

Marc & Jamie, you give us hope, and we are overjoyed to be your witnesses. You are the living embodiment of the truth that practice does indeed make perfect, that persistence does, in fact pay off. We are touched by your happiness; we are moved by the exquisite courage of your love for each other.

Reading From *The Awakened Heart*

“There is a desire within each of us, in the deep center of ourselves that we call our heart. We were born with it, it is never completely satisfied, and it never dies. We are often unaware of it, but it is always awake. It is the human desire for love. Every person in this earth yearns to love, to be loved, to know love. Our true identity, our reason for being, is to be found in this desire...

...love is the ‘why’ of life: why we are functioning at all, what we want to be efficient for... I am convinced it [love] is the fundamental energy of the human spirit, the fuel on which we run, the wellspring of our vitality. And grace, which is the flowing, creative activity of love itself, is what makes all goodness possible.

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Love should come first; it should be the beginning of and the reason for everything.”

On this day, the day of your marriage, you are standing somewhat apart from the rest of us as a symbol of the open expression of your love. This is as it should be, but love is not meant to be the possession of two people alone. Rather it should be the source of a common energy, which gives you the strength to live your lives with joy, happiness and with courage.

It was the great medieval philosopher Thomas Aquinas who, when asked to define true love, said that it was “to will the good of the other person.: If you truly love someone you want their success, their happiness, everything that is best for them. In the history of mankind, great lovers have died for he one they love. You will find that the moments when you have truly lived are the moments when you have done things for another person in the spirit of love.

Before you are joined together in my presence and in the presence of these your family and witnesses, I am bound to remind you of the relationship into which you are about to enter. Marriage 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, hope, and the firm intention that it will last a lifetime. It is not to be entered into lightly, but reverently, respectfully, and with full commitment on behalf of both husband and wife.

Marc, will you take Jamie to be your wife? Will you continue to be loving and caring, to comfort her, protect your love for her, keeping her in sickness and in health, for richer or for poorer, in good times and bad, so long as you both shall live?

Jamie, will you take Marc to be your husband? Will you continue to be loving and caring, to comfort him, protect your love for him, keeping him in sickness and in health, for richer or for poorer, in good times and bad, so long as you both shall live?

Vows:

I, Marc, take you Jamie, to be my wife, my partner in life and my one true love. I will cherish our friendship and love you today, tomorrow, and forever. I will trust you and honor you I will laugh with you and cry with you. I will love you faithfully Through the best and the worst, Through the difficult and the easy. What may come I will always be there. As I have given you my hand to hold So I give you my life to keep

I, Jamie, take you Marc, to be my husband, my partner in life and my one true love. I will cherish our friendship and love you today, tomorrow, and forever I will trust you and honor you I will laugh with you and cry with you. I will love you faithfully Through the best and the worst, Through the difficult and the easy. What may come I will always be there. As I have given you my hand to hold So I give you my life to keep

Ring Vows:

Rings are an ancient symbol, blessed and simple, round they are like the sun, like the eye, like the arms that embrace. Circles they are, for love that is given comes back round again. Marc and Jamie may these rings remind you that your love like the sun illuminates, that your love like the eye must see clearly, and that you love like the arms that embrace is a gift unto this world.

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

I hope you will wear this ring as a reminder that I love you every single day of your life.

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

I hope you will wear this ring as a reminder that I love you every single day of your life.

Jamie and Marc,

As you begin your married life together hold close to you the words that you have spoken to each other today. Life isn't always an easy road as you both know. Rely on your faith in the promises made today to see you through those times. In times of trouble, be strong.. May the gifts of caring and understanding be in your life together, allowing that each may be to the other a source of strength in need, a counselor in times of uncertainty, a comfort in times of sorrow and a companion in your joy.

In our presence today, you have agreed to live together in marriage. You have exchanged promises and have symbolized those promises by the giving and exchanging of rings. It is with these in mind and by the authority given to me by the State of Michigan that I now pronounce you to be husband and wife.

You may seal your promises with a kiss.

Ladies and gentlemen, for the first time, Marc and Jamie Corsoneti!