

How-to Conduct a Blessing Ceremony

A. Preparation

1) A/V Coordinator

- Tech Supplies & set-up Sound System, Projector, Computer, Screen, VCR, TV, CD Player
- Always prepare backup system in case the internet transmission is interrupted. HQ will provide a recording of a past Blessing Ceremony which can be played if transmission is interrupted.
- Prepare background music in case of lull in the program.
- Background music is recommended.

2) Event Setup Coordinator

- Staff sets up the ceremony room with chairs, dinner area with tables and chairs well in advance.
- Banner set up
- After event clean up

3) Ushers

- Ushers to welcome participants and guests, assign seating and escort people to seats.

4) Decoration and Design

- Lay out & design; decorate rooms with flowers, balloons, lights or ribbons.

5) MC

- The program should follow the MCs from main ceremony in Korea. A local MC may be helpful in guiding the local participants.

6) Blessing Ceremony Officiators

- Officiator (usually church pastor) needs to conduct Holy Water and Ring Ceremonies, and physically represent True Parents during their prayer of Blessing.

7) Attendants for officiators

- Two single BC sisters are to attend the officiator couple
- They should wear pink dresses or nice clothes, with pure hearts and spirits to support Holy Water ceremony and Ring ceremony.

8) Blessed couples as attendants (If there are many Blessing participants)

- They should wear nice clothes to perform Holy Water and Holy Wine Ceremonies.

9) Staff to prepare for Holy Water and Ring ceremonies.

- To prepare Holy Water, and organize the rings for each representative couple on a tray for the officiators.

10) Security

11) Beauticians

- Hair styling and make-up to help brides

12) Food and Dining coordinator

- Menu planning, shopping, and cooking with helpers in the kitchen
- Service/Clean up
- Dining room setup: small plates, forks, napkins, trash cans, etc.
- Refreshments
- Prepare glasses for Blessing toast

13) Cake Preparation

- Preparation, delivery, candles & knife

14) Photographer/ Videographer

- Formal pictures of couples/group

B. Other Items to prepare

1) Program, white gloves and white veils

- These items can be given together with the bride's bouquet and the groom's corsage at the registration desk after their registration.

2) Holy Water & bowls

- See attached 'Holy item' document for how to multiply Holy Water. Each District should have a seed of Holy Water which we gave to former BFM representatives before.

3) Decorative tray with for holding rings from representative couples

- Select which couples will receive rings as representative.

4) Flowers

- Prepare 2 beautiful bouquets for True Parents
- Decorative flowers in the ceremony room, table center pieces for dinner tables
- Corsages for grooms (usually one red carnation), local officiators, and Emcee
- Bridal bouquets for brides

5) Banner

- Make sure official title of the Blessing Ceremony (put the title)
- HQ will send suggested banner design several days before Blessing by March 19.
- Prepare a back drop for couples' photos

6) Dressing rooms

- Dressing rooms need to be prepared for brides and grooms respectively
- Mirrors
- Hooks for hanging wedding dresses
- Irons & ironing boards
- Two assist brides
- Allow brides to arrive early (2-3 hours before the ceremony) to prepare themselves.
- Security might be needed to watch personal belongings during the ceremonies.

C. How to Perform the Blessing Ceremony

Once again, the program should basically follow the broadcast from Korea. A local MC may help in guiding local participants.

Possible Program Order

- Invocation
- Entrance of the Attendants
- Entrance of the Officiators
- Holy Water Ceremony
 - Holy Water attendants hold HW containers to assist officiators.
 - By being sprinkled with Holy Water by True Parents, all brides and bridegrooms stand in the position of resurrection and rebirth as beautiful, pure children of Heaven cutting away all sins.
- Affirmation of Vows
 - Brides and Grooms should respond to each vow from TP with a loud "Yes!"

SAMPLE BLESSING VOWS

1. Do you, as a mature man and woman, pledge to realize an eternal true family that will fulfill the ideal of God's creation with absolute fidelity?

2. Do you pledge that, centering on True Parents, you will inherit the tradition of living for the sake of others and pass this proud tradition down to your future generations and to all humankind?
3. Do you pledge that as true parents you will raise your children to live up to the Will of God, to be sexually abstinent until marriage, and to become responsible leaders who will inherit and maintain the tradition of family unity, passing this tradition on to their descendants and all human kind?
4. Do you pledge that you will support all other families and individuals in order to uplift these ideals, beyond race, religion, culture, and nationality, helping to create the Kingdom of God on Earth and in Heaven?

