

Since Vatican II in the early 1960s the Catholic Church had allowed the use of other languages in the Rite of Marriage and not only Latin.

The Rite is now being conducted in a language that the participants can both know and fully comprehend; the significance of this is that the couple is enabled to truly understand what the service is about and know what they are actually committing to.

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It has the effect of greatly enhancing the couple's faith and commitment before God and the Church because of the couple has a fuller and more complete understanding of what they are doing (CCC1638).

2

The significance for the congregation is that they can now participate, know what is going on, and be active witnesses to this marriage. They can more completely understand their responsibility as witnesses who will support and nurture the newlyweds (CCC1649).

2

At a Catholic wedding, the readings can be chosen by the couple. This allows the couple to choose readings that are more relevant to them and so helps to make the ceremony more personal.

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The Prayer of the Faithful can also be unique to the couple if they write them for themselves. It lets the couples express their feelings and beliefs through the prayer. This means that they can directly communicate with God during the ceremony.

3

The community praying for and with the couple did not occur in the 1914 Rite of Marriage. Significantly, since Vatican II the couple writing their own prayer and choosing readings has given the people who have gathered and supported the union a chance to participate in the ceremony.

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A wider implication on a social level is that the sacrament of marriage could be seen as being relevant to today's world if the people and the congregation can understand the language in which it is being celebrated.

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