WEDDING SPEECH

FOR

WENDY QUIRINO

Hello everyone!!! (**Name your husband**) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and I are so thrilled to be here at this wonderful celebration of marriage, life, love and faith. Thiago and Czarina are two of the most generous, loving, giving people we have the privilege to call family and this wedding is an affirmation of all that is good in the world. These two openly and generously share their joy with all of us and I cannot think of any two people more deserving of a lifetime of happiness than my brother and his bride. Even though they officially tied the knot a while ago, in their typical and very endearing style, life is a continuing party and everyone is included!!

Thiago and I have always been close. We’re close in age, close in temperament and we share many precious bonds. (**If he is younger you can say- “We’re so close in age, in fact, that we could have been twins… except Thiago needed more time to get ready and perfect his look before entering this world!”.. And wait for the laugh… If he’s older you can change it to… “except I knew with all of that primping he needed to go first and make an entrance).** Of course if we could, we would spend even more time together, but if you know Thiago like we know Thiago… **NOTHING** cuts into his prep time!! (**Wait for the laugh**). And all that work seems to pay off… at least to him… that careful attention to detail is worth it… He’s gorgeous… he’s tanned…. he’s incredibly well **manscaped**… and he’s **MODEST**!! … Isn’t that right, Miss America?? (**Wait for the laugh**).

Bishop Desmond Tutu said, “You don’t choose your family. They are God’s gift to you, as you are to them.” I must have been very, **VERY** nice in a former life to be given a gift of a brother like Thiago…We all joke about his personal habits but the truth is that what we really want is to be able to spend more quality time with him. And I ask you… who could possibly ask for a better brother or a sweeter person? (**If there are one or two funny or unforgettable incidents growing up that demonstrate what he was like as a child, say one or two sentences about them here- you can give 2 or 3 examples**). I **DO** have to say though, that growing up with Thiago wasn’t all hair gel and perfectly groomed details. He grew into those habits, but we did have some “interesting” experiences growing up. I will never forget that time in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ when \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. Or who could ever wipe the image of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ when he \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_? Ah… the stuff that **true legends** are made of… and through it all… through his entire life, Thiago has maintained his love of family, his loyalty, his absolute faith in God and his devotion to the well being of others.

Thiago is one of the most intelligent people I know. He’s open and honest and he loves with his entire being… but sometimes all of those incredibly good and admirable qualities can lead to challenges in life, and Thiago has certainly faced some of those. But with his brilliant mind and wisdom, his incredible faith and his respect for those that love him unconditionally, we’ve all learned from him that if you truly believe in yourself and the greater powers that watch over us, love heals and life is precious.

Someone once said, “All the adversity I’ve had in my life, all my troubles and obstacles, have strengthened me… You may not realize it when it happens, but a kick in the teeth may be the best thing in the world for you.” That was said by, of all people, Walt Disney!! He’d been through it all and was able to honor the miracle of the human spirit buy building the happiest places on earth!! Without tests to our resilience and spirit, I don’t think we can fully embrace and fulfill our mission to love and be loved, and it is a testament to Thiago’s incredible belief in humanity that we are celebrating this blessed union today.

Thiago prayed. He searched his soul. He maintained an open mind and a willing outlook on life and God was clearly watching when he worked his magic. There may be “plenty of fish” in the sea but it takes an incredible amount of trust and self-awareness to be guided by the signs that God gives each one of us every day in every way. You may have heard the expression, “We make plans and God laughs.” The reason why He laughs is that we don’t consider **HIM** as the driving force in our lives and our plans, but all we have to do is pay attention, heed the signals God gives us, and follow the path to fulfillment. Just look at the wonderful way that these two people met and came together and we can clearly see that God’s work is miraculous.

Could I have asked for a better new “sister” thank Czarina? I don’t think so. Thiago followed the signs that led him to his soul mate and we are all the better for the sensitivity and mutual magnetism that brought these two people together. Czarina is a wonderful and rare mix of a fun loving, God fearing, joyful, caring compassionate soul and we are thrilled to call her family…. and what is even MORE beautiful is that her sense of family knows no bounds. Like a magnet she attracts love and devotion and I don’t think she knows the meaning of the word “stranger.” To both Thiago and Czarina life is a party and everyone has a seat at the table. She’s a registered nurse by profession but her care of the human spirit and well being doesn’t end at the close of work. Her devotion to the people in her life is epic. It is clear Czarina loves life and she selflessly shares her joy. If you look up “nurture” in the dictionary, I promise you there will be a picture of Czarina glowing in all of her colorful, caring glory.

With Czarina comes an incredible gift…. the blending of two colorful cultures. As the rich traditions of both the Brazilian and Pilipino heritages come together in our favorite couple, I know we will all be involved in the future parties such traditions inspire… and I know I speak for \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (**your husband**) as well as myself when I say… I cannot wait!!

(**Do you want to add your Tagalo section here?**)

And here we are enjoying a never-ending celebration of the life and love of Thiago and Czarina. It’s so fitting that we are here in an avocado grove. I wanted to do a little research on the meaning and significance of avocados… after all… they’re more than just guacamole!! I was amazed to discover that this is the perfect place for these two to affirm their vows. Once again, Thiago and Czarina listened to their guides:

“Avocado… Latin name Persea Americana is associated with self-love and self-worth. It stands for transforming inner beauty into external beauty and signifies a balance between male and female energies while honoring interdependence, being slowly accepted by others, and needing specific conditions to survive.” In more than one way this describes our couple. (**You can also add if you feel comfortable**) … and there’s also some sexy stuff in the explanation but I will let all of you use your imaginations!! (**Wait for the laugh**).

(**If you want to add a scripture quote you can say**)

“Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love.”

Ephesians 4:2

So, Czarina and Thiago… it’s official… again…. you’re married in the eyes of God and friends and family. We are all so thankful for the selfless and nurturing ways that you share your love and light with all of us. We wish you many lifetimes of health, happiness, prosperity, abundance, colorful celebrations, and more than you could ever wish for…. Oh… and there’s just one more thing… not that I want to rush anything, but our daughters Eva and Mia can’t wait to have cousins…. so you might want to get to work on making some beautiful babies!! Congratulations!! We love you!!