

## PREFACE 1

## THE DIGNITY OF THE MARRIAGE COVENANT

**V. The Lord be with you.**

R. And with your spirit.

**V. Lift up your hearts.**

R. We lift them up to the Lord.

**V. Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.**

R. It is right and just.

**It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation,  
always and everywhere to give you thanks,  
Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God.**

**For you have forged the covenant of marriage  
as a sweet yoke of harmony  
and an unbreakable bond of peace,  
so that the chaste and fruitful love of holy Matrimony  
may serve to increase the children you adopt as your  
own.**

**By your providence and grace, O Lord,  
you accomplish the wonder of this twofold design:  
that, while the birth of children brings beauty to the  
world,  
their rebirth in Baptism gives increase to the Church,  
through Christ our Lord.**

**Through him, with the Angels and all the Saints,  
we sing the hymn of your praise,  
as without end we acclaim:**

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts . . .

## PREFACE 2

## THE GREAT SACRAMENT OF MATRIMONY

**V. The Lord be with you.**

R. And with your spirit.

**V. Lift up your hearts.**

R. We lift them up to the Lord.

**V. Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.**

R. It is right and just.

**It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation,  
always and everywhere to give you thanks,  
Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God,  
through Christ our Lord.**

**For in him you have made a new covenant with your  
people,  
so that, as you have redeemed man and woman  
by the mystery of Christ's Death and Resurrection,  
so in Christ you might make them partakers of divine  
nature  
and joint heirs with him of heavenly glory.**

**In the union of husband and wife  
you give a sign of Christ's loving gift of grace,  
so that the Sacrament we celebrate  
might draw us back more deeply  
into the wondrous design of your love.**

**And so, with the Angels and all the Saints,  
we praise you and without end we acclaim:**

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts . . .

PREFACE 3  
MATRIMONY AS A SIGN OF DIVINE LOVE

**V. The Lord be with you.**

R. And with your spirit.

**V. Lift up your hearts.**

R. We lift them up to the Lord.

**V. Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.**

R. It is right and just.

**It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation,  
always and everywhere to give you thanks,  
Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God.**

**For you willed that the human race,  
created by the gift of your goodness,  
should be raised to such high dignity  
that in the union of husband and wife  
you might bestow a true image of your love.**

**For those you created out of charity  
you call to the law of charity without ceasing  
and grant them a share in your eternal charity.**

**And so, the Sacrament of holy Matrimony,  
as the abiding sign of your own love,  
consecrates the love of man and woman,  
through Christ our Lord.**

**Through him, with the Angels and all the Saints,  
we sing the hymn of your praise,  
as without end we acclaim:**

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts . . .

*A commemoration of the husband and wife in the Eucharistic Prayers is made according to the following formulas:*

*a) In Eucharistic Prayer I, the proper form of the **Hanc igitur (Therefore, Lord, we pray)** is said. The words in parentheses may be omitted if the occasion so suggests:*

**Therefore, Lord, we pray:  
graciously accept this oblation of our service,  
the offering of your servants N. and N.  
and of your whole family,  
who entreat your majesty on their behalf;  
and as you have brought them to their wedding day,  
so (gladden them with your gift of the children they  
desire and)  
bring them in your kindness  
to the length of days for which they hope.  
(Through Christ our Lord. Amen.)**

*b) In Eucharist Prayer II, after the words **and all the clergy**, the following is added:*

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

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*(cont.)*

*c) In Eucharistic Prayer III, after the words **whom you have summoned before you**, the following is added:*

**Strengthen, we pray, in the grace of Marriage N. and N.,  
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 world.**