

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

We welcome you to this wedding in the name of God the Father who created us, in the name of God the Son who redeemed us with his blood and in the name of God the Holy Spirit who through his word creates faith to receive all the gifts of our creation and redemption, Amen.

Marriage is a commitment to life of the best that two people can find and bring out in each other. It offers opportunities for sharing and growth that no other human relationship can equal, a joining that is promised for a lifetime.

Within the circle of its love, marriage encompasses all of life's most important relationships. A wife and a husband are each other's best friends, confidant, lover, teacher, listener, and critic. Marriage understands and forgives the mistakes life is unable to avoid. It encourages and nurtures new life, new experiences, and new ways of expressing love through the seasons of life.

When two people pledge to love and care for each in marriage they create a spirit unique to themselves, which binds them closer than any spoken or written words. Marriage is a promise, a potential made in the hearts of two people who love, which takes a lifetime to fulfill.

We, who are witnessing your marriage, hope that despite the stresses inevitable in any life, your love and respect for each other, your trust and understanding of each other will increase your contentment and heighten your joy in living.

Marriage is not a legal document. No pastor or priest or justice of the peace can create a marriage because a marriage, truly, is nothing except the promises made and kept by two individuals.

Today, **NOVIO** and **NOVIA** stand before us to publicly declare their love and to share with us their marriage promises.

MANDATORY COSTA RICA FAMILY CODES ARTICLES

As a Costa Rican and a resident of this area, I appreciate that you have chosen this small piece of land from all the countries of the world as the place in which to celebrate this incredibly meaningful act.

Matrimony is so important that Costa Rican Law recognizes this by giving special protection to this sacred institution. Thus the supreme law in our Political Constitution contains the higher rules which govern our society. For example, article 11 reads.

- Marriage is the essence of family, and its objective is life together, cooperation, and mutual assistance.

And article 34 states...

- The spouses share responsibility and govern the family. Together they must regulate the matters of the home, provide an education for their children, and prepare their future. They should also respect each other, observe fidelity and help one another. They should live in the same home, unless reasons of convenience or health of either or their children, justify different residences.

With that said:

NOVIO and **NOVIA** please face each other and take each other hands.

NOVIO, will you have this woman to be love lawful wedded wife, to live together after God's ordinance in the holy estate of matrimony? Will you love her, comfort her, honor and keep her in sickness and in health; and forsaking all others, keep thee only unto her, so long as you both shall live?

NOVIO, Please repeat after me:

I, **NOVIO**, take you, **NOVIA**, to be my wedded wife, to have and to hold from this day forward, for better or for worse, for richer or for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, till death do us part, according to God's holy ordinance.

NOVIA, will you have this man to be you lawful wedded husband, to live together after God's ordinance in the holy estate of matrimony? Will you love him, comfort him, honor and keep him in sickness and in

health; and forsaking all others, keep thee only unto him, so long as you both shall live?

NOVIA, Please repeat after me:

I, **NOVIA**, take you, **NOVIO**, to be my wedded husband, to have and to hold from this day forward, for better or for worse, for richer or for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, till death do us part, according to God's holy ordinance.

And now the rings:

Ring Vows

NOVIO, please place the ring in **NOVIA**'s finger and repeat after me:

NOVIA, receive this ring / as a symbol / of my love and commitment / in the name of the Father, / the Son / and the Holy Spirit.

NOVIA, please place the ring in **NOVIO**'s finger and repeat after me:

NOVIO, receive this ring / as a symbol / of my love and commitment / in the name of the Father, / the Son / and the Holy Spirit.

And now, I would like to introduce a reading from the book of Ruth:

And Ruth Said: "Don't entreat me to leave you, and to return from following after you, for where you go, I will go; and where you lodge, I will lodge; your people shall be my people, and your God my God; where you die, will I die, and there will I be buried. The Lord do so to me, and more also, if even death parts me from you.

NOVIO and **NOVIA**:

Be joyful always, pray at all times, and be thankful in all circumstances. This is what God wants from you in your life in union with Christ Jesus. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you always, Amen.

You have declared before all of us that you will live together in marriage. You have made special promises to each other which have been symbolized by the joining of hands, taking of vows and the giving and receiving of rings.

And according to the Costa Rican law we proceed to sign the official documents...

NOVIO and **NOVIA**: by the authority vested in me, I now pronounce you to be husband and wife. May God bless this union.

NOVIO you may now kiss the bride! Congratulations.

It is now my pleasure to present to you, Mr. and Mrs. **NOVIO** and **NOVIA Lastname!**