

HANDS ACROSS THE ALTAR

By Lorraine Jeffery

*Strong, unblemished, untried hands
clasped across the altar—making a promise.
Unknown challenges will stretch tendons;
tragedies will break bones;
tasks will wear calluses
and scar fingers.*

*The hands promised support, protection, love,
comfort, compassion, trust, and
righteousness.*

*They tilled gardens, blessed heads, paid bills,
fixed water pipes, drove cars, and
wiped tears.*

*Now they are large-knuckled and
blue-veined, with skin like parchment.
The parchment of a promise kept.*

