



*Apart from Dad walking you down the aisle,  
here are some other ways to involve your parents  
in your wedding ceremony.*

**Mother of the Bride or Groom can do a reading:**

Young Man, Take Care of My Little Girl  
I've loved her and raised her since giving her life,  
this dear little girl who will now be your wife.  
I've worried and cared whenever she hurt,  
with words always loving, though sometimes quite curt.  
I may have made blunders but always I've cared,  
and good times and bad times alike we have shared.  
Now it is your turn to take over my task,  
to help her find happiness this I will ask:  
Please keep her from danger and her needs provide,  
and together look upwards; let God be your guide.  
Your joys and your sorrows together you'll share--  
But what she needs most is to know that you Care.

***The Marriage Box***

*Most people get married assuming that marriage is a beautiful box full of all the things they have longed for: companionship, romance, sexual fulfillment, intimacy, friendship, laughter, financial security, joys doubled and sorrows and burdens halved.*

*Most people pick their partner because they think/hope/assume that everything they've found with that person will either continue or get even better.*

*But the truth is that, in the beginning, a marriage or an intimate relationship only gives you a taste of these. The box is loaded with freebees and samples.*

*Soon the box will be empty. Unless both people start putting things into the box.*

*Like Love, kindness, appreciation.*

*There is no Love in marriage. Love is in people.*

*And people either put the love in marriage or keep it out.*

*There is no romance in marriage; people have to add romance and passion to their relationship or else the relationship will turn tepid and stagnant.*

*A couple must learn the art of and form the habits of giving, sharing, loving, being kind, being affectionate, serving, sacrificing, communicating, appreciating, forgiving, accepting, not sweating the small stuff, being consistent, and so on.*

*In other words, keeping the box full. Or else the box will empty.*

*That's what happens when one or both people take out more than they put in, the box soon empties.*

*To keep the Marriage Box full requires that we be willing to work at the relationship (that we have a work ethic; that we give as much as, if not more than, we take; that we try to leave things as good as, if not better than, we found them), and that we bring a healthy version of our "self" to the relationship (and not a depleted self, not an unproductive exploitative self).*

### **Thanking your parents, Parents Rose Ceremony:**

The bride and groom would like to pause at this time to honour their mothers/parents. A mother's/parent's lips are the first to kiss you. A mother/parent teaches you how to walk and talk and read and count. They/she guides you along the right path and smile at your joy and, sometimes, weep at your pain. They/she walks beside you and, when it's time, shows you how to walk towards the one you love. In recognition of the love and sacrifice made by their mothers/parents, the bride and groom wish to give them a rose as a token of love, respect and thanks.

### **Parents Blessing**

\*Will all the parents please stand: Bride and Groom offer their gratitude to you for all the love and care you showed in raising them. The unconditional gifts of love and support that you have continually offered have inspired them to become who they are today, and they thank you for guiding them to this celebration of their love. Without you, this day would not be possible. With this in mind, I ask (Bride's parents), as representatives of your family: Will you take this man into your family and into your hearts? **Parents: We will.** And I ask (Groom's parents), as representatives of your family: Will you take this woman into your family and into your hearts? **Parents: We will.** Thank you and may the blessing of their marriage extend throughout your families forever.

\*Will [Mother of the Bride] and [Father of the Bride] and [Mother of the Groom] and [Father of the Groom] please stand? As our sons and daughters find partners and find homes for the next generation, each family is enriched and enlarged. Do you, who have nurtured these two, bestow your blessing on their union and their family?

### **Parents Vows**

The Celebrant says, "Life without love is like a tree without blossom and fruit.' With that thought in mind, we turn for a moment to the parents who have given so much to these two through the years. (Groom's parents) and (Bride's parents), you have great joy in your hearts today. You've watched your children grow up, so fast it seems. You've watched them mature and develop in spirit, in emotions, in knowledge and in wisdom. You've watched as they have entered into this relationship with each other and seen their love grow. You've cried, laughed & realized many of your dreams come true for your children. You've prayed and provided guidance to help them become the people they are today. You've expressed your love for them in countless ways over the years, and now today do so again by pledging your continued love and support. If you indeed commit yourself to loving and supporting (groom and bride) in their life together as husband and wife, will you now acknowledge so by saying "we will?"

**Parents can hold the wedding rings or be legal witnesses too!**