- Invocation of the Blessing by TP
- Ring Ceremony
- Proclamation of the Blessing by TP

SAMPLE PROCLAMATION

“ I hereby declare, on this, the 10th Day of February by the Heavenly Calendar in the 3rd year of Cheon-gi(3.24), before God, True Parents and heaven and earth, that the families who are attending this Blessing Ceremony sponsored by Holy Spirit Association for the Unification of World Christianity and titled: ***Blessing Ceremony in the Era to Open the Gates to the Victory, Liberation and Completion of the True Parents of Heaven, Earth and Humankind***, over which the True Parents are presiding, have now received the Blessing.”

- Presentation of Flowers
 - Representative couples should offer bouquets to local officiators at the same time that bouquets are being offered to True Parents onscreen.
 - After receiving the bouquets, Officiators raise them for a moment (a picture can be taken) and place them on TP’ chairs.
- Congratulatory Song
- Congratulatory Remarks
- Couples offer a Bow to the officiators and Guests
 - Local participating couples should stand and bow to True Parents and local officiators, then their parents/relatives and guests to show their respect and appreciation, following the MC in the main ceremony.
- Celebratory Cheer
 - Again, following the main ceremony, all participants should join in three loud cheers of “Og-Mansei”
- Recession of the Officiators
- Photographs
 - Announce group photos. First Officiators, MC, VIP guests and new couples as an official group photo, then parents and family members join.
- Gather 1st gen couples privately in another room for the Chastening Ceremony and separation period guidance. They can then join the reception afterwards.
- MC invites everyone to the reception with starting time and serving room location.

Blessing Ceremony Checklist

Registration

- Set a participation fee
- Decide staff for registration
- Get pre-registration
- At least one staff member who knows all qualifications for the Blessing
- Report all participants list to BFM-USA
- Office supplies
- Program
- White gloves & white veils
- Brides' bouquets
- Grooms' corsages

Holy Wine Ceremony

- A quiet room for ceremony
- CIG Holy Wine
- Little cups & cup holder
- Bowls for collecting used cups
- Holy Wine Ceremony Officiator
- Educator for the meaning of Holy Wine Ceremony (If the officiator is different)
- One staff for the ceremony who can give Holy Wine to pastor's wife
- One representative couple for all
- One staff person for recording all names of participants to report to BFM-USA

Blessing Ceremony

- A/V coordinator
- Sound system
- Projector
- Computer
- Screen
- DVD Player
- Vow and Proclamation in English
- Background music
- Ceremony room with chairs
- Dinner area with tables and chairs
- Banner
- Usher
- Decorator
- Floor/wall cover
- Lighting, Balloons and ribbons
- Dressing rooms for brides & grooms respectively
- Dressing attendants
- Mirrors
- Hooks for hanging wedding dresses
- Hair dryer and make-up for brides
- Irons & ironing boards
- Some sisters for assisting brides
- MC
- Blessing Ceremony Officiators dressed in nice clothes

- ___ Two attendants for officiators, dressed in nice clothes or pink dresses
- ___ Blessed couples as attendants (If there are many Blessing participants)
- ___ Holy Water in two beautiful containers
- ___ Staff to prepare for Holy Water and Ring Ceremony
- ___ Ring and tray for rings
- ___ Security men
- ___ Food & Dining coordinator and volunteers
- ___ Small plates, forks, napkins, trash cans
- ___ Refreshments
- ___ Toast glasses
- ___ Cake, candles, knife
- ___ Photographer/ Videographer
- ___ Back drop for couple's photo

Indemnity Stick Ceremony

- ___ One leader who can explain the meaning of this ceremony
- ___ Chastening Stick Officiators
- ___ A room with chairs for all participants
- ___ Hoon Dok (Reading) material of True Father's Words
- ___ Sticks
- ___ One leader who can explain about the significance of 40-days separation

BLESSING PROGRAM ORGANIZATION & CHECK LIST

Role Responsibilities	Person Responsible Email: Phone(s):	Progress Notes	Cost Estimate	Actual cost
Advisors				
Program Advisors				
Program Co-Coordinator Oversee dev./gen mgt/pln mtg Budget/solicit/dispense funds Orchestration of event, Submit report, Color copies of program				
Registration/Records Record of participants Check qualification of couples Registration table/ team Assign seating				
Blessing Celebrant/Ceremony Ceremony Advisor Celebrant of ceremony Protocol Advisors				
Holy Wine Officers				
Blessing Ceremony Officers				
Attendants Holy Water				
Chastening Stick Officers				
Dressing Attendants Hair styling, Make-up				
Set up/Prod Coordinator E-Tech: Live stream from Korea/Audio Equipment/ lighting/Video Shoot/ Transportation & food				
Protocol Advisor/Coordinator Holy wine/ cups trays / Gloves, veil, Holy water bowls, trays				
Logistics Coordinator Gen. staff set up/ After event cleanup				

