

(October 2018)

## THE JOY OF LOVE

### **Introduction**

“families are not a problem; they are first and foremost an opportunity” 7

### **Chapter One – In the Light of the Word**

“The triune God is a communion of love and the family is its living reflection.” 11

“Children are not the property of a family, but have their own lives to lead.” 18

#### *Prayer to the Holy Family*

Jesus, Mary and Joseph,  
in you we contemplate  
the splendour of true love;  
to you we turn with trust.

Holy Family of Nazareth,  
grant that our families too  
may be places of communion and prayer,  
authentic schools of the Gospel  
and small domestic churches.

Holy Family of Nazareth,  
may families never again experience  
violence, rejection and division;  
may all who have been hurt or scandalized  
find ready comfort and healing.

Holy Family of Nazareth,  
make us once more mindful  
of the sacredness and inviolability of the family,  
and its beauty in God’s plan.

Jesus, Mary and Joseph,  
Graciously hear our prayer.  
Amen.