion, the celebrant will announce that the Knights of Columbus has a special message about marriage. If possible, have your bride come up with you so you can hold her hands as an example to the congregation and also so you can kiss her after the prayer. It is not necessary, but if your bride would be willing to read any of the paragraphs after the prayer, it could make a nice impression on the women in the congregation.*

Dear Brother Knight and his bride:

I want to thank you for being willing to step forward and sharing the Our Marriage Prayer with the congregation. For some of you, speaking in public is easy. For me, it is not. I am scared every time I need to do so and I ask God for courage every single time.

The Our Marriage Prayer was given to Mary and I as a wedding gift and I have been blessed to have the opportunity to pray it every night with my bride for the last 27 years. We have received many blessings along the way.

Just as in Matthew 25:14-30 where the servants received their talents from the king, we wish to be like the good servant where we somehow return the blessings back to God a hundred fold by sharing the Our Marriage Prayer with others.

As you share with the congregation, when you get to the part where you are leading the prayer, glance up and look at the **beautiful** picture before you.

See the couples of all ages, newlyweds to those celebrating 60 years of marriage, the husbands all holding their brides hands and them both reminding themselves to love and forgive each other and to place their marriage in God's hands. See the kids watching their parents and know that the Holy Spirit is planting memories in their hearts.

You are very likely having an impact on the marriage of every couple present and the marriages of their children for generations to come.

If you have any fears of speaking in front of church, start by praying the Our Marriage Prayer every night with your bride now. It will not eliminate the fear, but it will help.

Perhaps looking forward to God thanking us in person one day will help the most.

Thank you again for participating in this beautiful event!

Joseph and Mary Uchytel

**<Confirm microphone is positioned properly and read confidently>**

The Knights of Columbus believes the foundation of the family is the marriage bond between the mother, father, and God. If you have a strong marriage, it will produce a strong family that can endure the challenges they will face throughout their lives. To help keep your marriage strong, the Knights of Columbus would like to share with you the **Our Marriage Prayer**.

Would all the married couples please stand. **<pause a little bit>**

**<show congregation by holding your own bride's hands>**

**<pause a little bit>**

Gentlemen, please take your bride's hands, place them together and wrap your own hands around them.

Ladies and gentlemen, please repeat these words after us. **<pause after each line so the couples can repeat it>**

**Lord, help us to remember when we first met**

**and the strong love that grew between us.**

**To work that Love into practical things**

**so that nothing can divide us.**

**We ask for words both kind and loving**

**and hearts always ready to ask for forgiveness**

**as well as to forgive.**

**Dear Lord, we put our marriage into Your hands.**

**Amen**

Gentlemen, you may kiss your brides. **<KISS YOUR OWN BRIDE!>**

You will find the Our Marriage Prayer in your bulletin. Please take it home and pray it together every night during your family prayers. Pray it in front of your children so that they will know that you love and forgive each other and that you place your marriage into God's hands. As they begin to memorize it, hopefully they will one day incorporate it into their own marriages as well and pass it down through the generations.

Heavenly Father, please bless every couple that is here today. Please bless their parents, children and grandchildren and may **You** grant them all wonderful marriages that **You** will hold safely in **Your** hands.

Amen