

CHAPTER 5 – ASSIGNMENTS

PART 2: THE WEDDING

ASSIGNMENTS FOR § 170–172

LITURGY FOR OUR WEDDING

Group discussion

The course leaders open up for conversation on how the couples can plan their wedding liturgy, answering practical questions related to the wedding ceremony.

Work on as a couple – Homework

Prepare your wedding liturgy well in advance, preferably several weeks before the wedding. Use the marriage ritual and the liturgy plans for the wedding mass that you find on the [Catechetical Centre's webpages](#). Keep in close contact with the officiating priest. You must decide the following:

1. Will there be a mass in combination with the wedding? It's smart to make a programme containing the liturgy because it will be of great help to your guests and all who are involved.
2. Choose readings from the list the course leaders give you. Are there readings that speak especially to the two of you, which can function as a life motto or say something about you as a couple?
3. Choose the form of the wedding ritual that you want to use – either to declare the vows in full or simply answer 'yes' to the priest's questions.
4. Choose the intercessory prayers you want to include.
5. If you have chosen to have a nuptial mass, do you want to bring forward the bread and wine yourselves? Organize this in consultation with the priest.
6. Select hymns and, if you want, other music (performed by family/friends who want to sing, a choir, an organist, etc.).
7. Think about whether you want to include symbols or actions that are particular to your homeland or culture in addition to those that are part of the basic wedding ritual. Consult with the priest: he can tell you which symbols, actions and cultural customs harmonize with the Church's recommendations.

FINAL ASSIGNMENT

Group assignment/(as couples)

This assignment can have a *Lectio Divina* form (i.e., read, meditate, pray, contemplate).

One person reads (slowly) the passage about the wedding in Cana (John 2: 1–12). Listen attentively and notice who is present at the wedding. Imagine a wedding celebration about 2000 years ago; the wedding couple, the guests, the surroundings, the meal, how the various persons act when they realize there isn't enough wine.

Read the text slowly once more. Close your eyes and imagine you yourselves are the wedding couple in Cana, and you have Jesus and Mary as guests! Allow yourselves to be touched by how Mary sees your need, and how Jesus, by turning the water into wine, brings about an unexpected, new and greater joy into your wedding party.

The priest can explain to the group/the wedding couple the relevance of the wedding in Cana, what it signifies for all married couples, and the eternal goal to which it points.

End with a prayer in which you invite Jesus and Mary to accompany you with their care throughout your marriage.

Jesus Christ, our Lord,
With your presence and your power and on behalf of your mother's intercessory prayer
you brought new joy into the wedding party in Cana.
Bless us and always be the guest of honour in our life.
We put all our future in your hands,
trusting that you will make up for our shortcomings
and lead us to a happiness that surpasses all we hope for.

Holy Mary,
Your mother's heart was especially attentive to the needs of the wedding couple in Cana.
We entrust ourselves to your attentive care.
Be near us always,
and come to our aid with your intercession
even before we understand what we are about to run out of
in our future life as spouses.
Amen

FINAL HOMEWORK

- Relax. Try to be as relaxed and rested as possible for the wedding day. Delegate as many tasks as possible to others. Many people will be more than happy to help you with practical tasks.
- Treat yourselves to some minutes of calm every day. Stay silently in God's presence and let him fill you with his infinite love and inspiration for the great journey of life which you now embark on together.