

**CHAPTER 8 PRAYER SERVICE**

**All:** In the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

**Leader:** We come together today to give thanks for the gift of the Sacrament of Matrimony. As we enter this time of prayer, we call on several married saints to join us in our praise and petitions.

**Leader:** Christ, hear us.

**All:** Christ, graciously hear us.

**Leader:** Blessed Virgin Mary and St. Joseph,

**All:** Pray for us.

**Leader:** St. Peter,

**All:** Pray for us.

**Leader:** St. Monica,

**All:** Pray for us.

**Leader:** St. Thomas More,

**All:** Pray for us.

**Leader:** St. Elizabeth Ann Seton,

**All:** Pray for us.

**Leader:** Sts. Louis and Zélie Martin,

**All:** Pray for us.

**Leader:** Let us unite our prayers with the prayers of the saints and ask God to bless all married couples, their families, and the World Meeting of Families. Let us pray.

**Group 1:** Heavenly Father,  
We come before You to praise You

and to thank You for the great gift of the family.  
We pray to You for all families  
consecrated by the Sacrament of Matrimony.  
May they rediscover each day the grace they have received,  
and as small domestic Churches,  
may they know how to witness to your Presence  
and to the love with which Christ loves the Church.

**Group 2:** We pray to You for all families faced with difficulty and suffering  
caused by illness or circumstances of which only You know.  
Sustain them and make them aware  
of the path to holiness upon which You call them,  
so that they might experience your infinite Mercy  
and find new ways to grow in love.

**Group 1:** We pray to You for children and young people:  
may they encounter You and respond joyfully  
to the vocation You have in mind for them;  
We pray for parents and grandparents: may they be aware  
that they are signs of the fatherhood and motherhood of God  
in caring for the children who, in body and spirit, You entrust to them;  
for the experience of fraternity that the family can give to the world.

**Group 2:** Lord, grant that each family  
might live their specific vocation to holiness in the Church  
as a call to become missionary disciples, in the service of life and peace,  
in communion with our priests,  
religious, and all vocations in the Church.  
Bless the World Meeting of Families.  
Amen.

**All:** In the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.