we say and do. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

**ALL:** Amen.

**Table Activity:** Create links expressing aspirations for families on local, state, national and global levels. Form links into a paper chain and connect your chain to those from other tables.

Procession with lighted candles and the paper chain. Sing “Let there be peace on earth.” Decoration of the Peace Tree with paper chain celebrating One Human Family.

**Concluding Pledge (All):**
As a member of our One Human Family, I choose of my own free will to treat all people with respect and dignity. I recognize that every person is my brother or sister in our human family regardless of what they look like, what they believe, how they choose to live, and whether I agree with them or not. I will do my part to help all people receive fair treatment and reach their highest potential. I will have the courage to help people when they are down or in harm’s way, and the wisdom to let them learn for themselves. I will show empathy to those who suffer, forgive those who have wronged me, and be a friend to those who will let me. This is my promise to our human family. Taken from [http://1hf.com/](http://1hf.com/).

Photos will be taken and posted on the CSA web site. Please inform the photographer if you do not want to be photographed.
Welcome

Introduction – LOVE BINDS US TOGETHER: One Human Family (in this year of Synod on the Family)

Opening Song: World Peace Prayer

Dialogue: Diversity of Family Life

Readings
A Reading for Paul’s Letter to the Ephesians 3: 14-21
For this reason I kneel before God, from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named, that God may grant you in accord with the riches of God’s glory to be strengthened with power through God’s Spirit in the inner self, and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, that you, rooted and grounded in love, may have strength to comprehend with all the holy ones what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.
All: Thanks be to God

A reflection from Albert Einstein
“We experience ourselves, our thoughts and feelings as something separate from others… a kind of optical delusion… this delusion is a kind of prison for us, restricting us to affection for a few

Reader 14: In our midst we include couples throughout the world in a committed homosexual relationship.
All: We honor them for they witness to us the universality of God’s love, and we ask for an end to all forms of discrimination toward them.

Reader 15: In our midst we have the family of nations joined together for the nonviolent resolution of conflict.
All: May God’s abundant love pour forth over the world, and rest upon the United Nations, protecting, purifying, energizing and strengthening all nations and peoples in pursuit of that peace which is beyond all understanding.

Reader 16: In our midst we include Mother Earth and every species that lives on the land or inhabits the seas.
All: “The natural world is the larger sacred community to which we belong. To be alienated from this community is to become destitute in all that makes us human. To damage this community is to diminish our own existence.” (Thomas Berry, Priest and Geologian)

LEADER: Oh, God, you have created us in love and saved us in mercy. Shower your blessings on your household gathered here in your name. Enable us who are joined by the love of Christ to support one another by our fervor of spirit and devotion to prayer. Make us responsive to the needs of others and witnesses to Christ’s teaching in all
you to be with them in their need and to nourish them forever.

Reader 11: In our midst we include households where one parent is engaged in raising children. All: We honor the courage and determination of those trying to create a good home, care for children, hold a job, and undertake responsibilities in their communities. Nurturing God, we ask that you strengthen their love and help them to know you are always with them.

Reader 12: In our midst we include families arising from an interreligious marriage. All: We honor them for they witness to us the universality of God’s love which overcomes all division. God of peace, help them to respect one another’s different religious beliefs and practices while working together to create a family based on love.

Reader 13: In our midst, we include families affected by separation and divorce. We include families burdened by the economic demands of providing housing, healthcare, childcare or care of elderly members. We include households struggling with abuse, alcoholism, crime and gang violence in neighborhoods. All: Compassionate God, we rejoice in your constant love for us and ask you to watch over these families, heal their wounds, and bring them to new life.

persons nearest to us. Our task must be to free ourselves from the prison by widening our circle of compassion to embrace all living creatures and the whole of nature in its beauty. A human being is a part of the whole universe. We shall require a substantial new manner of thinking if humanity is to survive.”

Litany of Families (Adapted from http://homelinks.dor.org/linkservid/9ED9F5B4-DB91-D96E-45E86DF829BB1D00/showMeta/0/)

LEADER: Today we acknowledge and celebrate that we are all part of God’s household. We share the same vocation: to follow the way of love even as Christ has loved us.

Reader 1: In our midst we include immigrant families, refuge families, and those families struggling to survive poverty, war and violence.

Reader 2: In our midst we include families arising from an interreligious marriage. All: We honor them for they witness to us the universality of God’s love which overcomes all division. God of peace, help them to respect one another’s different religious beliefs and practices while working together to create a family based on love.

Reader 3: In our midst, we include families affected by separation and divorce. We include families burdened by the economic demands of providing housing, healthcare, childcare or care of elderly members. We include households struggling with abuse, alcoholism, crime and gang violence in neighborhoods.

All: Compassionate God, we rejoice in your constant love for us and ask you to watch over these families, heal their wounds, and bring them to new life.
they extend to others even when they are tired and overburdened themselves. Gentle God, we ask that you give them strength to hold their faith in you and to keep alive their joy in your creation.

Reader 3: In our midst we include those who are joined in a committed, faithful relationship of wife and husband.
All: We honor them for the way they serve one another, build up the church of the home, and affirm life as a precious gift from God. Faithful God, may their love for each other shine as a single flame to all.

Reader 4: In our midst we include households of adults whose children are grown and living on their own or away at school, or who are missing.
All: We honor the ways these families have learned to extend their loving care over the miles. God of new beginnings, help them to discover anew their love of you and for one another. Give them hope in their struggles.

Reader 5: In our midst we include those who are trying to blend two sets of children into one family.
All: We honor them for giving us such a practical example of peacemaking. God, the lover of us all, be with those who face a special challenge to accept differences and to love unconditionally.

Reader 6: In our midst we include those who live alone.
All: We honor them for the way peace, love, and beauty flow out of their homes in all directions. God of hospitality, may their door stand open to all who are in need as a sign of the posture of their hearts.

Reader 7: In our midst we include those who grieve at the death of a family member due to illness, accident, or the violence so prevalent in societies throughout the world.
All: We honor them as they bear deep pain. God of consolation and healing, may those weighed down by grief find reassurance of your infinite goodness and may they discover once again your peace.

Reader 8: In our midst we include those who dwell in a religious community, a convent, monastery or rectory.
All: We honor them for their commitment to others and especially to building up God’s household. God of steadfast love, grant them the gift of knowing your love through their care and appreciation of others.

Reader 9: In our midst we include families from a variety of ethnic backgrounds.
All: We honor them as they share with their children a vision of life through family stories, ethnic customs, and group celebrations. We particularly value the special place of the family in the Hispanic culture and the strength of the extended family in African and Asian cultures. God of hope, help us, your Church, to use our differences to strengthen our unity and to live as a sign of your presence in the world.

Reader 10: In our midst we include couples who struggle to conceive a child.
All: We honor them for their gracious generosity and their determination to serve life. Creating God, we ask