

Nina Youkhanis & Scott Gallo Wedding

☐ The Procession

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☐ The Invocation

We gather here remembering our Baptism, and do so in the name of The Father, The Son and The Holy Spirit. Amen.

Please be seated.

Doubly blessed is the couple that comes to the marriage altar with the approval and blessings of their families and friends. Who has the honor of presenting this woman to be married to this man?

(Mr. Youkhanis answers on behalf of him & Luisa, kisses Nina and returns to his seat.)

☐ The Introduction *(Nina & Scott Face Each Other)*

Dear friends and family, with great affection for Nina and Scott, we are gathered together to witness and bless their union in marriage. To this sacred moment they bring the fullness of their hearts as a treasure and a gift from God, to share with one another.

They bring their dreams, which bind them together in an eternal commitment. They bring their gifts and talents, their unique personalities and spirits, which God will unite together into one being, as they build their life together.

We rejoice with them in thankfulness to the Lord, for creating this union of hearts, built on friendship, respect and love.

With great joy, all of us present here, along with our family Saints in heaven, rejoice with God at this wedding of Scott & Nina.

Thanks be to God for all his Blessings.

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Remembering Those Who Have Gone Before Us

On this special day, Scott & Nina would like to pause and remember those dearly beloved family & friends who could not be with us in this room today.

They are....

Scott's Grandfather Richard Johnson

Scott's Grandfather the Rev. Carl Thrun

Scott's Grandfather Louis Gallo

Scott's Grandmother Theda Gallo

Nina's Grandmother Kizoli (Key-Zhoul-Ay) Youkhanis

Scott & Nina think about you always, they talk about you still. You have never been forgotten, and you never will. They hold you close within their hearts and forever there you will remain. To walk and guide them through their lives, until we meet again."

At this time Scott & Nina will light a candle in memory of these Saints and the lasting impact they have had on their lives.....

(A Moment of Silence)

Remember, those we love don't go away, they walk beside us every day. Unseen, unheard, but always near. Still loved, still missed, and very dear.

Readings

We have 2 Readings today from Scriptures.

Our first reading is from the Book of Romans, written by the Apostle Paul starting in the 12th chapter. It will be read by Nina's friend Sara Due and she begins at the 9th verse. Sara?

Our second reading is also from the Apostle Paul in his letter to the church in Collosae - specifically Colossians Chapter 3. It will be read by Nina's friend Pamela Nehrke and she begins at the 12th verse. Pamela?

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The Message

I don't know if all of you know what Scott & Nina do.

Well, Scott is in the United States Air Force. I know that. But I'll be honest, I don't know much else - as what he does is a bit of a secret. I don't know if I should even talking about this - so suffice to say Scott is in the military - somewhere.

Nina, however has chosen a different vocation. She works in a Doctor's office. She is headed back to school with an end goal of becoming a Physician's Assistant. She has chosen her life's work to aid & comfort those in need.

So on the one hand you have my Godson here, day in and day out **Protecting** all of us here. He is out there every day protecting us from the threats of this broken, evil, world that humankind's free will has inflicted on God's perfect creation. It is worth pointing out here that, unlike most of us, Scott lives out the Lord's Prayer each day. It says in the 7th petition of this prayer "And Deliver Us From Evil....". Scott does that every day he reports to work.

And on the other hand you have Nina, who has chosen as her life's work to be a **HEALER**- a nurturer, someone who cares for you, someone who restores you to health. And anyone who knows Nina would say "What else would she do?" In her life, she cares for all. She loves her family, she's everyone's friend. She even looks to cheerfully put up with Scott's Off Road Mountaineering activities. Knowing Nina is to know that of course she is going to help people. That is her essence. That defines her

So remember - Standing before you we have a Protector and a Healer here.

"So what?"

Well, I'm now going to read a Psalm, one known to virtually everyone. However you'll have to bear with me, as this Psalm is usually read at somber Funerals where

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people are wailing in sorrow - not joyous Weddings where people are wailing in happiness as we are today..

It was written by King David - another Protector - you know, the guy who put a crater in Goliath's forehead....

From the King James Version it reads...

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters. He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me. Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

When you hear about "... For thou art with me... thy Rod and Thy staff they comfort me..." King David is talking about how God protects us. The Rod & Staff are symbols of his Might - His Strength, His Love and his willingness to use them to Protect all humanity.

When we hear " He restoreth My Soul" , and "Surely Goodness and Mercy shall follow me" the psalmist is talking about how God nurtures us, comforts us, heals us and that we will dwell with our Lord forever. It talks about how he will take care of us FOREVER. We will live in his house for all eternity in his Kingdom.

The point is - that the essence of our Lord is the same as what the 2 of you have chosen to do. The Lord is our ultimate Protector and Healer. You are doing the Lord's work in your lives. That should resonate well with you. It certainly delights your Heavenly Father.

So while that is interesting, what does that have to do with today? Well here's the TRIFECTA. You know we had to work horse racing into this somewhere.....

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It means that in about 3 minutes you start your life as a married couple. And starting today, both of you will also need to endeavor to PROTECT and NURTURE your marriage that God creates this day. The world is a sinful place, Satan can be anywhere, and we are not perfect.

And that means that in the decades of life you have in front of you, you will need to PROTECT your marriage. You will need to NURTURE your marriage. Godson, sometime, somewhere, you will need to heal Nina. Nina, sometime, somewhere, you will need to protect Scott - and Vice Versa.

Falling in Love comes easily - but Staying in Love cannot be taken for granted. Commit to your marriage. Love each other by embracing where you are different. Be willing to forgive, be quick to forget. Deal lovingly with the challenges life always seems to throw you - together. These are precisely the ideals you are committing to - in God's presence - right now.....

So, my advice to you both, on this the most joyous day either of you have ever experienced, is to Protect your marriage. Nurture you Marriage. Today and every other Day the Lord grants you together.

But hey, you already know how to do that. So it's time. Time to get married. RIGHT NOW! Amen

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☐ The Vows

Mr. Best Man, may I have the rings....

Nina & Scott will you please face each other.

Scott, take Nina's left hand & place this ring on her finger while you repeat after me:

I, Scott Richard Gallo, take you Nina Youkhanis, to be my wedded wife, to have and to hold, from this day forward, for better for worse, for richer for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, 'til death do us part: according to God's holy ordinance, and thereto I pledge you, my love and faithfulness.

Nina, take Scott's left hand & place this ring on his finger and repeat after me:

I, Nina Youkhanis, take you Scott Richard Gallo, to be my wedded husband, to have and to hold, from this day forward, for better for worse, for richer for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, 'til death do us part: according to God's holy ordinance, and thereto I pledge you, my love and faithfulness.

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☐ The Wedding Prayer

Let us pray for Nina & Scott in their life together.....

Eternal God, without your grace no promise is sure.

Strengthen Nina and Scott with patience, kindness, gentleness, and all other gifts of your Spirit as they live in the vows of their marriage.

Keep them faithful to each other and to you. Fill them with such love and joy that their home may always be a place of peace and welcome. Guide them by your word to serve you all their days.

Help us all, O God, to do your will in each of our homes and lives. Enrich us with your grace so that, supporting one another, we may serve those in need and bear witness to the coming of peace, love, and justice on earth through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen

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☐ The Pronouncement

Nina and Scott if you would join hands and face your family & Friends....

By the authority vested me by the County of Cook, in the State of Illinois, in these United States of America, and most importantly through the divine will of our Lord Jesus Christ,

I proudly pronounce Scott & Nina are now husband & wife. What Almighty God has joined together, let no one put asunder.

Scott, you may kiss your bride.

☐ The Recession