

# 2024 HTM BLESSING OFFICIATOR HANDBOOK

January 1, 2024



# WELCOME!

Welcome to the 2024 HTM Blessing Officiator Handbook!

The Marriage Blessing Ceremony (“Blessing”) was initiated by Rev. Sun Myung Moon and Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon. Through this ceremony, they are establishing the standard of True Parents by working beyond races and religions to unite all people into God’s family. The Marriage Blessing is a cleansing of past mistakes and an opportunity to make a new commitment in marriage as a Blessed Family.



Blessing Officiators play a central role in the Blessing Ceremony. They stand in the position to represent God who is the Heavenly Parent. They also stand in the position to represent Father and Mother Moon in the position of the True Parents.

As the True Parents, Father and Mother Moon were given the authority to bestow God’s Blessing on all couples who are willing to receive and uphold it.

Starting in 1997, True Parents invited Blessed Couples to become Blessing Officiators who would be qualified to conduct local Blessing events in their own nations. Unlike Cosmic Blessings (officiated directly by True Parents), which are open to all, the local Blessings, called “Heavenly Tribal Messiah Blessings,” are exclusively for couples who are already legally married, as well as legally-married widows and widowers 60 years and older and single individuals 60 years and older.

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## PURPOSE OF THE BLESSING

The Blessing is not a manmade institution. It is an inspiration from Heaven, the fulfillment of the Divine purpose that God, our Heavenly Parent, intended for the first ancestors of humanity, Adam and Eve. In Genesis 1:28, when God Blessed Adam and Eve to multiply, He revealed His intention to Bless them in marriage.

The Blessing was to have passed from generation to generation where the human family founded on God's Blessing would have fulfilled God's purpose of creation, a world of goodness and peace.

However, as depicted in Genesis Chapter 3, God's intention was derailed and from that tragic beginning the entire human family has suffered.

**'What was lost as a result of the Fall? First, the ideal world of true love was lost. Second, the ideal family of true love was lost; in particular, the husband and wife of true love were lost. Third, their sons and daughters of true love, the first grandchildren of God, were lost. These are God's three kinds of sorrow.'**

*True Father*

Today, the purpose of the Blessing is to restore marriages back to God. When marriages are restored, families, communities, nations and the world can become whole.

### Using This Handbook

This Handbook serves as an official online reference for Blessing Officiators with step-by-step instructions on conducting Blessing Ceremonies. It can be easily viewed on computers as well as mobile devices.

The language depicted is recommended and can vary as long as all of the procedures are completed. Adjustments can be made when Blessing groups or individual recipients, as well as widows, widowers and singles aged 60 and above.

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# BLESSING OFFICIATORS

To become Blessing Officers, a couple is to submit the [Blessing Officer Application Form](#) for approval from their FFWPU Subregion Director. When approved, they will receive this Blessing Officer Handbook for self-study and completion of a “[Refresher Quiz](#)”. After submitting the completed quiz, they will be emailed a “Certified Blessing Officer Certificate” valid for one year from the date of issue.

Once completed, there are two additional qualifications:

1. Have a heart and attitude that are in alignment with God.
2. Be familiar with all the steps of the Blessing process, understand their significance, and be able to guide the Blessing couples with confidence and clarity.

As Blessing Officers give the Blessing, they need to value it as God does through appreciating the sacrifices that were made in order to make the Blessing possible, and, in representing God and True Parents, cultivate a heart of humility and repentance.

When God bestows His Blessing on a couple, it is the historic moment of great joy for God and the couple as they are welcomed into God’s family.

## Certification Qualifications

1. Be currently Blessed in good standing (Unification and Clergy couples).
2. Have attended the Unification Theological Seminary or another seminary, and/or completed a Divine Principle 7-Day Program.
3. Be familiar with the steps involved in the Marriage Blessing process, have a basic understanding of their significance, and be able to guide couples participating in the Blessing ceremony with confidence and clarity.
4. Submit a recent photo of your couple as well as Marriage Blessing documentation (Blessing certificate, Blessing photo or other document).
5. Complete the Blessing Officer Commitment Pledge in the application form.

