The Blessing of a Civil Marriage 2

*The rite begins as prescribed for celebrations of the Holy Eucharist, using the Collect and Lessons appointed in the Marriage service.*

*After the Gospel (and homily), the couple stand before the Celebrant, who addresses them in these or similar words*

*N.* and *N.*, you have come here today to seek the blessing of God and of his Church upon your marriage. I require, therefore, that you promise, with the help of God, to fulfill the obligations which Christian Marriage demands.

*The Celebrant then addresses one member of the couple, then the other, saying*

*N*., you have taken *N.* to be your *wife/husband/spouse*. Do you promise to love *her/him*, comfort *her/him*, honor and keep *her/him*, in sickness and in health, and, forsaking all others, to be faithful to *her/him* as long as you both shall live?

 *Answer* I do.

*The Celebrant then addresses the congregation, saying*

Will you who have witnessed these promises do all in your power to uphold these two persons in their marriage?

 *People* We will.

*If rings are to be blessed, the members of the couple extend their hands toward the Priest [or Bishop], who says*

Bless, O Lord, these rings to be signs of the vows by which *N.* and *N.* have bound themselves to each other; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen*.

*The Celebrant joins the right hands of the couple and says*

Those whom God has joined together let no one put asunder.

 *People* Amen.

*The service continues with The Prayers on page xxx.*