

Together for Life

Marriage Ceremony and Liturgy Planning Assignment

Purpose of the assignment: Over the past few decades, weddings have become elaborate, extravagant affairs that focus heavily on aesthetics and lavish details rather than on the spiritual importance of the event. By using Champlin's *Together for Life* to create a personal wedding portfolio, students will understand how to incorporate meaning and spirituality into their special day. In addition to picking songs and readings for the Liturgy, students will be able to move outside the text to pick their wedding dresses, name their wedding parties, and design their own bouquets. This combination of aesthetics and spiritual planning will create a comprehensive and fun portfolio that will give students an understanding of the time, energy, and pleasure involved in planning both a beautiful and spiritually enriching wedding ceremony.

Materials needed:

1. *Together for Life* by Joseph Champlin
2. Binder or some means of bringing the portfolio together

Directions:

Part One: The Who, What, Where, When, Why

1. Create a cover sheet for your portfolio. It should include
 - a. Title
 - b. Name
 - c. Date
 - d. Simple decorations or images
2. Page 2: Set the scene: Write a paragraph describing the setting of your "dream" wedding. Be sure to include:
 - a. The location and name of church
 - b. The month
 - c. Time of the wedding
 - d. Names of people who will be in your part of the bridal party and the officiant
 - e. Name of reception location
 - f. Honeymoon location
3. Pages 3-7: Wedding attire and rings: Please include a photograph, photocopy from a magazine, internet picture, or drawing of the following things:
 - a. Wedding dress
 - b. Bridesmaids' dresses
 - c. Groom's tuxedo
 - d. Wedding rings
 - e. Bride's bouquet
4. Page 8 should be titled "The Top Ten Things I Will Look for in a Husband"

3. Page 9 should be titled “The Top Ten Things I Can Offer as a Wife”

Part Two: Planning the liturgy

Although the Catholic marriage ceremony is rooted in tradition, couples can choose the music and liturgical readings for their wedding. This flexibility allows couples to personalize and fully participate in the planning of the ceremony. On the subsequent pages, you will be asked to choose the songs and readings for your wedding, just as couples who are preparing for marriage are asked to do. Please refer to the indicated pages of *Together for Life* for song and reading selections. Number the pages as you like.

Entrance Rite:

1. Title of song or songs to play before the wedding.
2. The procession: refer to page 17 to choose what type of procession you will use.
3. Title of song for the bridesmaids’ procession
4. Title of song for the bride’s procession
5. Opening prayer: refer to page 8 (A1-4). Type the prayer and prayer number.

Liturgy of the Word: Write the title of the scripture passage as it appears in the book, the scripture reference (i.e. Jeremiah 31:31-32a). Briefly summarize the reading and explain why you like each reading.

1. Old Testament Reading: refer to pages 10-26.
2. Responsorial Psalm: refer to pages 28-31. Type Psalm.
3. New Testament Reading: refer to pages 34-54.
4. Alleluia Verse and Verse before the Gospel: refer to page 54. Type verses.
5. Gospel: refer to pages 56-72

Rite of Marriage:

1. Exchange of Consent or Wedding Vows: refer to pages 76-77. Include how you will recite vows and explain why you chose that particular method.
 - a. Consent through questions
 - b. Memorize vows
 - c. Recite them after the priest
 - d. Read them from book
2. Blessing of the Rings: page 78. Type out blessing.
3. Prayer by the Couple: Type prayer. If you are including this, please indicate how the prayer will be read. See options on page 79.
4. Prayer of the Faithful: refer to pages 80-82 Pick six from the list attached and type them. Also, you may write some original ones on your own.. Please indicate how the prayers will be read / sung.

Liturgy of the Eucharist:

1. Title of Offertory song: please write the title of the song
2. Prayer over the gifts: page 84. Type prayer.
3. Preface: refer to pages 85-86. Type preface
4. Nuptial Blessing: refer to pages 87-89. Type blessing
5. Title of Communion Song: Type the name of the song
6. Prayer after Communion: refer to page 90. Type prayer.

Concluding Rite:

1. Final blessing: refer to pages 91-92. Type blessing.
2. Title of Recessional song.

Other special elements or alternatives in the ceremony: refer to page 17 for ideas or describe you own. See pages 95-96 to see the guidelines for alternate preparation.