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Together For Life

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**Synopsis**

Together for Life has been the most trusted source for wedding planning in the Catholic Church for more than forty-five years. Written by Msgr. Joseph Champlin (1930-2008) and first published in 1970, more than nine-million copies of Together for Life have been sold. The fifth edition was updated in 2011 with the help of Rev. Peter A. Jarret, C.S.C., to include the revised liturgical texts of the third edition of the Roman Missal. Each reading choice is accompanied by a reflection written by lay married theologians or pastoral leaders who are committed to the sacramental life of the church. Contributors include Ann M. Garrido, Msgr. Michael Heintz, Diana Macalintal, H. Richard McCord, Geoffrey D. Miller, Tim Muldoon, Julie Hanlon Rubio, and Deacon William F. Urbine. The 2011 edition of Together for Life includes all of the information, prayers, blessings, and readings needed to plan a wedding that will be held during Mass, outside Mass, or between a Catholic and an unbaptized person. FAQs address questions couples may have about traditions such as readings, music, witnesses, and unusual circumstances. Engaged couples use Together for Life when meeting with a priest, deacon, or lay parish minister to plan their wedding as they prepare for living the Sacrament of Marriage. Together for Life includes: Approved texts for celebrating the Rite of Marriage and prayers from the Roman Missal "The Word Brought Home," scripture commentaries by Catholic leaders, Catechetical commentary by Rev. Peter Jarret, C.S.C., to help couples deepen their understanding of the Sacrament of Marriage, Hints for incorporating ethnic and cultural devotions and practices into a Catholic wedding, Sample intercessions, How-to guides to help parish ministers, FAQ section about the celebration of Catholic weddings, Information on having civil marriages blessed or validated by the Church, Tips for keeping love strong. The material in Together for Life is supported by TogetherforLifeOnline.com. The site includes an online selection form, Catholic wedding planning resources, and articles providing enrichment to both married and engaged couples.

**Book Information**

Paperback: 128 pages  
Publisher: Ave Maria Press; Fifth edition (January 17, 2012)  
Language: English  
ISBN-10: 1594712824  
Product Dimensions: 5.8 x 0.7 x 8.8 inches  
Shipping Weight: 6.4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)  
Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars Â— See all reviews (63 customer reviews)
When my fiancee and I decided to get married and went to talk to our parish priest, he presented us with this text. It has proven to be a wonderful planning aid for my fiancee and me. We have enjoyed reading all of the readings and deciding which ones will be used in our Mass. For those who want to plan a wedding that recognizes that Marriage is a Sacrament, and says this and remains Catholic through-and-through Champlin’s text is an excellent source. We also purchased several other books, including "Perspectives On Marriage with Catholic Wedding Ceremony," and Chris Aridas’ excellent "Your Catholic Wedding."

When most couples prepare to marry in the Catholic Church, they don’t realize they don’t have to have the "standard" wedding mass. This book shows samples and suggestions for choosing your own music, readings from the Bible, responsorial psalms, even adding some personalization to your vows. I’m glad I bought it, I’m looking forward to hearing the mass my fiance and I put together for our wedding. This is a unique book at a bargain price.

Together for Life really helps you to pull your Catholic wedding ceremony together. It’s well laid out and provides easy instructions on how to plan your liturgy and which verses to choose. I wish it would offer a little more information on optional parts of the ceremony (i.e. candle lighting, Mary offering) but that is the only minor issue I could find. Good to get multiple copies - one for bride and one for groom.

This small book walks you through all the elements of a Catholic wedding even if you don’t have a full mass. The explanations are thorough and easy to understand. Plus, it recommends a variety of prayers, readings, and vows to help personalize your ceremony. There is a companion book that most priests have. If your officiant uses this series, then you can fill out the form in the book (there’s a super easy online version too). This makes it straightforward for both you and the priest to plan all the elements of your ceremony. If your church does not use the Together for Life series, then this booklet may not be as useful. However, it may still help you narrow down reading choices and understand what the different parts of the ceremony mean.
I have borrowed this book from friends to look at and now have one from my church as I plan my wedding. The one I have I can't keep so I decided to get my own copy! I love the information and readings in it and the "comments for couples" are great to read with your future spouse to discuss things.

Just a note: If you are getting married in the Catholic church, your priest will likely give you a copy of this book for free. It contains a lot of valuable information and also includes all the possible selections for your wedding Mass. I love that it includes reflections on each of the readings. If you are having a hard time deciding which readings to choose, reading these reflections with your fiance might help make the decision easier. If for some reason your parish doesn't use this, make sure you get a copy.

Awesome booklet. I recommend discussing this honesty and diving deeper into the Lord and your relationships with him and your spouse. Makes for not just a beautiful ceremony but also solid foundation for marriage. Great devotionals to go along with the readings.

This book is terrific! I covered all the bases and answered a lot of the questions I had regarding getting married in the Catholic Church. I realized shortly after purchasing this book that I didn't need to buy it because my parish provided it to us. I would check with where you plan on getting married to find out if they provide it to you. If not, this is a MUST buy....

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