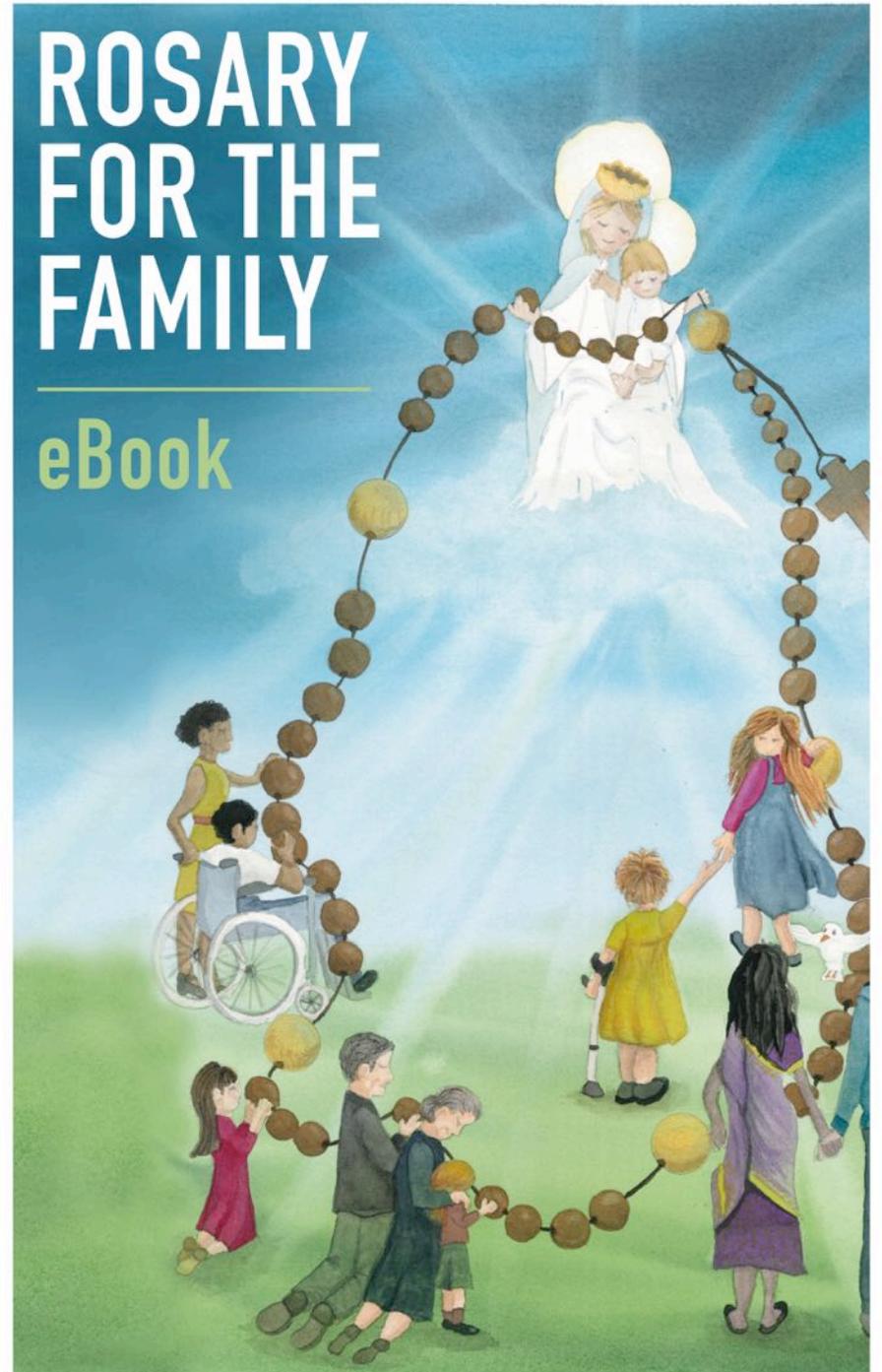


# ROSARY FOR THE FAMILY

eBook



## **Presentation**

“Prayer is the breath of faith”, explains Pope Francis. Even in the family “it also means encouraging family prayer during the week”, because “the family that prays together stays together”. (AL n. 227)

