

SIX DATES for Catholic Couples

Opening Prayer

DATE ONE *Once Upon A Time*

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 our spouses
and for the gift that we are to each other.
As we prepare to enjoy this time together
we ask you to guide us with your Word.

Leader: We read from the Bible about
God's love story with humanity,
which began at creation
and was strengthened in his covenant with Abraham.

Pause

Reader: A reading from the Book of Genesis (Gn 12:1-2, 4; 15:4-6; 17:1-2, 4, 9)

The LORD said to Abram: "Go forth from the land of your kinsfolk and from your father's house to a land that I will show you. I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you."

Abram went as the LORD directed him.

Then the word of the LORD came to him.

He took him outside and said:

"Look up at the sky and count the stars, if you can.
Just so," he added, "shall your descendants be."

Abram put his faith in the LORD, who credited it to him
as an act of righteousness.

When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to him and said:

"I am God the Almighty. Walk in my presence and be blameless.

Between you and me I will establish my covenant,
and I will multiply you exceedingly.

My covenant with you is this:

you are to become the father of a host of nations."

God also said to Abraham:

"On your part, you and your descendants after you
must keep my covenant throughout the ages."

The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Pause

Leader: O God, through the story of your love for us
you help us to understand who you are,
and who we are.

Be with us today, Lord,

as we remember our own love story.

Help us see that through our love for each other
we play a role in your love story.

Pause

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