WEDDING SPEECH

FOR

TEOFILO VINCECRUZ

Hello everyone and welcome to this very special moment! Tonight’s celebration signifies and honors the day that our beautiful daughter, Theresa, has married Ross, and we are thrilled to share this very special time with so many loving people- dear family, old friends, new family and new friends. It has been said that, “The bond that links true family and friends is not only blood, it is also the shared respect and joy in each other’s lives” and occasions like this wedding prove that. Some of you see Theresa and Ross all of the time while others have traveled a distance to be here to mark this moment. Each one of you is a reflection of the love that our bride and groom share, and the joy that fills this room is unforgettable.

For those of you that may not know, I am Teo, and I am the lucky and blessed father of the bride. Here beside me is my wonderful wife, Loida, Theresa’s mother. Weddings can make a person nostalgic, and this one is no exception. Birthdays can do the same. A little over twenty-seven years ago, in February, Theresa was born. I remember it as one of the greatest moments of my life... Unfortunately I was not actually present, although I was there in heart and spirit; physically I was deployed in the Caribbean completing some Navy operations. I made sure to fly back to Jacksonville two days later as I could not wait to meet and hold my pride and joy. As soon as I got home I rushed into the house and into the room where I was greeted by the site of our new baby, safe in her mother’s arms, snuggled on the sofa. Loida whispered to the baby, “Theresa, your daddy is home,” and as she slowly opened her eyes I knew I was “**sunk**.” She looked at me as if to say, “Where were you? You promised Mom you’d be home when I was born!” **(If you want to make a little joke you can say**) … and that was the first time I experienced how eager and efficient my new baby daughter would be… and just how she would totally enchant me…. and things haven’t changed much since then! Of course I felt some pangs of guilt but at the same time I was so overjoyed… our baby was born healthy and beautiful…. and I was off the ship for two weeks!! As Theresa grew up and older, it was clear she was becoming cuter and smarter and wiser… She **ALWAYS** knew she was and **IS** Daddy’s girl and she knew even back then how to get to me. How many times did I hear, in those early years, “You weren’t there when I was born!!!?” And how many times did I have to remind her, “You were impatient and didn’t wait for me!!?”

Having Theresa as our daughter has been a real joy. Her achievements in school have always impressed us and have made us so proud. We are humbled by her accomplishments. We are inspired by her drive and capabilities and her excellent performance in college and beyond. From her Bachelor degree in Biology to her Doctor of Pharmacy, to surprising her mom on her birthday with the best gift of all, passing the boards, Theresa has always been the light of our lives. To us when she enters a room it is filled with light…. now if only **SHE** would have seen that perhaps our electric bills might not have been so high!!! (**Wait for the laugh**) (**Do you want to make a little joke to the groom about this? If so you can say**) Ross, she’s **YOUR** nightlight now! (**And wait for the laugh**).

Today we are not just lowering our electric bill; we are welcoming a new son to our family. We met Ross about five years ago when Theresa introduced him to us. Ross, over the years as we’ve come to know you, we have more proof that Theresa is as intuitive and smart as we thought. We are happy to have you in the family and we are proud of our new son-in-law. Now that you’re a part of our Filipino family, please remember there are a few points of culture to follow: You will call your wife’s family by the same titles as she calls them…. like auntie, uncle, kuya, ate, nanay, tatay, so naturally you’ll call us Mom and Dad. Eaach day you’ll learn more of our rich Filipino heritage… just pray you won’t be challenged by your new uncles to eat some BALUT!!

(**If you wan to make this a toast you can say,** “I would like to invite all of you to raise a glass as I propose a toast” **and if not just say**)

Here’s to Theresa and Ross. We wish you all the happiness in the world, a lifetime of health, love, partnership and respect. May you always be there for each other… God Bless You! We love you! Congratulations!