## Certification Renewal

The time period of certification is one year from the date of issue of the “Certified Blessing Officer Certificate”. It can be renewed by reapplying.

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## **Blessing Officator Commitment Pledge**

1. We pledge that we will be accountable to the members of the spiritual community of which we are members, and bring honor and glory to Heavenly Parent and True Parents.
2. We pledge that we can stand in a position of trust and responsibility as a Blessed Central Family of the Family Federation for World Peace and Unification USA.
3. We will abide by the provisions of the Family Pledge.
4. We will practice the utmost integrity in the use of public money, assets and resources.
5. We will adhere to the teachings and principles of absolute sexual morality, and will remain faithful to each other, and abstain from any form of inappropriate behavior. We will refrain from the use of alcohol, drugs or other substances.
6. We will respect all people as the sons and daughters of God, listen respectfully to others and keep confidence, doing everything we can to avoid intentionally hurting the heart of another as we carry out our responsibilities.

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# BLESSING GUIDELINES

## Blessing Recipients

Heavenly Tribal Messiah Blessings can be conducted with the following:

- Legally-married couples
- Legally-married widow/widowers 60 years and older
- Single seniors 60 years and older

Same-sex marriages are not permitted. Couple Blessings require the presence of husband and wife.

## Blessing Environment

Heavenly Tribal Messiah Blessings can be performed in either a group setting or single-couple setting.

Group Blessings are usually performed in a church or event venue. An Emcee leads all couples through the program and Attendants assist the Officiators. Single-couple Blessings can be performed in any location, such as homes, workplaces and public areas. These ceremonies are usually simple and the Officiators direct the entire program.

Preparation for Blessings is important. All Blessings require the presence of Holy Wine, Holy Water, printed Blessing Vows and a chastening rod. Use of Blessing scarfs by the Officiators and Blessing recipients is often preferred.

Large group Blessings need several people to assist the Officiators in conducting the ceremonies. Sets of twelve additional attending Blessed Couples wearing special robes are engaged to support the entry and departure of the Officiator Couple.

When possible, Blessing grooms should wear dark blue or black suits with a white shirt and tie. Brides should wear white or light-colored dresses or, when preferred, a beautiful wedding dress!

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## **Blessing Steps**

Understanding the significance of the five core Blessing steps is important as follows:

### Holy Wine Ceremony

Symbolic of belonging to God's family through "God's blood lineage".

### Blessing Vows

Affirmation of being forever faithful as a couple, raising children to maintain purity in preparation for their marriage Blessing, and contributing to the work of creating a peaceful world through families of true love.

### Benediction Prayer

Proclamation of the marriage Blessing before Heaven and Earth.

### Chastening Ceremony

Repentance for the couple's misuse of love and commitment to end the history of abuse between men and women.

### Blessing Donation

Expression of gratitude for receiving the Blessing.

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# OFFICIATING THE BLESSING

The Blessing starts with the Holy Wine.



## What is Holy Wine?

The Holy Wine is made up of 21 ingredients representing all things, symbolizing the love of parents, the earth, the seas, and Heaven. The Holy Wine contains all the essential elements that stand for purity.

More importantly, we are able to receive the Holy Wine because of the victorious foundation of peace made by True Parents. This makes it possible for humankind to cut off from the original ancestral sins.

## Significance of the Holy Wine Ceremony

The original ancestors, whom we refer to as Adam and Eve, were supposed to become husband and wife with God's love in their hearts. However, due to their Fall, the order of love was reversed and they consummated their marriage with selfish love.

Adam and Eve's mistake was passed down to us through the blood lineage. The Holy Wine Ceremony signifies a rebirth that reverses that mistake. The woman goes through a process of being restored first, then gives birth to the man. Together, husband and wife are engrafted onto the original blood lineage of God.