Praying the Holy Rosary is a special time to share with one’s family members and other families as well. During the year dedicated to St. Joseph, praying the Rosary as a family is also a concrete way of obtaining plenary indulgence. In any case, “this can do immense good for our families”. (AL 318)

With this hope, I invite you all to use this rosary prepared on the occasion of the "*Amoris Laetitia* Family" Year so that we do not miss the opportunity to reinforce our love for Jesus and Mary, our heavenly Mother. The meditations are brief, taken from *Amoris Laetitia* and are accompanied by short questions and images that can help you reflect in faith, even with children.

May the Lord bless you and the Holy Family of Nazareth accompany you, so that you may render your domestic Churches cenacles of prayer for spreading Mary's love throughout the world.

*Cardinal Kevin Farrell*

Prefect of the Dicastery for Laity, Family and Life

The Rosary for the Family has been carefully created by the Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network and the Dicastery for Laity, Family and Life. Our team is delighted with this partnership in order to help families to pray and to pray as a family.

The Rosary is available for Amazon Kindle and in the Google Play Books store. Furthermore, the Rosary can be downloaded for free as an EPUB, MOBI or PDF through our website <https://www.popesprayer.va>

*Frédéric Fornos SJ.*

Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network International Director

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## Click To Pray eRosary - Rosary for the Family

### Amoris Laetitia Family Year

Dicastery for Laity, Family and Life

This Rosary is intended to be prayed in the family, with children.

With each mystery, we are invited to reflect on a question, which is illuminated by the

Gospel and *Amoris Laetitia*.



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presence of God, the Word of God, common prayer and, therefore, the blessing of the Lord is defined (AL 15).

\* We crown Jesus, Mary and Joseph. We can make an altar with an image of the Holy Family, a candle, flowers, photos of our family, signs of our love. Let's make it a place of love in our family.



## The Joyful Mysteries

*What do we discover about the family in each mystery?*

### 1. The First Joyful Mystery: The Annunciation

The angel Gabriel was sent to a young woman, Mary, who was engaged to Joseph. The angel said to her: “Rejoice Mary, God is with you, He loves you very much. You will have a son and you will name him Jesus. He will grow up and He will be called Son of the Most High” (Lk 1:26-32).

*We discover that God Himself is a family:*

“The triune God is a communion of love, and the family is its living reflection... Our God in his deepest mystery is not solitude, but a family, for he has within himself fatherhood, sonship and the essence of the family, which is love.” (AL 11).

\* In what moments of our family history have we felt that God is present among us?

### 2. The Second Joyful Mystery: The Visitation

Mary was going to visit her cousin Elizabeth and her husband Zacharias. Elizabeth was pregnant and full of the Holy Spirit said to Mary: “Blessed are you among woman and blessed also is the child that you carry in your womb”. She responded: “I praise the Lord who has done marvels for me” (Lk 1:39-45).

*We discover that joy is shared among all the members of the family:*

“When a loving person can do good for others, or sees that others are happy, they themselves live happily and in this way give glory to God, for “God loves a cheerful giver”... The family must always be a place where, when something good happens to one of its members, they know that others will be there to celebrate it with them.” (AL 110).

\* What members of our family have been the presence of Jesus to us?

### 3. The Third Joyful Mystery: The Nativity

Mary and Joseph left for Bethlehem. It was there that Jesus was born, they wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger, for there was no room at the inn. There were some

### 3. The Third Glorious Mystery: The Descent of the Holy Spirit

The day of Pentecost came; they were all together in the same place. Then appeared before them tongues of fire, which descended upon the heads of each of them, and they were all filled of the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:1, 3-4).

*That the Holy Spirit might inhabit all families.*

The small family nucleus should not isolate itself from the extended family, where there are parents, uncles, aunts, uncles, cousins, and even neighbours, and where there may be some in need of help, or at least of company and gestures of affection, or of great suffering in need of consolation. Under the impulse of the Spirit, the family nucleus welcomes life and goes out of itself to pour its good into others, to take care of them and to seek their happiness (AL 187. 324).

