

SAMPLE GENERAL INTERCESSIONS (Husband and Wife to deliver)

OPTION 1

Celebrant: Let us join in prayer for our special anniversary couples and for all married couples on this World Marriage Day, knowing that God hears us whenever we pray.

Response: *Lord, make us one.*

Husband: That all husbands may have the wisdom and courage to help their wives grow and develop their talents, to become all God wants them to be. We pray to the Lord.

Wife: That all wives among us have the knowledge and the will to encourage their husbands to grow and fulfill all the rich potential that lies within them. We pray to the Lord.

Husband: That we may receive the gifts of patience, imagination and understanding in our relationship with our children in these changing times. We pray to the Lord.

Wife: That all couples may be delivered from the dangers of boredom and routine which can erode the deepest love relationship. We pray to the Lord.

Husband: For the courage to overcome fear and reveal ourselves more openly and honestly through more intimate communication. We pray to the Lord.

Wife: That all our relatives, friends and neighbors may experience the joy of family love. We pray to the Lord.

Husband: That all the families on earth may have the resources they need to lead happy, healthy and prayer-filled lives. We pray to the Lord.

Celebrant: Father, you love us so much that you gave us your only Son. Grant that all who are in the union of marriage may reflect the beauty of your love and share it with others. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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OPTION 2

From the Book of Blessing, The Roman Ritual New York: Catholic Book Publishing Co.

Celebrant: (#100 in Book of Blessing) In the tender plan of His providence, God our almighty Father has given married love, its faithfulness (and its fruitfulness), a special significance in the history of salvation. Let us therefore call upon Him saying: Lord hear our prayer.

Husband: For our Holy Father, our bishops and all priests and religious, that they may be faithful in their call to fidelity and service. Let us pray to the Lord.

Wife: For all married couples, that God give them comfort and strength in each other and joy in their children. Let us pray to the Lord.

Husband: For all those preparing for marriage, that God guide them to a deep appreciation of this Sacrament. Let us pray to the Lord.

Wife: For widows and widowers, that God may comfort them with compassion. Let us pray to the Lord.

Husband: For those who suffer the pain of a troubled marriage, separation or divorce, that God guide them into a future filled with hope. Let us pray to the Lord.

Wife: For a greater respect for the dignity of marriage and family in our nation and society. Let us pray to the Lord.

Husband: For all our deceased family members and those of our parish who have died in faith. Let us pray to the Lord.

Celebrant: (with hands outstretched, the celebrant concludes the intercessions by saying :) (#111 in Book of Blessing) Almighty and eternal God, you have so exalted the unbreakable bond of marriage that it has become the sacramental sign of your Son's union with the Church as His spouse. Look with favor on these married couples, whom you have united in marriage, as they ask for your help and the protection of the Virgin Mary. They pray that in good times and in bad they will grow in love for each other; that they will resolve to be of one heart in the bond of peace.

Lord, in their struggles let them rejoice that you are near to help them; in their needs let them know that you are there to rescue them; in their joys let them see that you are the source and completion of every happiness. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

AMEN