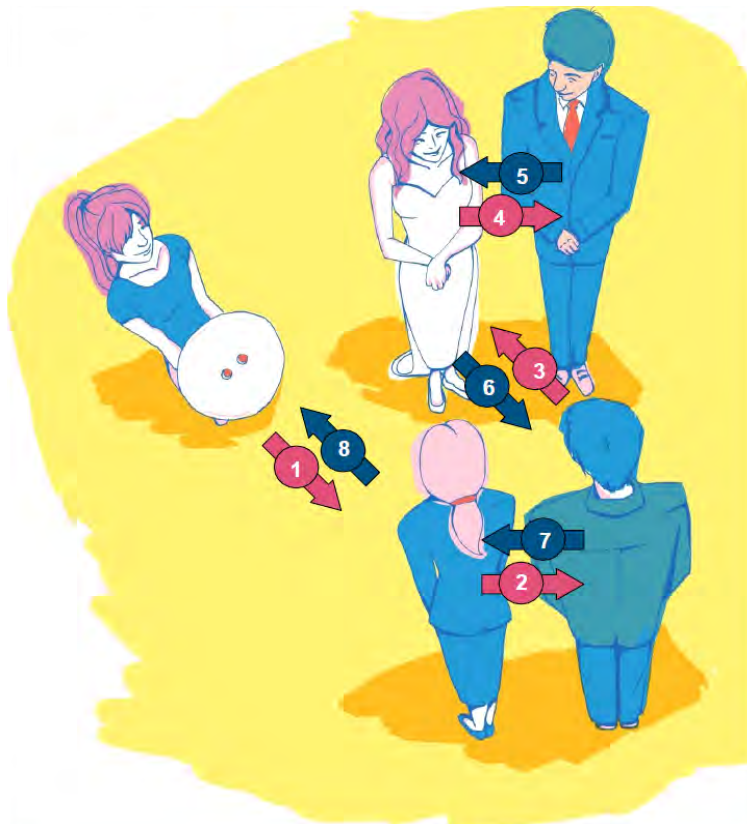
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## Administering the Holy Wine

When conducting the Holy Wine Ceremony, the Couple should face the Officiators with the wife at the right side of her husband.

Emcee: *Now we offer you the Holy Wine. First the bride drinks half the cup, then offers the remaining wine to her husband. When you receive the cup, please hold it with two hands and offer a small bow with a humble heart. We begin the ceremony with a prayer.*

- Opening Prayer
- Couple offers bow to Officiators
- An Attendant gives wine to Officiator Wife, and she gives it to Officiator Husband.
- Officiator Husband gives wine to (representative) brides. Brides bow as they receive with two hands (Attendants can give wine to other brides).
- Brides drink half the wine, then give the cups to their husbands. Husbands bow as they receive the cups with two hands, then drink the remaining wine. Husbands return the empty cups to their brides while bowing. Brides bow as they receive the empty cups, then give the cups to the Officiator Husband (or Attendant) with a bow.
- Officiator Husband gives empty cups back to the Officiator Wife who then returns them to the Attendant.

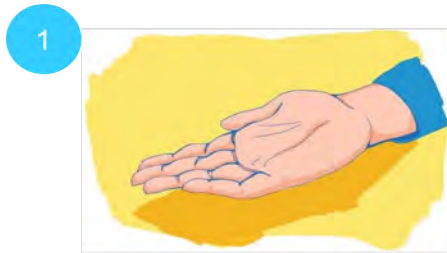


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## Sanctification Prayer

Emcee: *Now, we will offer a sanctification prayer.*

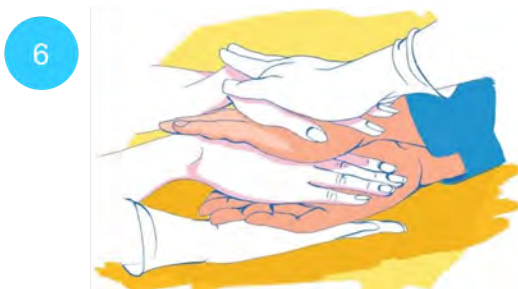
1. Couple faces each other.
2. Bridegroom opens his right hand with his palm up. Bride covers the bridegroom's right palm with her right palm from above.



3. Bridegroom covers the back of the bride's right hand with his left palm from above.
4. Bride covers the back of the bridegroom's left hand with her left palm from above.



