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Prayer of the Faithful

The marriage ceremony centers around you as bride and groom. But even at this time you cannot become self centered and forget the needs of others in the world. As with the prayer of the couple, you may compose your own prayer of the faithful (this is ideal) or use one of the three provided here.

Priest: (In these or similar words)

Now that we have heard God's word in the Bible and experienced the Lord's presence in this exchange of vows, let us present these prayerful petitions for people in the world today.

(The following intentions could be recited by the couple, a parent, a relative or friend. The response of the congregation will vary from place to place and should be indicated to the people present.)

1. For our Holy Father on earth, the Pope, all the bishops and the clergy everywhere that they may lead us to deeper faith in God and a stronger love for others, let us pray to the Lord.
2. For our president and all leaders of government that they may be effective in achieving peace and eliminating poverty, let us pray to the Lord.
3. For married persons that they may continue to give, be able to forgive, and find happiness deepen with the passing of each day, let us pray to the Lord.
4. For _____ and _____, now beginning their life together, that they may have divine assistance at every moment, the constant support of friends, the rich blessing of children, a warm love reaching out to others, and good health until a ripe old age, let us pray to the Lord.
5. For those who are sick, lonely, discouraged, or oppressed that they may be strengthened by God's help and aided by their friends, let us pray to the Lord.
6. For those who have died, especially relatives and friends of _____ and _____ and of all present for this wedding, that they may enjoy perfect happiness and total fulfillment in eternal life, let us pray to the Lord.
7. For these personal needs which we mention now in silence (pause), let us pray to the Lord.

Priest:

Oh ever-living and caring God, Jesus taught us to ask, to seek, and to knock. We have just done so, confident that you will now look upon our many needs, consider our trusting faith, and in your great love grant these requests which we present to you through Jesus Christ our Lord.

J-2

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The marriage ceremony centers around you as bride and groom. But even at this time you cannot become self centered and forget the needs of others in the world. As with the prayer of the couple, you may compose your own prayer of the faithful (this is ideal) or use one of the three provided here.

Priest:

We have listened to the word of God. Let us now ask God to listen to us, to bless our words of prayer which we offer for the people of the world.

Reader:

The response is "Lord, hear our prayer."

For leaders of the Church and state:
for heads of institutions,
for heads of homes and households. . . .
that they will lead us and guide us
in the search for God for the good life,
in the search for peace and joy,
in the search for love among us—
let us pray to the Lord.

For all married people:
for those who married yesterday,
for the new couple _____ and _____,
 married today,
for those who will marry tomorrow. . . .
that they may savor
the joy of being together,
warm love, and children,
a long life, wine and friends,
and a new day, every day—
let us pray to the Lord.

For all young single people
who look forward to a vocation
full of life and full of love—
let us pray to the Lord.

For the lonely old and the lonely young,
for the hungry rich
and the hungry poor,
for the sick in body, mind, and spirit,
for the weakness in all of us—
let us pray to the Lord.

For our relatives and friends
who walk with us on life's journey
and for those who have gone before us
to the other side of life.
For the fulfillment of all their
 unfulfilled desires—
let us pray to the Lord.

Priest:

These are our words of prayer today for ourselves and all human beings. Tomorrow there will be others. Lord God, the beloved of humankind, who has first loved us, give our words by your listening the power of your word, so that all things may be accomplished sweetly and gently for the happiness of all, through Christ our Lord.

J-3

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Priest:

God has given us promises in the word of scripture. _____ and _____ have given their promises to each other in their marriage. This hour of promise is also a time of prayer. We turn to God our Father and make our response by saying (singing): “Lord, have mercy.”

For our Church, to keep the promise of salvation,
we pray to the Lord.

For our world, to keep the promise of peace,
we pray to the Lord.

For our country, to keep the promise of freedom,
we pray to the Lord.

For our parish, to keep the promise of discipleship,
we pray to the Lord.

For our hearts, to keep the promise of loving,
we pray to the Lord.

For our hands, to keep the promise of giving,
we pray to the Lord.

For our lives, to keep the promise of growing,
we pray to the Lord.

Priest:

Father, You have chosen us and given us your love, the power of the Holy Spirit in our midst. Hear our prayers today and keep us open. May our faith issue forth in action, our love show itself in deeds, and our hope give us courage. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.