Here is what I have so far to work from.

Please edit, embellish, add to, etc.

Question

Should I use one of the two attached TOASTS after the wedding speech?

Let me know what a cost estimate would be for making this into a great speech

If you have questions call me at 708-203-5587

Thanks in advance

Gene R Swiontek

Ladies and Gentlemen,

**I would like to start on behalf of the bride’s mother my wife(Mary), myself, and the groom’s Mom Pam and say what a pleasure it is giving a warm welcome to all the relatives and friends who have joined us to celebrate Claire and Stephens wedding. Thank you all for coming to celebrate this very special day. As I look around the room, I realize how many friends Claire and Stephen have. Many of you have traveled a great distance to celebrate this day. By your presence today you are showing your friendship and love and bring even greater joy to this wonderful day. I hope that you all have a wonderful evening.**

**I must admit that I am the proudest dad in the world to have accompanied Claire down the aisle today.**

**Claire and Stephen met online on bumblebee.com, they were both pretty busy around that time, so their first date was not until August 24th, at the Greek Isles. They were engaged two years later, also on August 24th, at another fine restaurant, this time near the beach in Palisades California, so their relationship has already proven they like great dinners.**

**So now a few quick memories of Claire’s early days**

* **So, as it turns out I was very close to Claire for the first 18 months of her life, she was home with me while I was between jobs. Turned out to be a very positive time in my life.**
* **Another memory I have of Claire is when she did a middle school speech. She chose to speak about Sybil Ludington. As it turned out she did a great speech totally from memory. All the other students used their note cards, which she didn’t know were available to her**
* **Claire and I went on a work tour through our parish when she was a teen. My wife Mary was originally going as a sponsor, but they needed men instead. So, I reluctantly signed up to what turned out to be a great time. One of my memories is that several of the teens got into trouble one night, but Claire chose not to, so I was proud of her for doing what was right. We enjoyed the trip so much that we both signed up again for the next year. I later found out that she signed up for a different trip that did I. Oh well.**
* **Then on to the college search. I asked Claire which colleges that she applied for she wanted to visit. She said none, I asked why, she said she didn’t want to go any of them unless she was accepted. That turned out to a lot of potential visits as she was accepted to all she applied for.**

**So on to a few thoughts about Stephen**

* **Stephen passed the Illinois bar in February, I passed it on the way into the room here. Stephen is new to the full-time employment world. But I would say to Stephen that it doesn’t matter how many times a married man changes jobs, he will always end up with the same boss.**
* **Help here. Pam Stephens mom things there are “Midwest differences” over California. Stephen is from California. Things like pop versus soda, what others are there potentially?**

**I am pleased to formally welcome Stephen into the family, although, as far as we’re concerned, he’s been part of our family for quite a while already. Stephen’s mom has also already warmly welcomed Claire into the Kirst’s, its great knowing that she is now part of two wonderful families. During the time that we have known Stephen, we have come to realize just how special he is to Claire. I’m sure you’ll agree they make a beautiful couple.**

**WEDDING TOAST**

**As I look at my daughter, the bride, I can't help but reflect on all the years I was lucky enough to watch her grow and become the beautiful woman she is today. She captured my heart on the day she was born, and I became more and more in awe of her as the years passed by. She's my little girl, my princess and my ray of sunlight, and no matter what her age, she'll always be those things to me.  
But today as I watch her marry a wonderful man, I'm filled with pride and am confident that she and Stephen are about to embark on a wonderful journey filled with the love and happiness that can only come as man and wife. May the two of you always treat each other with love, compassion and kindness.  
I ask you to raise your glasses and join me today in congratulating Claire and Stephen and wishing them all the best for a long and happy life together.**

**Coming together is a beginning.  
Keeping together is progress.  
Working together is success.**

**Congratulations Claire and Stephen.**

**Alternate TOAST**

**I lift my glass to honor my daughter and her fiancé on the eve of their wedding day. It is hard to find the right words to express the depths of my thoughts and feelings.**

**Claire is a great daughter, and I am sure she will make a great wife. I am filled with a curious mixture of joy and wonder. Joy at the happiness I see in her eyes, and wonder at the miracle of seeing my daughter grow from a little girl to a woman.**

**A toast to my daughter. She is a gift from God and I will always be grateful to have been given the honor of being her father.**

**May God continue to bless her and her new husband and grant them safety, love, and happiness all the days of their lives.**

**Congratulations Claire and Stephen**