5. The Officiator wife (representing True Mother) covers the back of the bridegroom's right hand with her left palm.
6. The Officiator husband (representing True Father) covers the back of the bride's left hand with his right palm.



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Emcee: *Now, after the Holy Wine Ceremony, you stand in the position before the Fall (if you are single, it is an opportunity to keep your purity and prepare your heart and character for future married life). The Husband should now stand to the right of his wife.*

Emcee: *As a married couple, the Blessing Ceremony confirms an eternal bond between you as husband and wife, and commitment to true love and fidelity in your family.*

## **Holy Water**

Emcee: *We will now sprinkle you with Holy Water. This is a symbol of purity.*

Officiators sprinkle Holy Water over couples.



## **Blessing Vows**

Emcee: *Now, we want to offer you the opportunity to make a new commitment in your relationship. If you agree, please respond "Yes" to the vows we are about to read.*

1. As a mature man and woman, we pledge that we will become an eternal husband and wife who maintain the ideal of God's creation with absolute fidelity.
2. We pledge that we will inherit and maintain the tradition of the God-centered family and pass this tradition on to the future generations of our family and all humankind.
3. We pledge that as Blessed Parents we will raise our children to love God as their Heavenly Parent and educate them to be sexually abstinent until marriage.
4. We pledge that we will support all families to uplift these ideals beyond race, religion and nationality, by participating in the Blessing of Marriage introduced by Father and Mother Moon, helping to create the Kingdom of God on Earth and in Heaven.

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## **Benediction Prayer**

Emcee: *We will now complete the Blessing Ceremony with a Benediction prayer and Proclamation of your Blessing.*

Officators outstretch their arms and the Officiator Husband prays and offers the Pronouncement:

*“Dear God, our Heavenly Parent, we are offering these couples (this couple) to you. We ask that through this ceremony we are removing the accusation of Satan from their blood lineage, and engrafting them into God’s family. Heavenly Parent, please accept them as Blessed Families, and embrace them as your pure children.”*



## **Pronouncement**

Emcee: *I hereby declare, on this [today’s full date], before God, True Parents, and Heaven and Earth, that the couples who are attending this Marriage Blessing Ceremony, over which [Officiators’ Couple Name] are presiding, have now received the Blessing.*

## **Chastening Ceremony**

Emcee: *Finally today, we invite you to participate in the Chastening Ceremony. This is an opportunity to cut from any physical abuse, or misuse of love from the past. You may have hurt each other, or been hurt by others, either way, this ceremony will offer you a new beginning.*

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1. Couple bows to Officiators
2. Bridegrooms strike the bride's buttocks first, three times
3. Bride then strikes the Bridegroom's buttocks three times
4. Couple bows to each other.



## Blessing Donation

A donation should be offered by newly Blessed couples, senior widows/widowers and senior singles at the time of their Blessing as an expression of gratitude.

The minimum Heavenly Tribal Messiah Blessing donation amount is \$20. It is ideal for this amount to be paid directly by the Blessing recipient to the Heavenly Tribal Messiah spiritual parent. This donation amount will need to be paid by the spiritual parent when applying for eventual induction into the CheonBo Won in Korea.

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# BLESSING DOCUMENTATION

Each Blessing event should be documented by the Heavenly Tribal Messiah spiritual parent through their account in the [Ragic](#) online record management system for use in follow-up and accumulating 430 Horizontal Blessings for induction into the CheonBo Won. They can use [this link](#) if they are a new Ragic user.

It's also important to save Blessing Donations received to supplement the \$20 Blessing Donation per recipient to be submitted when applying for CheonBo Won induction.

Blessing documentation is invaluable for spiritual parents as they develop deeper relationships with their Blessing recipients and lead them in the final two steps of the Blessing process: 40-Day Separation and 3-Day Ceremony. Once completed, these couples become members of God's family with new children born without original sin and raised as God's true sons and daughters.

