

Friends, I call upon everyone here present to be a fellow witness with me in the marriage of Cliff and Jennifer. We are here to wish them well and every happiness in their future life together.

Marriage is founded on sincerity and understanding, which leads to tolerance, confidence and trust. You believe that those qualities, which have attracted you both to each other, can be best developed during a life spent together. A happy marriage will enable you to establish a home with love and stability where your family and friends will always be welcome and which will be a base from which the influence of your shared and we hope strengthened life can extend. This ceremony also unites your family as one and includes your children Jake and Haley.

Everyday you live, learn how to receive love with as much understanding as you give it. Find things within yourself, that you can share them with each other. Do not fear this love. Have an open heart and a sincere mind. Be sincerely interested in each other's happiness. Be constant and consistent in your love. From this comes security and strength. All that we love deeply becomes a part of us on this day of your marriage. Try to commit yourselves fully and freely to each other.

At this time, we would like to honor those who are no longer here with us in body, but here with us in spirit. The bride carries a red rose which represents her father's spirit and love. Let us please have a moment of silence.

(Few moments of silence, and then "Holes in the Floor of Heaven" will play)

Let us pray:

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come;
thy will be done,
in earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive them that trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever.
Amen.

Before you are joined together in marriage in my presence and in the presence of God and these your family and witnesses, I am bound to remind you of the relationship into which you are about to enter. Marriage as most of us understand it, is the voluntary commitment of a man to a woman and a woman to a man to the exclusion of all others and is entered into with the desire, the hope and the firm intention that it will last for life.

Cliff, please take Jennifer's hands and repeat after me:

I Cliff, take you Jennifer, to be my lawfully wedded wife. To have and to hold from this day forward. To love and to cherish, in sickness and in health, in good times and in bad, for richer or for poorer, until death do us part. This is my solemn vow.

Jennifer, please take Cliff's hands and repeat after me:

I Jennifer, take you Cliff, to be my lawfully wedded husband. To have and to hold from this day forward. To love and to cherish, in sickness and in health, in good times and bad, for richer or for poorer, until death do us part. This is my solemn vow.

May we have the rings please?

A wedding ring is much like a circle that has no beginning and no end. It also shows to the world that you are married. Let they who give and they who wear see these rings daily as a constant reminder of the vow that they make today, and remember that their love will not end.

Cliff, please take your ring, place it on Jennifer's left hand and repeat after me:

Jennifer; with this ring I thee wed. In the name of Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Jennifer, please take your ring, place it on Cliff's left hand and repeat after me:

Cliff, with this ring, I thee wed. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Love is the reason why this day was chosen by you both to begin your lives together and love is the reason why you both will give with all your hearts for the good of each other. Love is the reason that together you will become one; one in hope; one in believing in life; one in sharing the coming years.

Jennifer and Cliff light the candles which represent their individual selves.. From the uniqueness of these separate flames, they join together for a larger and brighter flame which represents the union between Jennifer and Cliff and for their children.. The side candles remain burning to symbolize the continuing importance of the individual integrity within the marriage relationship. The greater height of the center candle depicts their belief that together they can become more than either could alone.

Minister: 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 taking of vows and by the giving and receiving of two rings. By the authority vested in me, as a Minister in the State of Michigan, I now pronounce you to be husband and wife.

You may kiss your bride.

Ladies and gentlemen, it is my pleasure to introduce Mr. and Mrs. Clifford J. Rausch!