

SIX DATES for Catholic Couples
Opening Prayer

DATE TWO
Marriage Is . . .

Begin the prayer with the following or similar words.

Leader: Let us quiet our minds and hearts and take a moment to remind ourselves that we are in God's presence.

Pause

+ In the name of the Father . . .

All: We thank you, O God, for all the gifts
you have given us this day.
We thank you especially
for calling us to marriage.
Through it we become Sacraments of your love,
co-creators with you, and nurturers of life.
As we prepare to enjoy this time together
we ask you to guide us with your Word.

Leader: We read from the Gospel of John about Jesus' presence at the Wedding at Cana where he helped a married couple.

Pause

Reader: A reading from the Gospel of John (Jn 2:1-11)

On the third day there was a wedding in Cana in Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. Jesus and his disciples were also invited to the wedding. When the wine ran short, the mother of Jesus said to him, "They have no wine." [And] Jesus said to her, "Woman, how does your concern affect me? My hour has not yet come." His mother said to the servers, "Do whatever he tells you." Now there were six stone water jars there for Jewish ceremonial washings, each holding twenty to thirty gallons. Jesus told them, "Fill the jars with water." So they filled them to the brim.

Then he told them, "Draw some out now and take it to the headwaiter." So they took it. And when the headwaiter tasted the water that had become wine, without knowing where it came from ... the headwaiter called the bridegroom and said to him, "Everyone serves good wine first, and then when people have drunk freely, an inferior one; but you have kept the good wine until now." Jesus did this as the beginning of his signs in Cana in Galilee and so revealed his glory, and his disciples began to believe in him.

The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Pause

Leader: O God, like the couple at Cana
we are in need of your help.

Too often in our marriage we run short on patience,
honesty, generosity, humility to admit our faults,
compassion, and willingness to forgive each other.

Help us to remember that Jesus, your Son
is always present in our marriage.

Jesus, Son of God, help us transform our shortcomings
into strengths, so that our love for each other
becomes a sacrament of your divine love.

Pause

Leader: Let us pray together the "Prayer for Couples" on page 5
of the book, **Happy Together**.