## Learning More

**“The physical and spiritual completion of Cheon Il Guk on earth becomes possible when Tribal Messiahs fulfill their mission, passing on to each clan the Word, participation in the Blessing Ceremony and a lifestyle of living for the sake of others. Your clans would thereby establish the sovereignty of goodness and realize a world of peace, one great human family.”**

*True Mother, September 16, 2012*

Updates to the Handbook will be ongoing. Please check it often for new content.

Requests for additional information can be sent at any time to the TribeNet Support Team at [evangelism@unification.org](mailto:evangelism@unification.org).

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# BECOMING BLESSED CENTRAL FAMILIES

The next opportunity for Heavenly Tribal Messiah Blessed Couples is to partake in the 40-Day Period of Abstinence and the 3-Day Ceremony to then become Blessed Central Families. This is the historic destiny desired by Heaven and should be guided by Heavenly Tribal Messiahs whenever they can. Following are basic descriptions of these significant conditions.

## 40-Day Period of Abstinence

This is a 40-Day period with no sexual relationship – what could be called sexual fasting. For many, this is the most challenging step in the Blessing journey. But it should be noted, according to those who have completed the journey, this is the step by which couples experienced the most powerful and profound transformation.

To make a change in our hearts that we know is needed, it cannot happen without effort and investment. Words are easy to say, especially the words “true love,” but to put true love into practice by putting the greater good first requires real commitment and effort. And it is in these 40 days, when we make and sustain that commitment and effort, that we practice true love.

Through this 40-Day period, a couple makes a condition that enables them to reset the proper order of love that was lost when Adam and Eve sacrificed the ideal of true love in order to prematurely satisfy their personal desires. By putting their desire for sexual stimulation first, the ideal of true love that God wanted them to receive was cast aside.

During these 40-days, a couple sets the proper order of love by denying their desire for self-gratification and by turning their love towards God. In doing so they set the pattern of love that can create a greater future of goodness for their marriage relationship and for their family. This is the practice of true love, living for the sake of the other – for God’s happiness, our spouse’s happiness, the happiness of our children, and the creation of a better and happier world.

And there is a reason for the number 40. Historically, it has represented a period of sacrifice in preparation for a new beginning. We see this in Scripture – in the story of Noah in which the world went through a 40 day period of judgment by the flood. We see it in the 40 days that Moses fasted in order to receive God’s Ten Commandments. We see it in Jesus’ life when he fasted 40 days in preparation to begin his ministry. And we see it in Jesus’ resurrection when he appeared to his disciples for 40 days in order to give them the power they would need to spread the good news throughout the world.

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The purpose of these 40-day periods has been to make spiritual conditions that will allow Heaven to work, and for real change to take place. Even non-religious experts say that if a person invests themselves for 40 days they can end a bad habit and start a good one.

Through this 40-day period of abstinence, a couple paves the way for heaven to support them as they seek to transform their marriage into a marriage that embodies true love.

A [40-Day Abstinence Devotion Journal](#) has been created by Rev. Andrew Compton to provide internal guidance and education for couples during their 40-day journey. It can be printed and used by each spouse for daily empowerment and as a historic record.

### **3-Day Ceremony**

The 3-Day Ceremony, which is often three nights, concludes the ceremonial portion of the Blessing. During these three days the couple will begin anew their life of intimacy in a very special way.

The purpose of this ceremony is to substantially restore the position of the man and woman as members of God's family – as God's son and daughter. Unlike the Holy Wine Ceremony, which is a symbolic act, in these three nights the man and woman are to engage in the act of love. Each night will represent a stage in the restoration of the man and woman back to God.

The actual act that separated the first man and woman from God was the misuse of sexual love. It was a fallen act that was inspired by self-centered desires, desires that totally disregarded the ideal that God had intended for love. Just as that act separated the first couple from God, God is able to reverse that and reconnect with the couple by having them engage in three nights of love that are inspired by God and have as their foundation the fulfillment of the Holy Wine ceremony, the Marriage Blessing, the Chastening Ceremony and the 40-Day Period of Separation.

The Three-Day Ceremony is the final step in the Blessing Journey by which a couple leaves the family that was initiated by the human fall and are able to stand as a Blessed Couple, fully members of God's family. When they give birth to children their children will naturally belong to God's lineage as members of God's family.

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