

SIX DATES for Catholic Couples
Opening Prayer

DATE THREE
What Keeps You Together?

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 the gift of marriage.
Our marriage is a treasure
to be cherished and protected.
As we prepare to enjoy this time together
we ask you to guide us with your Word.

Leader: We read, in the Gospel of Matthew, that Jesus compares the Kingdom of heaven to a treasure.

Pause

Reader: A Reading from the Gospel of Matthew (Mt 13:44)

“The kingdom of heaven is like a treasure buried in a field,
which a person finds and hides again,
and out of joy goes and sells all that he has
and buys that field.”

The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Pause

Leader: O God, you have given us in marriage a great treasure.
Help us remember how precious our relationship is.

Help us grow in it by
being attentive to each other,
caring for each other,
being honest with each other,
making each other our priority,
sacrificing for the sake of our marriage,
forgiving, and serving each other.

With your help, O God,
our marriage treasure will become
a clearer reflection of your love –
to our family and
to the members of our community.

Pause

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