

SIX DATES *for Catholic Couples*
Opening Prayer

DATE SIX
Where Do I Find The Courage?

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 bringing us together
to be husband and wife.
We thank you for your presence in our lives.
Help us remember you are always with us
and are the source of our courage.
As we prepare to enjoy this time together
we ask you to guide us with your Word.

Leader: In Book of Tobit we have an early example
of a couple praying together for God's help.

Pause

Reader: A reading from the Book of Tobit (Tb 8:4-9)

Tobiah arose from bed and said to his wife,
"My love, get up. Let us pray and beg our Lord
to have mercy on us and to grant us deliverance."

He began with these words:
"Blessed are you, O God of our fathers;
praised be your name forever and ever.
Let the heavens and all your creation praise you forever.

You made Adam and you gave him his wife Eve
to be his help and support; and from these two
the human race descended.

You said, 'It is not good for the man to be alone;
let us make him a partner like himself.'

Now, Lord, you know that I take this wife of mine ...
for a noble purpose. Call down your mercy on me and on
her, and allow us to live together to a happy old age."

They said together, "Amen, amen."

The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Pause

Leader: Father of all creation, we praise you.
We thank you for giving us each other
as companions on our journey to you.

Through the wisdom of your Spirit,
guide us when we are confused,
strengthen us when we are weak,
hold our hands and give us courage when we are afraid,
and console us when we hurt.

Through the example of your son, Jesus Christ,
show us the way to love our spouse.

And allow us to live together to a happy old age.

All: Amen. Amen.

Pause

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