\* Who are the first to come to our aid when our family is met with difficulties? How do they help?

### 4. The Fourth Glorious Mystery: The Assumption

“The Immaculate ever virgin Mary, Mother of God, ended her earthly life and was assumed, body and soul, into celestial glory.” (Pius XII).

*That Mary might keep all families in her heart.*

“Like Mary, [families] are asked to face their family’s challenges with courage and serenity, in good times and bad, and to keep in their heart the great things which God has done. The treasury of Mary’s heart also contains the experiences of every family, which she cherishes. For this reason, she can help us understand the meaning of these experiences and to hear the message God wishes to communicate through the life of our families.” (AL 30).

\* We remember events and places that are important to our family history.

### 5. The Fifth Glorious Mystery: The Coronation of Mary

A great sign appeared in the heavens: a woman dressed in the sun, with the moon beneath her feet and a crown of twelve stars above her head (Rev 12, 1).

*That we might crown Our Mother, Queen of all families.*

“A family’s living space could turn into a domestic church, a setting for the Eucharist, the presence of Christ seated at its table”. It is in this way that a house that carries within it the

## The Glorious Mysteries

*What does Jesus teach us in these mysteries?*

### 1. The First Glorious Mystery: The Resurrection

At dawn on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to the tomb. An angel of the lord said to the women: do not fear, I know that you are looking for Jesus, the crucified. He is not here. He has risen! Go and tell the disciples: He has risen, go to Galilee. You will see him there (Mt 28:1, 5-7).

*That all families could be Galilee:*

“The Lord’s presence dwells in real and concrete families, with all their daily troubles and struggles, joys and hopes... If that authenticity is inspired by love, then the Lord reigns there, with his joy and his peace. The spirituality of family love is made up of thousands of small but real gestures. In that variety of gifts and encounters which deepen communion, God has his dwelling place.” (AL 315).

\* What is our family like? What characterises it? What do we like to do together?

### 2. The Second Glorious Mystery: The Ascension

Jesus approached then and said to them: Go and teach all peoples, baptising them in the name of the father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded them. I will be with you always, even to the end of ages.” (Mt 28:18-20).

*That all families be invited to bear his message:*

It is about proposing values, so “that people experience the Gospel of the family as a joy that ‘fills hearts and lives’... As in the parable of the sower, we are called to help sow seeds; the rest is God’s work.” (AL 200).

\* How do we think other people see us? Would they be able to see that we love each other by the way we treat each other?

shepherds, to whom an angel appeared, saying: “I bring you news of great joy. Today is born the Saviour, the Son of God”. Then the shepherds went to adore him (Lk 2:4-11).

*We discover that children are loved unconditionally in the family*

“Children are a gift. Each one is unique and irreplaceable... We love our children because they are children, not because they are beautiful, or look or think as we do, or embody our dreams... The love of parents is the means by which God our Father shows his own love. He awaits the birth of each child, accepts that child unconditionally, and welcomes him or her freely” (AL 170).

\* How did you feel when you discovered that you were to become parents? What was it like to welcome children to the world?

### 4. The Fourth Joyful Mystery: The Presentation in the Temple

Mary and Joseph, in obedience to the law, went to the Temple to give thanks for the birth of Jesus. There they encountered two elderly people, Anna and Simeon, who loved God very much and rejoiced at their meeting Jesus, the Saviour (cf Lk 2:22, 28, 36-38).

*We discover that every family is part of the society and the Church.*

“The family is the primary setting for socialization, since it is where we first learn to relate to others, to listen and share, to be patient and show respect, to help one another and live as one... In the family, we learn closeness, care and respect for others. We break out of our fatal self-absorption and come to realize that we are living with and alongside others who are worthy of our concern, our kindness and our affection.” (cf AL 276).

\* Which communities are important for our family? With which ones do we share our life?

### 5. The Fifth Joyful Mystery: The Finding in the Temple

When Jesus was twelve years old, he travelled with his parents to Jerusalem. Joseph and Mary went back but Jesus stayed in Jerusalem without his parents realising it. For three days they looked for him and upon finding him, his mother said to him: “Son, why have you done this to me?”, to which Jesus responded: “Why were you looking for me? Don’t you know that I must be about my Father’s business?” (Lk 2:41-49).

