**14592, Andrew Garcia**

Good Evening Ladies and Gentlemen,

Welcome to the wedding of our only child Charise. As I’m sure you know we love her very dearly and tend to spoil her just a bit as an only child. That’s one of the reasons we chose to celebrate her wedding here at beautiful St. Anne Church in the Vatican. This is such a beautiful and historic place and we are honored to be able to hold her wedding here. We also want to thank the Archbishop for officiating for her wedding. His generosity and willingness to allow us this privilege is greatly appreciated by our whole family. We also want to thank Father Greg for his contribution in helping us gain permission to have our daughter’s wedding here. I want to thank my siblings and all our other relatives for coming so far to attend her wedding. We know it is a long trip and we greatly appreciate your support of her by making this momentous trip to celebrate with us.

I want to take just a moment to welcome Charise’s groom to the family. He has been an actual member of the family for quite some time but today we make it official. He and his family have made our Charise so very happy and we count it a blessing for your family to join with ours today. We’ve always been very protective of our daughter so I think you can understand when we were a bit apprehensive when Charise first introduced us to this man she said she loved and wanted to marry. But, it was not hard to learn to like and even love him when his love for Charise shined out from every inch of him. Then if you followed his gaze you would find Charise looking at him the same way. That was not puppy love I saw. Her mom and I have been together \_\_\_\_\_ wonderful years and I recognized the deep love I saw in his eyes for my precious Charise because it is the same love I have shared with her mother since we were married. I have every faith that our new son-in-law wants this same type of marriage because his parents showed him the same example with their 42 years of marriage. It’s much easier for young people to make a life time commitment if they have seen that kind of love and commitment in their parents’ lives.

I must tell you that all three of us my wife, Charise and I, consider ourselves very fashion conscious. So, suffice to say that we have been having the time of our lives preparing for this trip. We not only shopped for Charise to have new clothes to take into her new marriage but we stocked up on all kinds of things for ourselves. We all love to shop so when we regularly come to town to shop we make sure we bring the car with the largest trunk to store all the wonderful bargains we purchased. Shopping has been quite a family tradition for many years. That tradition began when we came to New York City on a long Labor Day weekend to watch the U.S Open Tennis competition at Flushing Meadows. We followed that up with a shop til we dropped shopping experience. Charise’s groom had the privilege of going on one of our famous shopping sprees last year. We figure if he could survive that and still want to be a part of our family then he is definitely a keeper.

Our new son-in-law, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, had a tall order to fill when he told me he wanted to marry our daughter. Just like any father, I was very protective of her. But, after taking time to get to know him and seeing the times they have interacted together, I am convinced they have a chance for a wonderful life together. He not only loves my daughter, I believe he likes my daughter. Physical attraction can be one thing to base a marriage on but attraction alone won’t take you throughout all the details and trials that you may have to face in life. There are days when it is more important to like your spouse than it is to love them. I see that in Charise and her new husband.

Marriage is a choice between two people to live together in harmony all the days of their lives. Now Charise and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, have chosen to marry and make a life together. I believe they are perfectly suited to one another. Does that mean they will never disagree or have a fight? Of course not. If two people live under the same roof for a lifetime they are going to disagree. But, both sides must decide on a regular basis that they will work through their differences. Marriage isn’t a one-time thing where each party says their vows and they go on their way as if nothing had changed. Marriage is filled with good times and bad, happy times and stressful times. I believe that Charise and \_\_\_\_\_\_ are committed to making the choices necessary to build a happy life together.

Would everyone please join me in a toast to the happy couple?

May you always remember how you fell in love

May you always remember why you fell in love

May your love strengthen as you travel life together

Thank you