

Wisdom of Our Catholic Tradition

The Catechism of the Catholic Church tells us:

“God who created man out of love also calls him to love — the fundamental and innate vocation of every human being.” #1604

“Holy Scripture affirms that man and woman were created for one another.” #1605

“God himself is the author of marriage... The well being of the individual person and of both human and Christian society is closely bound up with the healthy state of conjugal and family life.” #1603

*“Love is patient; love is kind;
Love is not envious or boastful
or arrogant or rude.*

*It does not insist on its own way; ...
It bears all things, believes all things,
Hopes all things, endures all things.”*

1 Corinthians 13:7

The Catholic Church Cares About Your Marriage

*In 2005 the United States Catholic Bishops launched an initiative in support of marriage. They want to help couples live their vocation and they want to remind society that marriage is a gift and a blessing. Their pastoral letter: **Marriage: Love and Life in the Divine Plan** (Nov. 2009) is available for free at USCCB.org. They offer additional resources designed for couples at all stages of their marriage at: foryourmarriage.org and portumatrimonio.org.*

Prepare for your next date by reading Chapter 3 of
Happy Together: The Catholic Blueprint for a Loving Marriage.

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SIX DATES for Catholic Couples

Date Two

Marriage Is...

Before You Begin

As you enjoy your time alone together as a couple, look over this booklet and choose one or more of the activities that you find most interesting to the two of you. When you reflect on the questions and share your thoughts with each other you may uncover disagreements. If any of the activities threatens to take the fun out of your date, set it aside and agree to discuss the issue at another time.

Marriage Is Like . . .

Finish the sentence, “Marriage is like . . .”
in the spaces below.

Husband’s Answers

Wife’s Answers

♥ _____	♥ _____
♥ _____	♥ _____
♥ _____	♥ _____
♥ _____	♥ _____
♥ _____	♥ _____

Memories

Share with each other your memories as you answer these questions.

- ♥ When you first started dating, what did you do on your dates?
- ♥ Is there a particular date that stands out in your mind? What was it? What did you do? Why is it memorable?
- ♥ How often do you go on dates today? When you do, where do you go? What do you do?

Reflections

- ♥ What do I believe marriage is?
- ♥ How does our faith help our marriage?
- ♥ What role does prayer play in our marriage?
- ♥ What did I learn about marriage from my parents?
- ♥ What do we teach our children about marriage through our actions?

What we believe about marriage affects the way we love each other.

How Are We Doing?

Growing in love requires keeping your **Commitment** to stand by each other. This means paying attention to your spouse, listening, showing interest, keeping your word, and being honest with each other.

You are likely to encounter the situations below. Take turns describing what you do in these situations and how you feel about it.

1. What do you do to stay in touch with each other during the day, or to catch up in the evenings?

2. What do you do when your spouse starts to tell you how he/she feels, or what he/she thinks?
3. What do you do when you have something important to tell your spouse and you want your spouse to truly hear you?
4. What do you do when a serious conversation between the two of you is interrupted?
5. What do you do when you promise your spouse that you will do something and you do not?
6. What do you do when you count on your spouse to do something and he/she does not?

Action for This Week

Write down one action each of you will take this week to pay attention to the other's needs?

Husband	Wife

From "Happy Together"

In **Happy Together: the Catholic Blueprint for a Loving Marriage**, at the end of Chapter 1, you will find additional activities.

See page 15, LISTEN TO GOD'S STORY. Read the Scripture passages and hear how God teaches us to love each other.

See pages 15 & 16, REFLECT ON YOUR STORY, for more conversation starters.