*We discover that parents care for their children and respect their freedom.*

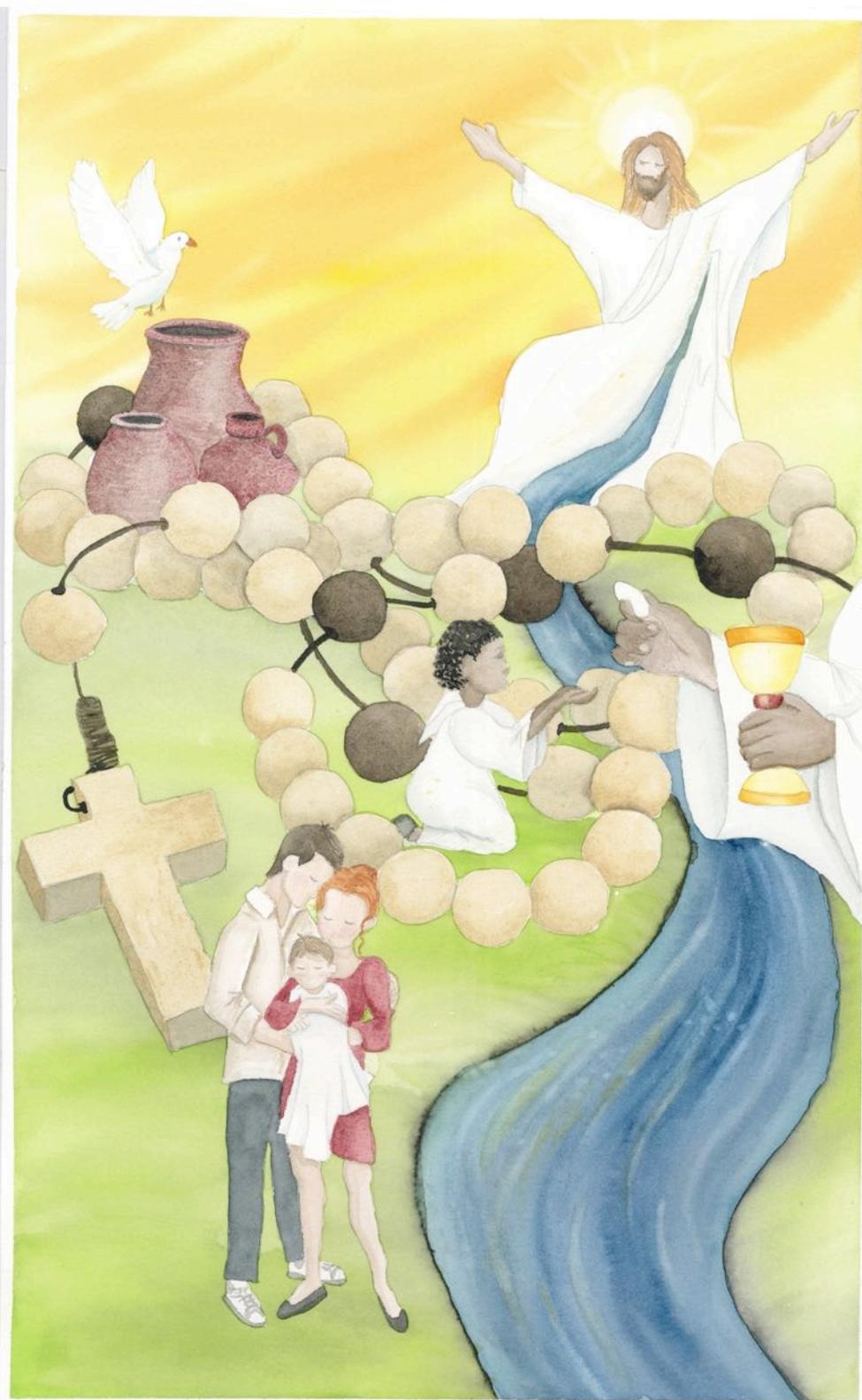
“We cannot control every situation that a child may experience... If parents are obsessed with always knowing where their children are and controlling all their movements, they will seek only to dominate space... What is most important is the ability lovingly to help them grow in freedom, maturity, overall discipline and real autonomy. Only in this way will children come to possess the wherewithal needed to fend for themselves and to act intelligently and prudently whenever they meet with difficulties.” (AL 261).

