

Affirmation of Wedding Vows

Jim and Colette

Officiant

Lise Chamberland

Humanist Canada

Orders of the Day

Gathering Together

Processional

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Toast and Presentation of the Couple

~ Words of Welcome ~

Dear friends and families, welcome. You were all invited here this evening because you are significant in the lives of "Jim and Colette". By your presence here this evening, you are acknowledging and blessing the affirmation of their wedding vows on the occasion of their 40th wedding anniversary.

My name is Lise Chamberland and I will perform this ceremony of affirmation this evening, as a representative of Humanist Canada. Humanism is an ethical philosophy, a way of life, and a way of thinking, which encourages each of us, in our own way, to commit to a more humane and responsible world. Humanism is a commitment to reason, and compassion. It is in that spirit that we are gathered here today as witnesses to the affirmation of vows by Jim and Colette.

~ Homily ~

Jim and Colette, as you stand here together, with your honorary bridesmaid, Pat and best man Ron by your sides, you are both radiant with your love for each other and with the dreams you share for your future. It is important at this moment to remember the depth and breadth of all the experiences which brought you here. I want to remind you of some practical aspects of loving one another.

You both know love is not always patient and kind or gentle and giving.

Love is frequently what you give one another in spite of your fears or your righteous indignation.

Love sometimes requires you to challenge and to call your lover to grow beyond your lover's current limits.

Love is what you draw upon for courage when you need to apologize, or to risk reaching toward each other when you feel like hiding or running away.

Love is what you must return to again and again, a touchstone of truth, a place within your hearts, a harbor of safety, a joy of creativity.

As you continue to go forward together with courage, be of Good Heart and always have good will toward each other, especially when you are so angry you think nothing will ever be the same. For in truth, it will not be.

Every crisis resolved takes you deeper into your love and understanding of each other and closer in spirit to spirit and universal love.

Each day remember the vows you make today.

Each day, renew your vows with each other by your actions.

Let your lives be a witness of love to the world around you.

I wish for you all the love and joy you deserve.

~ Declaration of Intention ~

I now invite friends and relatives to come forward and say something special about Jim and Colette.

~ Honouring Our Children ~

Words from Jim and Colette regarding the love they have for their children and the many ways their relationship has been enriched by their children.

~ *Lighting of the Unity Candle* ~

I will now invite the grand-children to come light their candle (4)

I will now invite John and Shanda to come light their candle

Jim and Colette please light your candle



In every human being
there resides a light that reaches
out to the world.

And when two souls
that are destined to be together
find each other
their streams of light flow together
and a single brighter light goes forth
from their united being.



Jim and Colette , you have lit a flame that burns within each of you.

The unity candle that you light here today with your children and grand-children symbolizes your intentions to tend to your relationship and the family light is the fire ensuring that the love you share today is never extinguished but grows brighter and stronger with each passing day.

~ Exchange of Vows ~

Jim please repeat after me:

Colette, I take you as my friend,/ my spouse and my partner in life /just as you are/ and however you may change. /Let me blend all that is me/ with all that is you /so that we can bring new growth/ to one another./ I promise in the midst of our loved ones/ that I will love you /and I will be faithful to you /as long as I live. /

Colette please repeat after me:

Jim, I take you as my friend,/ my spouse and my partner in life /just as you are /and however you may change./ Let me blend all that is me/ with all that is you/ so that we can bring new growth/ to one another./ I promise in the midst of our loved ones/ that I will love you/ and I will be faithful to you/ as long as I live./

I now invite Amanda to come read a special poem

~ Apache Wedding Blessing ~

May the sun bring you new energy by day;

May the moon softly restore you by night;

May the rain wash away your worries

And the breezes blow new strength into your being, And all the days of your life may
you walk gently through the world and know its beauty.

Now you will feel no rain, for each of you will be shelter for the other.

Now you will feel no cold, for each of you will be warmth to the other.

Now there will be no more loneliness,

Now you are two persons, but there is only one life before you.

Go now to your dwelling to enter into the days of your life together,

And may your days be good and long upon the earth.

I now invite Peter to come read a special poem

~ *Sharing of the Wine* ~

This cup of wine symbolizes the cup of life. We know that life can be bitter and it can be oh so sweet. As you share the cup, you undertake to share all that the future may bring. All the sweetness that life's cup may hold for you, should be sweeter because you drink it together; whatever drops of bitterness it may contain should be less bitter because you share them.

By sharing this cup of wine, you express symbolically, your willingness to continue sharing together the sweetness of life as well as the bitter. For only when taken together can we ever know and appreciate what is sweet and what is bitter. These two are inseparable just as the two of you, Husband and Wife, have pledged to be faithful and inseparable from each other.

Husband and Wife, as you have chosen to mingle your lives, so do you mingle your love, the two becoming as one as you share the wine from a single cup.

~ Signing of the Affirmation Certificate ~

Ladies and gentlemen, at this time, Jim and Colette along with their 2 witnesses will sign the renewal of vows certificate. While they are so engaged, you are invited to take candid snapshots.

*Presentation &
~ Toast to the Couple ~*

Ladies and Gentlemen. It is my great pleasure to invite you now to raise your glass in honour of Jim and Colette, and toast their continued relationship, long life and good health.

Congratulations to them and to every one of us!