

Script for

Filipino-style Wedding in America

Extract from the seiyaku website page
on weddings in the Philippines

<http://www.seiyaku.com/seiyaku/ph/weddings.html>

Introduction

Celebrant: The ceremonies you are about to witness, the Unity Wedding Coins, the Unity Veil and Unity Cord, the Wedding Rings and Vows, and the Unity Candle Lighting, are uniquely and traditionally a part of the Filipino wedding.

If there is anyone present who feels that this unique and beautiful wedding ceremony should not take place, let him or her now come forward and state their reasons or forevermore hold your peace.

Blessing and exchange of coins

As the coins are offered on a pillow by the Coin Bearer:

Celebrant: Lord, bless these coins. Grant (*Groom*) and (*Bride*) not only material possessions, but abundant spiritual strength, which these coins symbolize, so that they may bless others.

Hold the coins in your hands as a sign that your blessings will no longer be held separately, but together. And may you always show that whatever gift you may have in this life is not ultimately yours but the Lord's.

As the couple exchange the coins:

Bride: (*Groom*), take these coins as a pledge of our commitment to share God's gifts.

Groom: (*Bride*), I accept and treasure your gift. Let us together always share God's blessings.

Celebrant: May God bless these arras as a sign of mutual support and responsibility.

Groom: I give you these coins as a pledge of my dedication to you, the care of our home, and the welfare of our children.



Bride: I accept them and in the same way pledge my dedication to you, the care of our home, and the welfare of our children.

The groom lets the coins fall into the hands of the bride

Groom: *(Bride)*, accept these coins as a pledge of my total dedication and constant concern for your welfare. In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Prayers for Couple's Veil

Music is played as Veil Sponsors place veil over couple's shoulders.

Celebrant: *(Groom)* and *(Bride)*, at Baptism you were clothed with the white garments symbolizing the new life of purity and joy in the Lord, to which the Risen Christ has called you. We clothe you again with this precious garment as you enter into the new phase of your life with God. Wear it unstained and let the joy of the spirit shine forth to you and your children whom the Lord's loving design will bring into your life.

The Veil covers this couple today reminding them and us that Christ covers us in his love. Their new home will be a place where God dwells because this couple chooses to be under the mantel of his love.

Lord, with this veil, which represents this couple's union and mutual surrender to each other, may you always protect *(Groom)* and *(Bride)* from any harm and strengthen them to provide continuous moral and spiritual support to each other and their children. May they remain loyal helpmates to each other as they carry life's burden with joy.

(Groom) and *(Bride)*; *(Male veil sponsor)* and *(Female veil sponsor)* will now place a veil over you. Let this be a symbol of the faithful love you have for each other. Through the passing of the years, let the veil remind you that you belong to each other and to no one else, and that the love you have for each other becomes more beautiful in self-surrender that is total and pure. In Jesus' precious name...

ALL: Amen



Prayers for Couple's Cord

Music is played as Cord Sponsors place cord over couple's shoulders:

Celebrant: This cord symbolizes the love of God which brings your hearts and souls together. May your love grow stronger and bind you closer together through years, from here to eternity. We ask this from the Father, through Christ our Lord.

May this cord remind you to face your life together courageously and to be mutual in support of each other in carrying out your duties and responsibilities as a couple.

The cord, looped and crossed in the middle, is wrapped around the bride and groom to symbolize the Blessed Trinity; The Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, who are one and the same. The cord symbolizes this same union and the infinite nature of marriage.

Lord, with this cord, may the bond of love and friendship uniting *(Groom)* and *(Bride)*, grow stronger over the years. May they remain united to you all their lives knowing, loving and serving in each other and the community.

(Groom) and *(Bride)*; *(Male cord sponsor)* and *(Female cord sponsor)* will lay the cord on you to remind you of your responsibility to hold each other with the tenderness that Christ has for His Church. Keep the bond of your love steadfast so that you can support one another throughout your lives.

Prayers for Wedding Vows and Wedding Ring Ceremony

Music is played as the Ring Bearer comes forward with the rings

Celebrant: *(Groom)*, do you choose *(Bride)* to be your lawfully wedded wife?

Groom: I do.