\* Parents: do you remember some of the mischief you got up to as a child? Share it with the family.



abandoned Jesus, who transforms difficulties and sufferings into an offering of love]" (cf AL 317).

\* What difficult situations have we or are we experiencing as a family? Let us embrace Jesus with love and offer them to him.



## The Luminous Mysteries

*What do we learn about the family in these mysteries?*

### 1. The First Luminous Mystery: The Baptism of Christ in the Jordan

Then Jesus went to the Jordan to be baptised by John... and a voice from the heavens said: This is my Son, the Beloved, in whom I am well pleased (Mt 1:9-11).

*We learn that mum and dad asked for our baptism and that we are beloved children of God.*

“[Parents] can participate in God’s plan by dreaming of her child... You can’t have a family without dreams. Once a family loses the ability to dream, children do not grow, love does not grow, life shrivels up and dies... For Christian married couples, baptism necessarily appears as a part of that dream. With their prayers, parents prepare for baptism, entrusting their baby to Jesus even before he or she is born.” (cf AL 169).

\* We remember the baptism day of our parent and children. If we haven’t received baptism, would we like to receive it?

### 2. The Second Luminous Mystery: The Wedding Feast at Cana

A wedding was being celebrated in Cana of Galilee and Jesus was there with his mother. As they ran out of wine, Mary said to Jesus: “They do not have wine.” Jesus answered her, saying: “What does that have to do with me? My hour has not yet come.” But his mother said to the servants: “Do whatever he tells you”. Thus, Jesus began his many signs, manifested his glory and the faith of his disciples in Him grew (Jn 2:1-5, 11).

*We learn the value of marriage:*

“In their union of love, the spouses experience the beauty of fatherhood and motherhood; they share projects; they learn to care for each other and to forgive each other. The joy for the life that is born and the loving care of all its members, from the little ones to the elderly, are only some of the fruits that make the family unique and irreplaceable.” (AL 73-88).

\* Have we participated in a wedding? What do we remember of the celebration? What about the wedding feast?

### 3. The Third Sorrowful Mystery: The Crowning with Thorns

The soldiers took Jesus into the palace. They clothed him in violet and placed a crown of thorns on his head. And mocking him, they said: “Hail, King of the Jews!” (Mk 15:16-18).

*Jesus learned from Mary and Joseph to be patient, and to put up with mocking for love of us.*

“Love always has an aspect of deep compassion that leads to accepting the other person as part of this world, even when he or she acts differently than I would like” (AL 92).

\* How do I treat my family members when they don’t do as I had hoped? Do I accept them? Do I get angry? Do I mock? Am I patient?

### 4. The Fourth Sorrowful Mystery: The Carrying of the Cross

Then they led Jesus, who took up his cross and went toward the place called Calvary. As they lead him, they arrested Simon of Cyrene and placed the cross on him (cf Jn 19, 16; Mt 27, 32).

*Jesus learned from Mary and Joseph that, in order to love, we need to be strong, resilient and let others help us.*

Love bears adversities with a positive spirit. It stands firm in the midst of a hostile environment. It is love in spite of everything, even when the whole context invites otherwise. In family life it is necessary to cultivate this force of love (cf. AL 118, 119).

\* In what way do we grow in resilience as a family? How do we face difficulties?

### 5. The Fifth Sorrowful Mystery: The Crucifixion and Death

Jesus, seeing his mother standing next to the disciple whom he loved, said to his mother: “Woman, behold your son.” Then he said to the disciple: “Behold your mother.”... then, some time later, darkness covered the whole land until the ninth hour, and Jesus exclaimed: “Father, into your hands I commend my spirit” and, having said this, he expired (Jn 19:26-27; Lk 23:44-46).

