

Ginny and Joe Deacon Wedding Vows Renewal

Today, we are gathered to celebrate the sacrament of marriage vows you made 40 years ago. A sacrament is an external sign of an invisible, spiritual reality. In the case of marriage, you are the sacrament. And as you have been living this sacrament, all of us here, your family and extended family, have been participating with you as well.

In the fourth century St. John Chrysostom made a beautiful suggestion. He said that that young husbands should say these words to their wives. I would like to suggest that you to say these words to each other, with each other, as a testimony to your 40 years of marriage:

"I have taken you in my arms, and I love you, and I prefer you to my life itself. For the present life is nothing, and my most ardent dream is to spend it with you in such a way that we may be assured of not being separated in the life reserved for us. I place your love above all things, and nothing would be more bitter or painful to me than to be of a different mind than you." ...except with one or two things☺

We always need to keep in mind what St. John Chrysostom says – you must strive to be together not just for happiness in this life, but in the eternal life that awaits us. When troubles come, lift up your heads and remember your goal: the salvation of your souls and those of your children. A nice home, vacations, evenings on the beach – all those things are beautiful, but they are insignificant compared with whether or not we get to heaven. In my mind you have done and are doing what God wanted you to do.