Purchasers/Gofers				
Pick Up/Deliverers/Vehicle Pick up trays of food Deliver cake , etc				
Security men				
Print Program Designer/Printer Print out program folder				
Designer Décorator of room(s) Lay out design Floor/wall cover/Local lighting				
Banner Design banner Hang banner Backdrop for couple's photo Construction for hanging backdrop				
Flowers 2 stage flower arrangements corsages for couples/Flowers for officials, TP' bouquet, flowers in rooms vases				
Food& Dining Coordinator/caterer Set up team to serve/clean up Plan buffet for guests Drinks,Meals for set up staff Refreshments Prep toast glasses Prepare all dining ware				
Cake baker Prepare cake Cake delivery				
Photographer Formal pics of couples/group				
Press Representative Welcome members of press/tv Press release				
Purchaser of Gifts for Couples Decide on gifts Wrap gifts				
Misc. (transportation, gas toll, parking, meals)				

VOWS

1. Do you, as a mature man and woman who are to consummate the ideal of creation of God, pledge in front of God and True Parents to become an eternal husband and wife?
2. Do you pledge to become true parents, raise your children to live up to the will of God, and educate them to become responsible leaders in front of the entire Unification Family, all humankind, and Almighty God?
3. Do you pledge that, centered upon True Parents, you will inherit the tradition of living for the sake of others, and pass this proud tradition down to future generations and to humankind?
4. Do you pledge that, centering upon the ideal of creation, you will inherit the will of God and True Parents, love the people of the world as God and True Parents do, and ultimately consummate an ideal family which is the building block of the Kingdom of God on earth and in heaven?



HOLY MARRIAGE BLESSING CEREMONY

Saturday, 5.12 in the 3rd Year of CIG • June 27, 2015

“Once they become one, the man’s heart is in the heart of the woman; the woman’s heart is in the heart of the man. The hearts of the man and woman are in the heart of God.”

— Rev. Sun Myung Moon



PROGRAM

[Type Program Here]

Blessing: March 3, 2014
Manhattan Center, New York, NY

For those who are planning to attend the March 3rd Blessing Ceremony, but are unable to go to Korea, a ceremony will be held at the Manhattan Center, New York on Monday, March 2nd.

Location: Manhattan Center, Grand Ballroom, 311 West 34th Street, New York, NY

Schedule (draft):

5:00 pm	Registration
6:30	Banquet, entertainment
8:00	Couples Prepare
9:00	Gather in Hall-Inspiration, guidance, rehearsal Change clothes, Rehearsal, 1 st Gen. Holy Wine Ceremony
10:00	Blessing Ceremony Begins – linked by internet to the ceremony in Korea (Tuesday, March. 3 rd)
11:00	Photos
11:20	Celebration Refreshments, photos, and the indemnity ceremony will follow after the conclusion of the Blessing Ceremony

All brides and grooms can have complimentary tickets for the banquet and each couple can have up to 8 complimentary tickets for their guests. Tickets are not transferable to other couples. HQ will provide a continental breakfast for brides and bridegrooms on March 3rd (Tues) at the 43rd Street Building from 9:00-10:30 AM. For couples who want to come to the breakfast,

Here is the information given in the official memo regarding the Blessing Fee (Donation)

The Blessing Fee for newly matched couples is \$2,000 each for North American participants. In consideration of the expenses necessary for international travel, the donation for those traveling to participate in Korea will be \$1,500.

The Blessing Fee for Re-Blessing (those who paid the full Blessing fee for a previous Blessing that is now broken, and are being Blessed again) is \$500 per participant. (If a previously Blessed person is being Blessed to a first-time person, each should pay the fee appropriate to their category).

Attire: Bridegroom: dark suit, white gloves **Brides:** wedding gown, white gloves, & veil. We will prepare artificial flower bouquets. If you want real flowers you need to bring your own.

Rings: Blessing Rings are available through the Japanese Bookstore, phone 212-302-6216. If you can't order your rings in time, please bring a temporary substitute ring that can be used for the ceremony.

Guests (friends and relatives): you may invite guests. The fee for guests is \$50 per guest. Remember, the program will go late, probably past midnight.

RSVP: Please inform us if you are planning to participate in the Blessing Ceremony and how many guests will be attending. Send email to (email of main organizer).