*Jesus learned from Mary and Joseph what true love is.*

“If a family is centred on Christ, he will unify and illumine its entire life. Moments of pain and difficulty will be experienced in union with the Lord’s cross, and his closeness will make it possible to surmount them. In the darkest hours of a family’s life [there is union with the

## The Sorrowful Mysteries

*Which virtues would Jesus have learned from Mary and Joseph in preparation to face these mysteries?*

### 1. The First Sorrowful Mystery: The Agony in the Garden

Jesus went to the Mount of Olives and his disciples followed him. And he went on a little further than them... and on his knees he prayed, saying: "Father, if you will, let this chalice pass me by, but not my will, but yours be done." (Lk 22:39, 42).

*Jesus, you learned from Mary and Joseph to pray and to confide in your Father.*

"Parents desirous of nurturing the faith of their children are sensitive to their patterns of growth, for they know that spiritual experience is not imposed but freely proposed. It is essential that children actually see that, for their parents, prayer is something truly important. Hence moments of family prayer and acts of devotion can be more powerful for evangelization than any catechism class or sermon." (AL 288).

\* What prayers do we like to do together as a family? Grace before meals? The Mass? The Rosary? The blessing before going to sleep? Others?

### 2. The Second Sorrowful Mystery: The Scourging at the Pillar

Pilate set Barabbas free, but, after having him scourged, delivered Jesus up to be crucified (Mt 27:26).

*Jesus learned from Mary and Joseph to suffer injustices out of love.*

Family life cannot be dominated by the logic of dominating one over the other, or by the competition to see who is more intelligent or powerful, because this logic destroys love. For the family is this advice: "Be humble towards one another, for God resists the proud, but gives his grace to the humble" (AL 98).

\* Do we sometimes set Barabbas free in our family? In what situations? Is it nice? We pray to always choose Jesus.

### 3. The Third Luminous Mystery: Jesus' Proclamation of the Coming of the Kingdom of God

Jesus left for Galilee to preach the good news of the Kingdom of God. He said: "The time has come and the kingdom of God is already near. Convert and believe in the Gospel." (Mk 1:14-15).

*We learn that families also announce that God loves us:*

By their witness as well as their words, families speak to others of Jesus. They pass on the faith, they arouse a desire for God and they reflect the beauty of the Gospel and its way of life. Christian marriages thus enliven society by their witness of fraternity, their social concern, their outspokenness on behalf of the underprivileged, their luminous faith and their active hope. Their fruitfulness expands and in countless ways makes God's love present in society." (AL 184).

\* Do we tell others that God loves us? In what ways do we do this?

### 4. The Fourth Luminous Mystery: The Transfiguration

And he transfigured before them, such that his face was made resplendent as the sun and his clothing white as light. And a voice from the cloud said: This is my Son, the Beloved, my chosen one, in whom I am well pleased; listen to him (Lk 9:29, 35).

*We learn that parents and children need to express the love that they have for each other.*

"The educational process that occurs between parents and children can be helped or hindered by the increasing sophistication of the communications and entertainment media. When well used, these media can be helpful for connecting family members who live apart from one another. Frequent contacts help to overcome difficulties. Still, it is clear that these media cannot replace the need for more personal and direct dialogue, which requires physical presence or at least hearing the voice of the other person." (AL 278).

\* In which ways do we express love to our family? (Words, gestures, concrete acts)

### 5. The Fifth Luminous Mystery: The Institution of the Eucharist

At supper, Jesus took some bread, blessed it, broke it and passed it out, saying: "Take, this is my body". Afterwards, he took a cup, gave thanks and gave it to his disciples saying: "Take this, all of you, and drink it, this is my blood, the blood of the covenant" (Mt 26:26-28).

*We learn that it is beautiful to share the Eucharist as a family.*

“A family’s living space could turn into a domestic church, a setting for the Eucharist, the presence of Christ seated at its table... The family is called to join in daily prayer, to read the word of God and to share in Eucharistic communion, and thus to grow in love and become ever more fully a temple in which the Spirit dwells.” (AL 29).

\* We aim to share the Eucharist as a family.