Celebrant reads the vows, groom repeats:

Celebrant From this day forward, I, *(Groom)*, choose thee, my beloved *(Bride)*,
/Groom: to be my wife, before God who brought us together; to love and cherish you even as Christ loved the Church and gave Himself for it, to lead you and share all of life's experiences with you by following God through them. That through His grace, *(Bride)*, we might grow



together into the likeness of Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord.

I give you this ring; wear it with love and joy.

Groom places engagement and wedding band on the third finger of bride's left hand

I pledge to live with you and laugh with you; to stand by your side, and sleep in your arms; to be a joy to your heart, and food for your soul; to bring out the best in you always, and, for you, to be the most that I can. I promise to laugh with you in good times, to struggle with you in bad; to solace you when you are downhearted; to wipe your tears with my hands; to comfort you with my body; to mirror you with my soul; to share with you all my riches and honours; to play with you as much as I can until we grow old; and, still loving each other sweetly and gladly, our lives shall come to an end.

Celebrant: *(Bride)*, do you choose *(Groom)* to be your lawfully wedded husband?

Bride: I do.

Celebrant reads the vows, bride repeats:

Celebrant From this day forward, and with this ring, I, *(Bride)*, choose thee, my
/Bride: beloved *(Groom)*, to be my husband, before God who brought us together, to love you, cherish you, to submit to you myself unto you in all things, and to follow you through all of life's experiences as you follow God. That through His grace we might grow together into the likeness of Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord.

I give you this ring; wear it with love and joy.

Bride places wedding band on the third finger of groom's left hand

I pledge to live with you and laugh with you; to stand by your side, and sleep in your arms; to be a joy to your heart, and food for your soul; to bring out the best in you always, and, for you, to be the most that I can. I promise to laugh with you in good times, to struggle with you in bad; to solace you when you are downhearted; to wipe your tears with my hands; to comfort you with my body; to mirror you with my soul; to share with you all my riches and honours; to play with you as much as I can until we grow old; and, still loving each other sweetly and gladly, our lives shall come to an end.



Prayers for Candles

Celebrant: *(Groom)* and *(Bride)*; *(Male candle lighter)* and *(female candle lighter)* now light the candles for you. The candles represent the light from God that you will need to guide you throughout the rest of your married life. The candles also express the silent promise that the couple will continue to provide light and warmth to each other for life.

Candle Lighters come forward to light the two outside candles

Celebrant: *(Groom)* and *(Bride)* will now light centre Unity Candle. You will take the flame from the candles which *(Male candle lighter)* and *(female candle lighter)* have lit. You will see that this centre candle is larger than the other two because it is the new family that has been formed today as you repeated your vows and will be a blending of all the love, traditions and experiences you have both shared with your individual families. It is also larger because the middle candle represents Christ, who has brought you both together for this moment and to remind you that He is with you always as a partner in your marriage, to guard and to guide you in all that you do.

(Groom) and *(Bride)*, now light the candles that represent the light from God.

The bride and groom light the centre Unity Candle

Celebrant: Take the flames from the candles which have been lit. This centre candle is a sign that a new family has been formed today blending all the love, traditions and experiences you have both shared with your individual families. It also represents Christ, who has brought you both together for this moment.

As you light the Christ candle let it remind you that Christ is with you always as a partner in your marriage, to guard and guide you in all that you do.

Today, as candles are lit at the altar, remember the light of Christ that burns in all Christian hearts and our responsibility to share that light with the world, especially in this celebration of Eucharist.



Benediction

Celebrant: May we all please bow our heads in prayer.
Dear God in Heaven, may today be all that you need it to be today.
May the peace of God and the freshness of the Holy Spirit rest in your thoughts, rule in your dreams tonight and conquer all your fears. May God manifest Himself today in ways that you have never experienced. May your joys be fulfilled, your dreams be closer and your prayers be answered.
I pray that faith enters a new height for you; I pray that your territory is enlarged and I pray that you step into your destiny within the ministry. I pray for peace, health, happiness and true and undying love for God. I pray this in the Name of God the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Marriage pronouncement

Celebrant: By the power vested in me by Almighty God, and the (*State of -----*), I hereby pronounce you husband and wife.
(Groom), you may now kiss *(Bride)*, your bride.

Celebrant: Ladies and gentlemen, it is my greatest pleasure to present to you, Mr. and Mrs. *(Groom)*.
Please join me in a warm applause.

