

Incorporating the Flower Ritual

Children in a family
are like flowers in a bouquet:
there's always one determined
to face in the opposite direction
from the way the arranger desires.

On the table is a vase containing two flowers representing bride and groom as the parents in this new family. Lying next to the vase are single flowers – one for each of the children. I'd like to invite [names of children] to take a flower and place it in the vase. Together all the flowers will make a bouquet which symbolizes the wonder and beauty of the birth of this new family.

Bride and groom, you are combining your strengths and hopes in this marriage. Your decision to marry will also shape and deeply affect the lives of [children's names]. Today we acknowledge and celebrate not only the creation of a marriage, but also the creation of a family. Each of you will contribute your individual blossoms to this new entity, combining your special selves into a rich and beautiful bouquet to symbolize the new family.

Bride and groom and then the children each place their flower in the vase.