

Words to the Families at a Wedding

By Ana & Tod Gobledale

Two people do not live in isolation. This family is interwoven and linked in numerous and wonderful ways.

Louis de Bernieres writes in Captain Corelli's Mandolin, "*Love ... is both an art and a fortunate accident.*" This combined/new family is truly both a work of art and, for all of you, a fortunate accident.

Whether you are part of _____ & _____'s (**Partner 1 & Partner 2**) families by birth, by accident or by intention, or for some of you it may be more by default!, you are blessed to be part of such a family as this.

- [Name all members of each family, one by one, or couple by couple, and look at them.]
- And **all** of you [*recognizing those not named as members of the family, but present*] who are part of this special fortunate accidental intentional family circle!
- And we mustn't forget _____ [*the dog/ or any other important pets*]!

What a wonderful family!

Charge & Question to the Families

The love shared by _____ & _____ is a source of strength with which they may nourish, not only each other, but their intentional family, their wider circle of friends, and the world around them. And in turn, we, their community of friends and family, have a

responsibility to them. By our steadfast care, respect and love, we can support their union and the family they are affirming today.

Family and friends, you are here, not just as spectators, but as participants. You are here to acknowledge and affirm the love that binds **you** to _____ & _____, to be part of this risky and vulnerable thing called love, called marriage.

So I charge you: do not be fair weather friends. Strengthen and encourage _____ & _____ when winds blow and the tree shakes. Help them weather the gales that beset any relationship. Help them keep their love strong. Help them maintain the integrity of their love and their marriage.

As family, you are part of this union. _____ & _____ request your love and support for the days and years ahead. _____ & _____, take a moment to look around at those who have gathered with you today. (*Have them look.*) You are surrounded by people who know and love you both.

[**To all**] I invite all of you to show your intention to love and support _____ & _____ with resounding applause – [or barking if that is appropriate -- (*if animals/pets are present*)].

_____ & _____, this is your family, who journey with you into this joyful and risky place called marriage. Remember that you are not alone.