

Wedding Vows
Novio and Novia Lastname
Fecha, 2007
Lugar, Costa Rica

We are gathered here today in the beautiful serene tropics of Costa Rica to unite **NOVIO** and **NOVIA** in marriage. This celebration is but an outward sign of an inward union of heart, mind and spirit. This is a celebration of the joining of two souls already attuned to each other. When such a true bond already exists between a man and a woman, it is fitting that an outer acknowledgment be made. We are here to bear witness to the entry into the closer relationship of husband and wife of these beloved friends who are about to become one in spirit.

NOVIO and **NOVIA** it is this day you take a giant step of courage and commitment to love, understand and grow. When a commitment this strong is made by two people, the force of that commitment, of that love, of that courage, reaches out and touches all of us around you, so that our lives are changed and we share a part of your love. Like a stone dropped in a still pond, the ripples of the love from this celebration extend and change the world we live in

You are now taking into your care and keeping the happiness of the person in the entire world whom you love best. You are adding to your life not only the affection of each other, but also the companionship and blessing of a deep trust as well. You are once again agreeing to share strength, responsibilities and to share love.

In our long history we have never discovered a better way of life than sharing it together in love in a lasting and responsible way. This arrangement seems to meet our deepest human needs for love and companionship, for someone with whom we can share in an intimate and trusting way all the hopes and joys and dreams of life.

But real love, **NOVIO** and **NOVIA**, is something beyond the warmth and glow, or the excitement and romance of being deeply in love. It is caring as much about the welfare and happiness of your life partner as well as your own. Real love is not total absorption into each other; it is looking outward in the same direction together. Love makes burdens lighter because you divide them. It makes joys more intense because you share them. It makes you stronger, so you can be involved with life in ways you dare not risk alone.

Happiness in marriage is not something that just happens. A good marriage must be created. In the Art of Marriage: The little things are the big things. It is never being too old to hold hands. It is remembering to say "I love you" at least once a day. It is never going to sleep angry. It is at no time taking the other for granted. The courtship should not end with the honeymoon, it should continue through all the years. It is having a mutual sense of values and common objectives. It is standing together facing the world. It is forming a circle of love that gathers in the whole family. It is doing things for each other, not in the attitude of duty or sacrifice, but in the spirit of joy. It is speaking words of appreciation and demonstrating gratitude in thoughtful ways. It is not expecting the husband to wear a halo or the wife to have wings of an angel. It is not looking for perfection in each other. It is cultivating

flexibility, patience, understanding and a sense of humor. It is having the capacity to forgive and forget. It is giving each other an atmosphere in which each can grow. It is finding room for the things of the spirit. It is a common search for the good and the beautiful. It is establishing a relationship in which the independence is equal, dependence is mutual, and the obligation is reciprocal. It is not only marrying the right partner, it is being the right partner."

NOVIO and **NOVIA** please face one another and take each other's hands.

NOVIO, do you take this woman to be your wedded wife? Do you promise before God and this company that you will love her, honor her, comfort and keep her in sickness and in health and that forsaking all others for her alone will you perform unto her all of the duties and respect that a husband graciously bestows upon his wife?

NOVIO: I do.

NOVIA, do you take this man to be your wedded husband? Do you promise before God and this company that you will love him, honor him, comfort and keep him in sickness and in health and that forsaking all others for him alone will you perform unto him all of the duties and respect that a wife graciously bestows upon her husband?

NOVIA: I do.

NOVIO, please repeat after me as you enter in the covenant of Marriage:

I, **NOVIO** take you **NOVIA** to be my wife/ I will cherish our friendship/ and love you today, tomorrow and forever/ I will trust you and honor you/ I will love you faithfully/ through the best and the worst/ what may come I will always be there/ I come into this union/letting go of my deepest fears/ and embracing all my faith/ and if I doubt/ I will remember this time/ and why we came together this day/ As I have given you my hands to hold/ so I give you my life to keep/ so help me God.

NOVIA, please repeat after me as you enter in the covenant of Marriage:

I, **NOVIA** take you **NOVIO** to be my husband/ I will cherish our friendship/ and love you today, tomorrow and forever/ I will trust you and honor you/ I will love you faithfully/ through the best and the worst/ what may come I will always be there/ I come into this union/letting go of my deepest fears/ and embracing all my faith/ and if I doubt/ I will remember this time/ and why we came together this day/. As I have given you my hands to hold/ so I give you my life to keep/ so help me God.

May I have the rings of Love, please?

NOVIO and **NOVIA**, as these Beautiful rings are designed without an ending, they speak of eternity. May the incorruptible substance of these rings represent a love glowing with increasing luster through the years. May God bless these which you give to each other as the sign of your eternal love, trust, and faithfulness.

NOVIO: place this ring on your wife and please repeat after me:

NOVIA my love: With this ring, I thee wed, and say to the world "This is my wife, whom I cherish above all others. May our love continue to be everlasting and eternal".

NOVIA, place this ring on your Husband and please repeat after me:

NOVIO my love: With this ring, I thee wed, and say to the world "This is my husband, whom I cherish above all others. May our love continue to be everlasting and eternal".

According to the Costa Rican law please proceed to sign the official documents....

Now that you have joined yourselves in holy matrimony, may you strive always to meet this commitment with the same spirit you now exhibit. We all bear witness to this ceremony you have just performed, and you are now recognized as Husband and Wife. May God bless this union.

NOVIO you may kiss your wife.